

# TOWN OF SCOTTSVILLE

## **Town Council**

### **Working Session**

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Victory Hall

401 Valley Street

Scottsville, Virginia

## *Mayor*

Jesse B. Grove III

## *Town Council*

Nancy E. Gill

R. Daniel Gritsko

Jeannette E. Kerlin

Elizabeth M. Knotts

Randall J. Nolt

Ronald L. Smith

## MINUTES

Mayor Grove called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Gill, Mr. Gritsko, Ms. Kerlin, Mr. Nolt, and Mr. Smith were present. Ms. Knotts was absent. Also in attendance were Town Administrator George Goodwin and Town Clerk Amy Moyer. The items discussed were as follows:

*Presentation on fundraiser for Baine's:* Kristin Freshwater spoke regarding the Indiegogo fundraising campaign for improvements at Baine's Books and Coffee. The campaign has nearly reached its goal of \$3,500. Ms. Freshwater is also coordinating Harry Potter-themed Halloween activities hosted by Scottsville businesses.

*Police Chief's report:* Chief Robert Layman reported that the Public Safety Committee took note of a suggestion for lights at crosswalks. Mayor Grove said that VDOT opposed lighted crosswalks during Streetscape on the grounds that they are hard to maintain.

*Chamber of Commerce report:* Petra Monaco and Laara Gervais spoke regarding efforts to build a strong benefits package for Chamber of Commerce members. Ms. Monaco related that the Chamber of Commerce will no longer coordinate the visitor center due to their concerns that the visitor center needs to promote all area businesses but the chamber needs to represent its member businesses. Ms. Gervais offered to serve on the town's new economic development committee.

*Visitor Center:* Mr. Gritsko asked the council members to consider how to continue the visitor center through funding, coordinating volunteers, or possibly renting the space to a local business with an agreement to run the center. Mayor Grove suggested offering the space to a non-profit organization. Ms. Kerlin commented that she would like to see the police department move back to the old jail and the visitor center move to the current police department. Mr. Gritsko stated that he and Ms. Gill are starting an economic development group, and he will bring the visitor center to that discussion.

*Architectural Review Board report:* Mayor Grove reported that the board approved a sign permit for Scottsville Supply Company and discussed deterioration issues at the Doll House (380 East Main) and the former telephone exchange (496 Valley Street). Mayor Grove noted that the zoning violation for 135 Warren Street has been appealed to the Board of Zoning Appeals, which has scheduled a hearing for October 29, and enforcement action will be considered if the appeal fails. Mayor Grove commented that there was a fair amount of polarity over the ARB's

concerning itself with a doorknob, and he explained that the property owner sought the ARB's advice on a replacement door, which led to discussion of hardware for the door.

*Planning Commission report:* Mr. Smith reported that the commission did not meet this month. Next month the commission will consider zoning ordinance amendments regarding the Board of Zoning Appeals in response to state code changes.

*Treasurer's report:* Mr. Goodwin reported that they are on target for the year and ahead for the season, with a net loss of \$5,500 year to date.

*Mayor's report:* Mayor Grove expressed his preference that the public forum be moved back to its earlier placement on the agenda to encourage public participation. Mayor Grove reported that he recently drafted a new sign ordinance. The Virginia Supreme Court dismissed the appeal on the VCNA easement. DCR has approved the WestView contract for VCNA. Mayor Grove met with WestView and the bridge engineer last Monday and sent the notice to proceed today. The contractor is confident that the work will be completed by the end of the year, but Synthia Waymack has advised that the town can get an extension on the grant if necessary. Mayor Grove asked council members to let him know if they would like an executive session to discuss staff attendance issues. The Scottsville Museum Twilight Tours are scheduled for October 24 and 25.

*Arts and Culture Committee report:* Ms. Gill reported that the committee is taking on some of the marketing expense for Halloween. Scottsville Second Saturdays will continue through December. The Community Day committee is getting stronger, with several liaisons to community groups. Ms. Gill noted that 2019 will mark the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Albemarle County. Ms. Gill is pleased with the direction of the Batteau Festival and the return to the riverfront location.

*Tourism Committee report:* Mr. Gritsko reported that November is a busy month, with a VCNA work day on November 7, the James River Association planting on November 14, and the VCNA master plan presentation on November 16. Mr. Gritsko encouraged all to welcome visitors as trout stocking season begins. Mr. Gritsko hopes to plan biweekly economic development meetings.

Ms. Gill noted the committee potluck dinner is scheduled for November 7. Mr. Smith remarked that the Scottsville United Methodist Church is hosting a dinner the same night.

*Government Services Committee report:* Mr. Nolt reported that he has reached out to potential committee members with mixed results.

*Town Administrator's report:* Mr. Goodwin reported that the town is at the top of the regional list for the USDA grant and loan for a police car, provided that Congress approves funding for the program. Mr. Goodwin received notice that the town received \$1,071 for the annual litter grant. Mayor Grove and Mr. Goodwin met with the contractor and the engineer yesterday regarding the VCNA bridge fix. There was a major leak in the water line going to the visitor center. Mr. Goodwin related that VDOT is testing crosswalk lights at JMU. Mr. Goodwin has

obtained paving quotes for the farmers' market area but proposes waiting until spring after the gutter work is done and settles.

Mr. Gritsko asked about county maintenance participation with VCNA.

*Completion of packet boat at Canal Basin Square:* Mr. Goodwin reported that the scope of work has been defined, and he expects to have a price by the regular session.

*Town Attorney's report:* Mr. Bowling will attend the regular session this month.

*Greenway planning:* Mr. Gritsko expressed interest in both short term and long term plans for trail connections, sidewalks, recreational space, etc. Ms. Kerlin suggested referring to the Comprehensive Plan as a starting point. Mr. Goodwin said he is researching existing VDOT easements to see if there is room for sidewalk easements.

*New Sign Ordinance:* Mayor Grove explained that the courts have cast doubt on the enforceability of some provisions in the existing sign ordinance on free speech grounds. Mayor Grove said that Mr. Bowling sent a model ordinance from the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia that is congruent with the court decisions, and Mayor Grove has prepared a draft from this. A resolution of intent to amend was placed on the regular session agenda.

*Amendment to FY 2016 Budget:* Mayor Grove noted that a budget amendment will be advertised to reflect the change from \$50,000 to \$80,000 for the VCNA project.

*Committee Assignments:* Ms. Gill explained that Mr. Nolt is interested in moving to the Beautification and Maintenance Committee, Ms. Kerlin is interested in the Government Services Committee, and Ms. Knotts would like to move to the Public Safety Committee. Council members agreed to defer any changes until Ms. Knotts is present to participate in discussion.

*Presentation to Scottsville Elementary:* Mr. Smith will prepare a proclamation to recognize Scottsville Elementary.

Upon a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Kerlin, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.