

TOWN OF SCOTTSVILLE

**Town Council
Working Session**
Monday, March 14, 2016
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 7:20 p.m. Ms. Gill, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Knotts, Mr. Nolt, and Mr. Smith were present. Mr. Gritsko arrived shortly thereafter. Also in attendance were Town Administrator George Goodwin, Town Attorney James Bowling, and Town Clerk Amy Moyer. The items discussed were as follows:

Remembrance of A. Raymon Thacker: Mayor Grove remarked that it was nice to walk the levee in honor of A. Raymon Thacker and on a cloudy night to be able to say let it rain, we are protected thanks to the A. Raymon Thacker Levee. Pastor Bruce Lugn offered a prayer in memory of Mayor Thacker.

Police Chief's report: Chief Robert Layman had no report. Mayor Grove asked about the status of the new police car. Mr. Goodwin replied that the USDA money will be allocated this week, and then they will process an order for the new vehicle. Ms. Gill asked how much they are getting. Mr. Goodwin replied that they will get 75 percent of the vehicle's cost. Ms. Gill asked how much the vehicle costs. Mr. Goodwin said the last bid was \$27,000 for the vehicle, and he estimates \$6,000 for radio equipment and customization. USDA will fund up to \$27,000, and the town must pay 25 percent of the total cost.

Ms. Knotts asked if the police department would open and close the visitor center on weekends if the Town Council decides to do something with it, if computers and other valuable items are removed. Chief Layman replied yes, it is no problem.

Chamber of Commerce report: Laara Gervais thanked those who attended the Beijing Kitchen ribbon cutting, which received a positive response. The Chamber of Commerce will host two candidate debates on April 19 and April 21 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Gervais said that they will publicize the events and solicit questions from residents, and candidates will be asked to give opening and closing remarks. Ms. Gervais related that Brian LaFontaine will coordinate a yearly calendar to assist in event planning. Chris Hornsby of Om Tattoo and Massage has offered the use of a slate calendar and easel as a test concept for the public notice board. Ms. Gervais said that a joint business-after-hours event with the Fluvanna County Chamber of Commerce will be at Thistle Gate on June 2. A financial seminar is planned for April.

Architectural Review Board report: Mayor Grove reported that for the two concerns about deteriorating buildings, the situation remains basically the same. Mayor Grove asked about the trial date for 135 Warren Street. Mr. Bowling replied May 11, with the grounds of defense due

by April 1. Mayor Grove reported that a representative for the property owner has agreed to do remedial work at the Doll House to address immediate problems.

Planning Commission report: Mr. Smith reported that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on amendments to the Flood Hazard Overlay District ordinance and recommends approval. Representatives from the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission attended to discuss transportation planning and funding, and they talked about the need for a sidewalk, drainage, and culverts on Route 20. Mr. Smith reported that he planned to attend a meeting with TJPDC tomorrow on this project. Mr. Gritsko asked what part on Route 20. Mr. Smith replied from the funeral home to the Dollar General, then to the left. Mr. Goodwin said that Dennis Seale from VDOT proposed continuing sidewalk on Route 20 to the intersection with James River Road. Ms. Gill noted the need for a crosswalk there. Mr. Goodwin said Mr. Seale went away today with a list of 11 items, and there will be major work on Page Street to address drainage and washout of the roadway.

Amendments to Zoning Ordinance Section 17.0 (Flood Hazard Overlay District): The amendments will be advertised for public hearing on April 18.

Treasurer's report: Mr. Goodwin reported that this is the best part of the season with business license collections, and other collections are progressing well. Mayor Grove noted that the delinquent taxpayer discussed last month did ultimately sign a confession of judgment and a promise to pay in installments.

Mayor's report: Mayor Grove reported that he cut another ribbon, always a pleasant duty, but most of his activities this past month have been on the economic development front. He attended Mr. Gritsko's subcommittee meetings, met with Wiggie Kuttner and Pam Stevens about plans for the former Dollar General space, and met with Dr. Charles Hurt and Jeremy Harvey about potential development plans.

Hunting restrictions within town limits: Mr. Nolt presented the Public Safety Committee's recommendations for an ordinance regulating archery. Mr. Nolt thanked Heather Stertzer for her research on this. The committee recommends allowing bow hunting within the town limits with several restrictions. Harold Pillar spoke regarding the need for landowners to protect their property from deer, groundhog, and varmint damage. Mayor Grove asked if there is a problem and if an ordinance is really needed. Mr. Smith replied that he recently observed someone bow hunting 50 feet from his residence because his neighbor asked the hunter to get rid of nuisance deer. Mr. Nolt will send a draft of the proposed ordinance to Mr. Bowling for review prior to public hearing. Mr. Goodwin suggested consulting with DGIF as well.

Beautification and Maintenance Committee report: Ms. Knotts thanked the Discovery School, Kim and Gene Yoder, Randy Nolt, Kyna Moore, Mike Pickwoad, and other volunteers who assisted with the cleanup of Mink Creek behind Lucky's. The Bradford pear trees on Church Street were removed because they were likely to die soon. The committee will meet with Amber Ellis of the James River Association regarding plant suggestions for the creek bank and draft a planting plan for Tom England to review. Ms. Knotts reported that the Kim and Gene Yoder

will be mulching tomorrow, and flower box planning is scheduled for Friday. The committee has suggested a summer intern to help with park maintenance.

Farmers' market: Ms. Knotts reported that \$842.80 has been raised towards advertising and a banner. Kelley and Spencer Marshall have included the farmers' market in their breakfast advertising for Tavern on the James. Ms. Knotts is working to get SNAP benefits back at the market.

Arts and Culture Committee report: Ms. Gill reported that Scottsville Second Saturdays starts next month and will go through December. She would like to get an old-time band for the batteau festival, which will continue its focus on living history and demonstrations. Ms. Gill is looking for a military brass band for July 4. Jammin' on the James resumes in June.

Government Services Committee report: Ms. Kerlin reported that the committee is focusing on transparency, recommending that contracts go out to bid and perhaps the Town Council should give final approval for all professional and skilled contracts. The committee discussed drafting an employee grievance procedure, creating a part-time clerical support position, and online code publication. The committee next meets on March 22. Ms. Kerlin noted that the \$70 flower bill for Kingsland Greenhouse has been resolved.

Tourism and Economic Development Committee report: Mr. Gritsko reported that the economic development subcommittee is coming together and will next meet on March 22. Dan Mahon walked the VCNA trails on March 9 and provided technical advice. The second gate will be installed closer to the lake for easier access. Fred Oesch is working on the VCNA logo, and Susan Cable is heading up a committee on signage. Mr. Gritsko is working with the Beautification and Maintenance Committee on maintenance plans for VCNA. Mr. Gritsko commented that the progress towards a walkable community is encouraging. Ms. Knotts remarked on the importance of maintenance at VCNA to put forth a good public image. Mr. Nolt suggested using temporary trail signage. Members discussed signage options for the Jefferson Street entrance.

Town Administrator's report: Mr. Goodwin reported that the final easement from Dr. Hurt should be available tomorrow for pickup and for approval next week. Mayor Grove, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Goodwin met with VDOT today about sign and drainage issues, particularly on Page Street, where VDOT will divert water, add curbing, and add a crosswalk. The donated Gator is in running order and is being used for trash collection. Mr. Goodwin plans to attend the TJPDC Rural Tech meeting tomorrow to discuss the Valley Street sidewalk project, which he reviewed with Dennis Seale today. Mr. Gritsko suggested asking Dollar General about creating an access from Baldwin Avenue. Mr. Goodwin related that Mr. Seale has guardrail pieces available for the opening from the bridge to the levee walk. Ms. Gill asked about the location for new sidewalk. Mr. Goodwin outlined the route up Route 20, highlighting drainage issues that could also be addressed in the project.

Town Attorney's report: Mr. Bowling had no report.

Zoning of TMP 130A1-47 (143 James River Road): Mayor Grove related that the property owner has inquired about rezoning to Commercial, with particular interest in a medical clinic. Mayor Grove noted that the owner cannot make a rezoning application without a use plan, but the Planning Commission or Town Council could initiate a rezoning if it thought it were advisable. Mr. Gritsko encouraged a thoughtful approach to development and new commercial areas. Mayor Grove asked if there was interest in initiating a rezoning without knowing what is going in there, or would they rather wait until an application is made for something specific. Ms. Knotts suggested that the property owner talk to Rick Randolph about a mental health facility. Ms. Gill said it makes sense because the other parcels fronting James River Road are Commercial. Council members agreed that they would prefer to wait to see the proposed use. Mr. Gritsko suggested consulting with TJPDC or urban planner on future land use plans. Ms. Moyer stated that TJPDC works with the town on its Comprehensive Plan review every five years, and a future land use map is part of that. The next scheduled review is in two years.

Supplemental appropriation for farmers' market: Ms. Knotts requested a supplemental appropriation for advertising, internet, and manager fees, to be paid from fundraising and additional market vendor fees. This was placed on the regular session agenda.

Visitor center: Ms. Knotts noted that they never followed up on the previous discussion regarding the visitor center, and the season is coming to be open. She asked if the police department can leave the center open for the public on the weekends if they take out anything valuable. Mayor Grove commented that it was a Chamber of Commerce project, and with the chamber defaulting, and it is up to the town to run it or find some other organization to do so. Mr. Gritsko suggested offering the building at a lower rent to a business with an agreement to man the visitor center. Mr. Nolt stated that the sign should be removed if the visitor center is not active. Mr. Smith offered to write an article offering the space for rent. Ms. Knotts asked Ms. Gervais to check whether the Chamber of Commerce wants any of its items back.

Upon a motion by Ms. Kerlin, seconded by Ms. Gill, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. in memory of beloved former mayor A. Raymon Thacker, who saved the town from the James River.