

The Town of Washington

"THE FIRST WASHINGTON OF ALL"

February 11, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Council minutes

Town Council Meeting

- CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Sullivan called the Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members Gary Schwartz, Jerry Goebel, Mary Ann Kuhn, Alice Butler, Dan Spethmann, and Patrick O'Connell were present. Town Attorney John Bennett and Town Clerk Laura Dodd were present.

Mayor Sullivan noted the passing of Newbill Miller, who had died a week ago, and discussed that he was a man of tremendous distinction who served the Town and County in a superb fashion and was the Mayor of the town of Washington beginning in 1976, served on the County Board of Supervisors, and was Chair of the Board of Supervisors. He discussed that Mr. Miller had help shape the Town and County and he read a note from Ms. Carol Miller, his wife, thanking the Town for the flowers sent to his memorial service and wrote that her husband loved the Town deeply.

- MINUTES: September 10, 2012: Mr. Schwartz made a motion to approve the minutes of September 10, 2012 and Mr. O'Connell seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- REPORTS: Treasury Report: Mr. Goebel reviewed the attached Bank Summary Report, the Bills-To-Be Paid List, and the Additional Bills to Be Paid List.

Mr. Spethmann made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Ms. Kuhn seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

- Planning Commission: Chairman Schwartz had no report.

- Architectural Review Board: Mayor Sullivan reported that there was no ARB meeting scheduled.

- TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Bennett had no report.

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- OLD BUSINESS. a). Finalization and possible vote on People, Inc's request to withdraw and discontinue its SUP application TW SU# 12-10-01: Mayor Sullivan and Mr. Spethmann recused themselves and left the Council Table. Vice-Mayor Schwartz discussed that the Council had before them a request from People, Inc. to withdraw their Special Use Permit. He asked if there was any discussion on the request for withdrawal and there being none Ms. Kuhn made a motion to accept the Withdrawal

of the People, Inc. Special Use Permit application and Mr. O'Connell seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schwartz voted "aye" Mr. Goebel voted "aye"
Mr. O'Connell voted "aye" Ms. Butler voted "aye"
Ms. Kuhn voted "aye"

And the motion passed 5-0 with Mayor Sullivan and Mr. Spethmann being recused.

Vice-Mayor Schwartz turned the meeting back over to Mayor Sullivan and the Mayor and Mr. Spethmann returned to the Council table.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that for the record he, Mr. Bennett, and Mr. Spethmann had talked with the Commonwealth Attorney as to what was the best and most appropriate way for him and Mr. Spethmann in going forward if their investment group did purchase the CCLC building. He discussed that it had been stated by Bill Walton, so it was on the record, that there was an intention to run the building as it was but then to determine what the best use was for the building. He discussed that the use was unknown but during that process he and Mr. Spethmann had been advised not to talk to their fellow Council members about the subject although there would be an effort to reach out to people in the community as to what might be the best uses for the building. He discussed that they would be following the strict interpretation of the law.

Mr. Bennett discussed that they had met at length with Mr. Goff and reviewed the statutes and although Mr. Goff's opinion was advisory the Mayor and Mr. Spethmann were choosing to follow his advice.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that he would not be responding to any questions about the building from any Council member but the Council member could talk to Mr. Walton, Mr. Alan Comp, or to even his wife.

b). Naturalists Rain Garden Grant and Rappflow Avon Hall Pond Project: Mayor Sullivan discussed that the Avon Hall property during the past year had been the subject of a lot of work, creative thinking, intelligence, and a lot of energy by lots of people and lots of environmentally focused groups, whose goal was to figure out how to make the best use in an environmental fashion of the land the Town owned.

He discussed that this had started out as the Butterfly/Nature Trail started by the Virginia Master Naturalists program and then RappFlow had gotten involved in working around the pond and now those two areas would be connected in an environmental sense. He discussed that RLEP, RCCA, and Culpeper Water and Soil Conservation were now involved so that several groups that had common environmental interests were bring their resources and talents together to improve the physical asset that the Town had there. He discussed that the various groups were reaching out and receiving various grants and support.

He discussed that Mr. Spethmann had been central to this whole effort and had been a motivating force in pulling people together and who had taken the lead on behalf of the Council to coordinate this group effort and was going after grants.

Mr. Spethmann discussed that he couldn't take any credit for the grants from Culpeper Soil and Water. He discussed that since the Butterfly Garden was started, some momentum had occurred and that the Virginia Naturalists had gotten one grant for several thousand dollars for pollinator garden and had now received another for a few thousand to establish a demonstration rain garden near the wastewater treatment plant to demonstrate water coming off the roof of the building and running down the hill into a rain garden. He discussed that Marc Malik had put together a nice drawing and Don

Hearl, Jenny Fitzhugh, and Jack Price had put together the grant application and were driving the project forward.

He discussed that the Avon Hall Pond cleanup had been resurrected by RappFlow and with the help of Jonathan Marquise, Marc Malik, and Bev Hunter RappFlow had picked up a \$3,500 matching grant where the match would be provided in the form of labor.

He discussed that the Town was benefiting from this volunteer labor and now about \$10,000 had been invested in the Town but more importantly RLEP has chipped in to build some of the walkways and a bridge, the ARB was involved, RCCA and RappFlow were involved and so there were a lot of people focused in the same direction. He said hats off to those folks for chasing down the grants. He discussed that there would be some obligations by the Town like not mowing the area around the pond once it had been planted.

c). Pump House Repair Update: Mayor Sullivan discussed that he had reported at the last meeting that there had been a burst pipe at the water treatment plant and the Country Water was working on the problem. He discussed that Country Water was continuing to work on the repair and trying to determine the cause of the pipe explosion. He discussed that he wanted the Council to be prepared that the estimated cost to date was \$17,000 and that he felt that at least \$25,000 should be budgeted for the repair depending on what was found out about the filters. He stated that this was a significant amount of money.

Mr. Goebel asked if the Town should get a second estimate.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that it was too late now to stop the repair in mid-stream and the situation was that two people were working when the Pipe exploded and there was an emergency situation and Country Water was called and the burst pipe had to be by-passed in order to have water.

Mr. Schwartz discussed that he would contact Country Water about the repair and that there might be ways to relieve the pressure.

• NEW BUSINESS: a). ARB Vacancy: Mayor Sullivan discussed that there was an ARB vacancy and welcomed recommendations and that there would be a notice in the newspaper. He discussed that there was also a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Goebel expressed his concerns that the Sheriff's Office had wood stacked up on the back porch of Avon Hall and that it was a mess. He discussed that with the jail scheduled to close, it might never get cleaned up.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that the Sheriff had said that she would get it cleaned up and that he would follow up on the matter.

• PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Sullivan opened the public forum.
Mayor Sullivan closed the public forum.

• CLOSED SESSION:

• ADJOURNMENT: At 7:30 pm Mr. Goebel made a motion to adjourn and Mr. O'Connell seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Dodd
Town Clerk

Attachments

Bank Summary Report
List of Bills-To-Be-Paid
Additional Bills Paid
Rain Garden Grant Application
RappFlow Turn to Native Grant Application

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ON MARCH 11, 2013