

# The Town of Washington

"THE FIRST WASHINGTON OF ALL"

November 9, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Town Council Meeting

Approved Minutes

- CALL TO ORDER: Mayor John Fox Sullivan called the Town Council to order at 7:10 p.m. Council members Gary Schwartz, Mary Ann Kuhn, and Gary Aichele were present. Council members Jerry Goebel, Patrick O'Connell, and Katharine Leggett were absent. Town Attorney John Bennett, Town Zoning Administrator John McCarthy, and Town Clerk Laura Dodd were present.

- MINUTES: April 15, 2015 minutes: Mr. Aichele made a motion to approve the April 15, 2015 minutes and Mayor Sullivan seconded and the motion passed 4-0. Council agreed by consensus to table the approval of the May 11, 2015 minutes until the December meeting.

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

Mr. Schwartz asked if the Town owned the survey done by Dan Clark and if the Town had a copy.

Mr. Aichele discussed that it was available electronically and that he would follow up on the matter.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Ms. Kuhn seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Planning Commission: Chairman Schwartz reported that the Planning Commission had met in October to continue the Comprehensive Plan review with a focus on the follow-up to the Avon Hall discussion in conjunction with Milt Herd's presentation and minutes. He discussed that they had looked at the impact of the Town's Ordinances and had made some recommendations that were waiting on Mr. Bennett's comments. He discussed that the Planning Commission would be meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to continue the Comprehensive Plan review.

Architectural Review Board: No Report.

Website: Ms. Kuhn discussed that she had nothing to report.

- TOWN ATTORNEY: No Report.

Mayor Sullivan reported that part time resident Milton Hudson, a terrific person, had died a few days ago from a heart attack. He discussed that the Town's thoughts were with his wife, Caroline Antsey and their two sons.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that Eve Willis, a former Council member and wife of former Mayor Stew Willis, had passed away two weeks ago and how he had always been impressed by her enthusiasm, her energy, and her larger than life personality. He

discussed that she had lived at Mt. Prospect for a large portion of her life and that she was a force to be reckoned with and admired. He discussed that the Town had sent a wreath for the door of her business, Rare Finds, in town. He read through a thank you note from Mr. Willis: “John Sullivan and members of the Town Council and Laura, I very much appreciate the door arrangement you gave in Eve’s memory. The Town Council was an important part of her life and she respected you all. Your thoughtfulness is wonderful and I thank you.”

He discussed that Council member Patrick O’Connell had known her for forty years and then read through a tribute from Mr. O’Connell: “Eve Willis was one of Washington Virginia's most influential first ladies, tastemakers and political operatives. She served tirelessly on the Town Council and the Architectural Review Board during an era of great tumultuousness--often finding herself in the middle of a storm. Like her shop in town, she herself was a *rare find*. No one who met her ever forgot her. She was an indomitable force. Like most legendary personalities she was larger than life. Born in Rappahannock, Evelyn was an ever gracious southern belle who always wore a bemused, half-smile and an elegant caftan. To those who knew her well, she sometimes exhibited a wicked sense of humor with a slightly irreverent bent. Her generosity was unparalleled in the region. She once explained that the greatest joy of having her own shop was that she could satisfy all her gift giving needs without going shopping. She had an infallible eye for unique treasures and knew how to combine and display them brilliantly. She had the rarest of gifts--great taste--and she put it to use whenever an opportunity presented itself. Whether it was decorating the town hall for a Christmas party, planning her daughter's wedding at Mt. Prospect or transforming her final house in Sperryville, everything she touched magically became flawless. May her legacy provide inspiration for all of us in our quest to create a more beautiful place to live. Eve Willis will be greatly missed and forever appreciated for her many contributions. All of us extend our condolences to her husband, Stew, and the rest of her devoted family.”

- **OLD BUSINESS:** a). Review the condition of Special Use Permit SU#12-07-01 the Inn at the Ridge, DBA the White Moose Inn, to allow the residential manager to reside at the Pullen House: Mayor Sullivan discussed that the Council had approved a Special Use Permit for the White Moose Inn, LLC that allowed off-site management two years ago, which had required a one year review, which has also been approved, and now again was up for review. He discussed that no problems had been reported.

Mr. Aichele asked if the White Moose Inn was sold would the new owner have the same right to off-site management.

Mr. Bennett discussed that it would convey.

Mr. Aichele made a motion to continue the off-site management for the White Moose Inn for one year with the understanding that after the end of the third year review if there were no difficulties the need for an annual review would be discontinued. Ms. Kuhn seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schwartz voted “yes”

Mayor Sullivan voted “yes”

Ms. Kuhn voted “yes”

Mr. Aichele voted “yes”

And the motion passed 4-0.

b). Avon Hall Update: Mr. Aichele discussed that Mr. Herd's involvement had helped the Avon Hall Study Group and the Council work through the next steps. He discussed that Mr. Bennett and Mr. Herd were working on more specifics with a view to advertise exactly what the Town had in mind for Avon Hall.

He discussed a community called Windy Hill in the Plains and that it might be a potential model for similar development on the Avon Hall Property and suggested that the Town contact them for possible advice.

He discussed that there had been no decisions made regarding Avon Hall.

He made a motion that Mr. Bennett be authorized to receive any unsolicited proposals or offers for the Avon Hall property and forward them to Council in a reasonable way with his comments and recommendations. Mayor Sullivan seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schwartz voted "yes"

Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"

Mr. Aichele voted "yes"

And the motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Sullivan discussed the Windy Hill community and how it was created and funded by residents to create affordable housing by using a non-profit and using tax credits, which had needed forty to eighty units to work.

Mr. Schwartz discussed he wanted to recognize what the Planning Commission had done at their last meeting on the recommendations of the Avon Hall Study Group and what had come out of the joint meeting of the Council and the Planning Commission and how that would be impacted by Town's Ordinances. . He discussed that they had looked at 2 1/2 acres in the back of Avon Hall and that under the existing Ordinances with minimal changes could be five 1/2 acre lots if served by sewer, which could be gravity fed, and could have duplexes or multi-family housing. He discussed that there might be a way to use the back two and a half acres to monetize the property and he invited people to come to the next Planning Commission meeting to look at the impact of the Town's Ordinances on the discussion of what might be done on Avon Hall.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that Habitat for Humanity was meeting to discuss building a new affordable house in the County and he invited anyone interested to attend the meeting the next evening.

• NEW BUSINESS:

a). Eve Wilis Tribute: This was considered earlier in the meeting.

b). ARB Vacancy: Mayor Sullivan discussed that Susan Stoltzman had resigned from the ARB as she was moving to New York state. He discussed that the position was open to residents of the Town and that anyone interested should submit a letter of interest by December 7, 2016 to be considered for appointment at the December 14, 2015 Council meeting.

c). Christmas Parade and Christmas Party Update: Mayor Sullivan discussed that the Christmas Parade would be held on Sunday, December 6, 2015 and that the Town's Christmas Party would be held on December 13, 2016 and anyone who lived or worked in town or was interested was invited.

Mr. Aichele made a motion to authorize the same expenditure as last year, \$1,600 on the Christmas Party and Town decorations and Mayor Sullivan seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schwartz voted "yes"

Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"  
And the motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Aichele voted "yes"

Mr. Bennett reported that the Town had prevailed in the lawsuit filed against the Town by David Konick and also in the petition to intervene. He discussed that Mr. Konick was filing an appeal to the Supreme Court of Virginia and if it moved forward the Town would need to file a brief in opposition and he recommended that the Town continue to retain Mr. Bob Mitchell at \$250 an hour if the brief needed to be filed.

Mr. Aichele made a motion to retain Mr. Mitchell on the same terms as previously in the event a brief had to be filed and Ms. Kuhn seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schwartz voted "yes"

Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"

Mr. Aichele voted "yes"

And the motion passed 4-0.

d). Aqua-Aerobic Systems proposal for a spare gear box assembly: After a short discussion, Mr. Schwartz made a motion to approve up to \$3,100 for a spare gear box assembly subject to confirmation from ESS that there was a complete working spare and Ms. Kuhn seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Aichele voted "yes"  
"yes"

Ms. Kuhn voted

Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"

Mr. Schwartz voted "yes"

And the motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Aichele asked if a revised contract with ESS was still being explored.  
Mayor Sullivan discussed that it was under discussion.

- PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Sullivan opened the Public Forum:

Mr. Schwartz reported that a RappCats fundraiser held at Mrs. Sullivan's last week had raised a lot of money. He discussed that RappCats was not funded by the County. He also discussed that Cause for Paws had recently raised with a raffle fundraiser over \$2,000 for spay and neutering and thanked everyone for their support.

Sharron Proper discussed that Franklin Schmidt, a major supporter of RappCats has passed away.

Mayor Sullivan closed the Public Forum.

- Adjournment: At 8:15 p.m. Mr. Schwartz moved to adjourn and Mayor Sullivan seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

NEXT SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 14, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Dodd

Attachments:

Treasurer's report

Additional Bills to be Paid

Bills to be Paid

Aqua-Aerobic Systems Proposal

