

# The Town of Washington

"THE FIRST WASHINGTON OF ALL"

February 12, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Approved Minutes

- CALL TO ORDER: Mayor John Fox Sullivan called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members Mary Ann Kuhn, Jerry Goebel, Fred Catlin, Patrick O'Connell, and Brad Schneider were present. Katharine Leggett was absent. Town Attorney John Bennett was present. Town Clerk Laura Dodd was absent.

- VDOT PRESENTATION: Mark Nesbit, Administrator Warrenton office, 2018 Street re-paving: Mayor Sullivan discussed that with the exception of business 211, which included Warren Ave., Middle Street, and portions of Main Street, had not be repaved in many years.

Mr. Nesbit discussed that Mt. Salem Avenue and Harris Hollow Road would be repaved before November 2018, that the Town would get two to three weeks notification before the repaving started, and that the streets would be milled down before being resurfaced. He discussed that Piedmont Avenue and Gay Street were scheduled to be repaved in 2019.

Mayor Sullivan offered to give dates of significant events in Town to assist the paving contractor. He suggested that Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays would be better days for the repaving.

- INN PRESENTATION: Bonnie Moore, Inn at Little Washington's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Labor Day Weekend Celebration: Mr. O'Connell recused himself from the Council table.

Ms. Moore discussed that the Inn at Little Washington planned to bring back alumni chefs from the last forty years to cook at an event called "Innstock" on their property on Labor Day ending with fireworks. She discussed that tickets would be \$250 and that Town residents would be given free tickets. She discussed they were hoping to have 500 people in attendance and that logistics would still being worked out but the hours were planned to be 4 to 11 p.m.

She discussed that the Inn at Little Washington wanted to work with the Town to show off the Town and County as a tourist destination. She asked the Town for a \$5000 donation to be used towards promotion.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that several blocks might have to be closed off for the event with coordination with VDOT and the Sheriff's office and that parking was an issue. He discussed that the potential impact of several hundred people coming into the Town and County was huge for many local businesses. He discussed that the decision on the contribution would not be made that evening.

Mr. Catlin discussed that any contribution by the Town needed to have accountability and he asked that Ms. Moore work with the Tourism committee.

Mr. O'Connell returned to the Council table.

- MINUTES: There were no minutes prepared for approval.

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

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Mr. O'Connell seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that through July to January of this year the Town net gain was up \$38,000 while for the prior year it had been down about \$40,000. He discussed that the increase was basically due to less expenditures for operations for wastewater, increased user charges for water and wastewater, and less legal expenses.

Planning Commission: Chairman Catlin discussed that the Planning Commission had met on January 22, 2018 and had reviewed the P to P Ordinance and had prepared a list of recommendations on the Ordinance which would be discussed under Old Business.

Architectural Review Board: Mayor Sullivan reported that ARB would be meeting next week.

- TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Bennett had no report.

- OLD BUSINESS: a. Draft Ordinance to Address P to P (Nee Air BnB's): Recommendations from the Planning Commission: Mr. Catlin reviewed the recommendations from the Planning Commission, attached.

Mr. Bennett made several comments on the recommendations including whether the number of occupants should be specified as a condition of each permit, whether the facility should be evaluated to determine if it could hand the number of guests requested, whether parking should be addressed at the time of the application on a case by case basis and be site specific.

Mr. Catlin asked if regarding parking the Town could be charged with being arbitrary.

Mr. Bennett discussed that it would be a legislative act that in his opinion would not be considered arbitrary. He discussed the point that the operator "shall be a fulltime resident of the Town." and that this was a reasonable standard and it needed to be defined.

Mr. Catlin discussed that the Planning Commission had looked at the definition of Operator and that full time resident was qualified by being a resident 51% of the time and that they were focusing on one person having one residence.

Mr. Bennett discussed that the recommendation regarding limitations on functions needed better clarification and definition.

Mr. Catlin discussed that the Planning Commission felt that enforcement in town was difficult.

Mr. Bennett discussed that revocation of the Special Use Permit could be added for those that violated conditions and he asked if "certification of good standing" could be required and also what emergency procedures should be included.

Mr. Catlin discussed that the Planning Commission wanted the "certification of good standing" to guarantee a certain high quality and that the emergency procedures should include things like how to get out and who to call in an emergency. He discussed that the Planning Commission wanted to make sure everyone had a happy and safe experience that reflected well on the Town.

Mr. Goebel discussed that signage should be limited.

Ms. Kuhn asked if the question of serving alcohol should be addressed.

Also discussed that was any person operating an existing Air BnB should have to come before the Council for a Special Use Permit.

After some further discussion, Mayor Sullivan asked Mr. Bennett and Mr. Catlin to work on a new draft to present to the Council.

b). Task Force Committees and Appointments Update:  
Mayor Sullivan lead the Council through a short discussion of the Task Force memberships and an initial list was formed as follows:

Infrastructure: Mr. Schneider, Alan Comp, and Jean Goodine.

Tourism Development: Ms. Kuhn, Mr. O’Connell, Caroline Anstey, and Klaus Peters.

Business Development: Ms. Kuhn and Mr. Peters.

Housing: Mr. Catlin, Mr. Comp, and Gary Aichelle.

Finance: Mr. Catlin, Mr. Goebel, and Mr. Schneider.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that he wished to be free to be involved with all the task forces and he particularly wanted to be involved with any relations with the County.

Mr. Catlin discussed that he would come up with a recommendation on how to proceed.

- NEW BUSINESS: a). Authorization of advertising for a public hearing to consider granting a modification to the existing Foster Harris House Special Use Permit to allow up to two seatings of 10 persons each where one seating of 10 is now authorized, a change to serving hours from 6:30 to 11 p.m. to 6 to 11 p.m. and a change to the name of the applicant/owner to Peters Hospitality Management LLC: Mayor Sullivan reviewed the application and discussed it was a technical change.

Mr. Peters discussed his love for the Town and that he wished to change his Special Use Permit to allow him to serve up to twenty people at his restaurant in order to be able to provide food of a very high quality with a chef.

Mr. Bennett discussed that the application was in order and was complete.

Mr. Schneider asked if they were going from a BnB to a restaurant since it was going from a seating of ten people, the number of guests allowed at the B nB to two seatings of ten people.

Mr. Bennett discussed that the way the Ordinance was written it was ten people per seating with no limit on the number of seatings and that the land use impacts were minimal with no additional signage.

Ray Gooch spoke against the modification and discussed that it was making the B and B into a restaurant across the street from him in a residential neighborhood where restaurants were not allowed. He discussed that he felt that the Planning Commission should review the Ordinance.

After some further discussion, Mayor Sullivan made a motion to advertise a public hearing on the application to modify the Foster Harris House Special Permit for the March 2018 Council meeting and Mr. Schneider seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schneider voted “yes”

Mayor Sullivan voted “yes”

Mr. O’Connell “yes”

Mr. Goebel voted “yes”

Ms. Kuhn voted “yes”

Mr. Catlin voted “yes”

And the motion passed 6-0.

- PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Sullivan opened the Public Forum.

Mayor Sullivan closed the Public Forum.

- CLOSED SESSION: There was no closed session.
- ADJOURNMENT: At 8:53 p.m. Ms. Kuhn moved to adjourn and Mr. Goebel seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 12, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Dodd

Attachments:

Treasurer's report

Additional Bills to be Paid

Bills to be Paid

Planning Commission Recommendations on the P to P Ordinance

Foster Harris House SUP modification request