

The Town of Washington

"THE FIRST WASHINGTON OF ALL"

October 8, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Approved Minutes

- **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor John Fox Sullivan called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Council members Mary Ann Kuhn, Jerry Goebel, Fred Catlin, Katharine Leggett, Brad Schneider, and Patrick O'Connell were present. Town Attorney John Bennett and Town Clerk Laura Dodd were present.

Mayor Sullivan asked that the agenda be amended to include a closed session in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.2-3711.3 to discuss the disposition of publically held real property, namely Parcel 3 at the intersection of old route 211/522 and Leggett Lane containing 0.5853 acres, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position and negotiating strategy of the Town Council. He also asked that the agenda be amended to include a new business item, the boxwood blight crisis. Council agreed by consensus to include both items on the agenda.

- **MINUTES:** May 21, 2018 draft minutes: Ms. Kuhn gave Ms. Dodd some typographical and grammar corrections and made a motion to approve the May 21 , 2018 minutes as corrected and Ms. Leggett 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. Catlin made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and Ms. Kuhn seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Planning Commission: Chairman Catlin discussed that the Planning Commission had met and had reviewed the Housing Task Force recommendations on the Town adopting a Planned Unit Development (PUD) Ordinance. He discussed that outside consulting advice had been received from former Town Zoning Administrator John McCarthy and also from Wayne Cilimbert, Director of Planning for Albemarle County. He discussed that Mr. Bennett had also provided comments. He discussed that the Planning Commission was recommending that Mr. Bennett draft a PUD Ordinance as soon as possible for the Town Council to review and possibly approve. He discussed that the Planning Commission recommended that the PUD Ordinance be adopted for the current five zoning districts and it not be considered for a new district, that there be at least two public hearings on a PUD application, that the role of the ARB needed to be clarified, and it should also be clarified whether the ARB's authority should be extended to any new area brought in by a boundary line adjustment. He discussed that the Planning Commission hoped that the draft PUD Ordinance could be reviewed, an advertised public hearing held, and adoption considered within ninety days.

Mr. Bennett discussed that he would prepare a draft PUD Ordinance for the Council's review in November and hopefully a re-draft could be considered in December for a joint public hearing in January.

Architectural Review Board: Mayor Sullivan reported that the ARB would be meeting that week to consider two applications, one for a new roof at Mr. O'Connell's and another one for renovations of the Akre tenant house.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that the Town's annual Halloween event would be held on Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018, the Christmas Parade would be held on Sunday, December 2, 2018, and the Town's Christmas party would be held on Sunday, December 9, 2018.

- TOWN ATTORNEY: No report

- NEW BUSINESS: a). Maureen Harris Presentation on Book on Little Washington: Ms. Harris, a volunteer at the Rappahannock County Historical Society, made a brief presentation on a book she was writing on the Town of Washington from 1735 to 2018. She reviewed the various chapters, see attached, Chapter Outline, and discussed that she would let the Town know when it was published, sometime in 2019.

Mr. O'Connell discussed that the Inn at Little Washington was sponsoring a free event at the Theater at Little Washington by an author, who had written a book on George Washington, on October 27, 2018, which was open to the public, who could ask questions about George Washington, particularly about his relationship with the Town.

- OLD BUSINESS: a). Task Force Committees Meeting Update: Mr. Catlin reported that the Finance Task Force was waiting on getting final reports from all the other Task Forces before making its recommendations.

Mr. Schneider discussed that the Infrastructure Task Force would have a preliminary report ready by the end of the month. He reported that he had met with Don Hearl from ESS and had reviewed issues at the Wastewater Plant, particularly on how to save energy and improve operations. He discussed that he had also met with County Water and reviewed issues with the water system, the pump house, and with building a new well. He discussed that LED streetlights were also being looked at as well. He discussed that the Infrastructure Task Force hoped to prepare a prioritized list of issues that the Council needed to address.

Mr. Catlin thanked everyone on behalf of the Council for their work on the Task Forces over the last six months as did Mayor Sullivan, who expressed how the Task Forces had gotten more people involved in working on town issues.

- b). Eatman/Eagle Gay Street Vacation request update: Mayor Sullivan discussed that the Draft Stub Street Vacation Policy agenda item would also be addressed under this agenda item.

Mr. Catlin discussed that the Planning Commission had reviewed a draft Stub Street Vacation Policy that an applicant would have to comply with and that it consisted of four parts: 1, an applicant would have to get approval from the ARB; 2, all adjacent property owners would have to be notified so they could give support or opposition; 3, it would have to be reviewed by the Planning Commission to see if such abandonment would be in the public interest; and 4, it would have to come before the Town Council for review and possible authorization of a public hearing before consideration of approval.

Mr. O'Connell objected to the review by the ARB as it would considerably expand the ARB's prevue, which was currently limited to architecture and did not consider streets.

After a short discussion, Council agreed by consensus that Mr. Bennett would re-draft a simpler policy for Council's consideration at the next meeting and, also by consensus,

tabled consideration of the Eatman/Eagle application to vacation the Gay Street Stub Street.

c). Update on Recent Changes by the Virginia Legislature regarding B&Bs Providing Meal Services: Council agreed to table this agenda item.

• NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED: b). Draft Stub Street Vacation Policy: This item considered under Old Business: Eatman/Eagle Gay Street Vacation request.

c). Boxwood Blight Crisis: Mayor Sullivan discussed that there was a blight killing off the boxwoods in town and all over the state. After a short discussion, it was agreed, thanks to a kind offer by Mr. O'Connell, that the Inn at Little Washington's estate gardener, Mark Smith, and also Kennard Love, the County Extension agent, would make a presentation on the blight and protocols for removing diseased boxwood scrubs on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at Town Hall at 4:30 p.m. for the public but this would not be a Council meeting.

d). Town Expression of Interest in Renting 290 Gay Street: After a short discussion, the Council agreed by consensus, except for Mr. Goebel who objected to the expense and who felt that the Town should explore other options, to have Mayor Sullivan send a letter of interest, attached, to the County Board of Supervisors in the Town buying or renting 290 Gay Street, the old County Administrator's building.

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• PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Sullivan opened the Public Forum.

There being no public comment, Mayor Sullivan closed the Public Forum.

• CLOSED SESSION: At 8:55 p.m. Mayor Sullivan made a motion that the Council enter into closed session in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.2-3711.3 to discuss the disposition of publically held real property, namely Parcel 3 at the intersection of old route 211/522 and Leggett Lane containing 0.5853 acres, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position and negotiating strategy of the Town Council and Mr. Catlin seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

OPEN SESSION: At 9:45 p.m. Council returned to open session. Mr. Bennett asked each member to certify that to the best of their knowledge:

Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meetings requirements under the Code of Virginia and only, such public business matters as identified in the motion by which the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered by the Town Council. A roll call vote was taken and

Mr. Schneider voted "yes"

Mr. Goebel voted "yes"

Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"

Ms. Leggett voted "yes"

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"

Mr. Catlin voted "yes"

Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"

• ADJOURNMENT: 9:46 p.m. Mr. Goebel moved to adjourn and Mayor Sullivan seconded and the motion passed 7 -0.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 12, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Dodd

Attachments:

Treasurer's report

Additional Bills to be Paid

Bills to be Paid

Maureen Harris' Chapter Outline on her upcoming book on the Town of Washington

Letter of interest in Renting 290 Gay Street