

The Town of Washington

"THE FIRST WASHINGTON OF ALL"

May 11, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Approved Minutes

- CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Fred Catlin opened the first electronically-held Town Council (TC) meeting at 7:02 p.m. Council members Mary Ann Kuhn, Patrick O'Connell, Brad Schneider, Gail Swift and Joe Whited were present. Town Attorney John Bennett and Town Clerk Barbara Batson were present.

Mayor Catlin declared an emergency as the Director of Emergency Management based on the Covid-19 pandemic that has affected our country. He asked the TC if they agreed with this declaration of an emergency. A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"

Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"

Mr. Schneider voted "yes"

Ms. Swift voted "yes"

Mr. Whited voted "yes"

Mayor Catlin voted "yes"

And the motion passed 6-0.

John Bennett made the following statement: This meeting is being convened in accordance with the provisions of Sec 2.2-3708.2 of the Virginia Code, the Governor having declared an emergency and the Town's director of Emergency Management having declared an emergency, which declaration was agreed to by the TC. Only matters arising from or related to the emergency may be discussed at this electronic meeting. Arrangements for public access have been made by providing the call-in code in the Rappahannock News, via email and on the message board at Town Hall. The meeting was held electronically by using the Zoom app. The electronic meeting having been properly convened, the meeting may now proceed.

- APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Ms. Swift motioned the agenda be approved. Mayor Catlin seconded and a roll call vote was taken to approve the agenda:

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"

Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"

Mr. Schneider voted "yes"

Ms. Swift voted "yes"

Mr. Whited voted "yes"

Mayor Catlin voted "yes"

And the motion passed 6-0.

- MINUTES: Mr. Whited motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Swift seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Kuhn abstained

Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"

Mr. Schneider voted "yes"

Ms. Swift voted "yes"

Mr. Whited voted "yes"

Mayor Catlin voted "yes"

And the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Kuhn abstaining.

- REPORTS:

Mayor's Report: Mayor Catlin had no report.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Swift asked if the Council had any questions on the Treasurer's report and bills to be paid list; no one did. She brought to the TC's attention that the bill from Joe Wenk is higher than normal because he has begun mowing and did additional work moving trash cans from Town to the wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Whited made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and the bills to be paid and Mr. Schneider seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"	Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"
Mr. Schneider voted "yes"	Ms. Swift voted "yes"
Mr. Whited voted "yes"	Mayor Catlin voted "yes"

And the motion passed 6-0.

Planning Commission Report: Did not meet in April and there was no report.

Architectural Review Board Report: Mayor Catlin reported there would be an in-person meeting on May 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Town Attorney: Mr. Bennett had no report.

- OLD BUSINESS:

- (a) Town Council vacancy: Mayor Catlin reported Joan Platt, who has been a Town resident for many years, has submitted a letter of interest and application to fill the vacancy on the TC. He asked if there were any additional nominations and Ms. Batson reported there were not.

Mayor Catlin made a motion to appoint Joan Platt to the TC and Ms. Swift seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"	Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"
Mr. Schneider voted "yes"	Ms. Swift voted "yes"
Mr. Whited voted "yes"	Mayor Catlin voted "yes"

And the motion passed 6-0.

- NEW BUSINESS:

- (a) Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute all necessary documentation for the deferral of the May and November Wastewater Treatment Plant payments:

Mayor Catlin thanked Gail Swift, Joe Whited and John Bennett for their work on this issue. John Bennett shared the resolution needed to be updated to include the new payment amount of \$98,605.89 if the Town accepts the offer to defer the next two payments on May 1, 2020 and November 1, 2020. The next payment would be due on May 1, 2021. The new loan payment was calculated by taking the two deferred payments and dividing them among the remaining 18 loan payments. There is no penalty for deferring the next two payments.

Ms. Swift motioned to authorize Mayor Catlin to defer the wastewater treatment plant loan payments after adding the new loan payment amount of \$98,605.89 to the resolution and Mr. Whited seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"	Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"
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Mr. Schneider voted "yes"
Mr. Whited voted "yes"
And the motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Swift voted "yes"
Mayor Catlin voted "yes"

- (b) Authorization of expenditure for the Public Hearing budget notice: Mayor Catlin made a motion to approve the expenditure of funds for the advertisement of the public hearing in the Rappahannock News and Ms. Kuhn seconded. Mr. O'Connell asked if this was for one ad to be posted in the Rappahannock News. Mayor Catlin asked Ms. Batson to answer. Ms. Batson responded that she wasn't sure and would need to research what was done previously. Mr. O'Connell asked if the Town was required to post the ad in any newspaper other than the Rappahannock News. Mr. Bennett responded the Town was only required to post the ad in the Town's jurisdiction. Mr. O'Connell suggested the Town ask the Rappahannock News to post the ad for free and since we didn't know how much the ad would cost that a cap of \$100 be placed on the expenditure. Mayor Catlin suggested \$150 instead.

Mayor Catlin made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$150 for the public hearing ad and Mr. Schneider seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes" Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"
Mr. Schneider voted "yes" Ms. Swift voted "yes"
Mr. Whited voted "yes" Mayor Catlin voted "yes"
And the motion passed 6-0.

- (c) Discussion of short-term rentals: Mayor Catlin shared that Rappahannock County established at its May 4th meeting additional restrictions for short term rentals above what the Governor's order outlines. He suggested the Town of Washington follow the guidelines established by the Governor in his executive order. Mayor Catlin asked for feedback from the TC. Ms. Swift felt it was important to follow the guidelines set out by the State. There were no additional comments and Mayor Catlin said the Town would follow the Governor's executive order.

- Public Forum: Mayor Catlin opened the Public Forum.

Ms. Nancy Buntin asked if the currently scheduled water shut-off on Gay Street would be contained to residents between Middle Street and Harris Hollow. Ms. Batson responded that currently those residents are the only ones expected to be impacted but if Country Water should encounter any challenges during the repair that affects other residents that she will immediately notify those additionally affected people. Mayor Catlin asked if the boil water notice was required and how long it would last. Ms. Batson answered that it was required and she didn't know as of yet how long it would be in effect. Two clean water samples are required prior to the notice being lifted. Ms. Batson will be in constant contact with Country Water and will let residents know as soon as the boil water restriction has been lifted.

- ADJOURNMENT: At 7:27 p.m. Ms. Swift motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. O'Connell seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes" Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"
Mr. Schneider voted "yes" Ms. Swift voted "yes"
Mr. Whited voted "yes" Mayor Catlin voted "yes"
And the motion passed 6-0.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL IS June 8, 2020.

Barbara Batson, Town Clerk

Attachments:

Additional Bills Paid

Bills to be Paid