

The Town of Washington

"THE FIRST WASHINGTON OF ALL"

May 12, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Town Council Meeting Approved Minutes

- CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Sullivan called the Town Council to order at 7:03 p.m. Council members Jerry Goebel, Mary Ann Kuhn, Alice Butler, and Dan Spethmann were present. Council members Gary Schwartz and Patrick O'Connell were absent. Town Attorney John Bennett and Town Clerk Laura Dodd were present.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that Alice Butler had not run in the recent election and that he wished to acknowledge her many years on the Town Council. He discussed that she and her family were part of the history of the Town and that the Town really appreciated her service.

- MINUTES: January 13, 2014 minutes: Ms. Kuhn made a motion to approve the minutes of January 13, 2014 and Mayor Sullivan seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

- 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.

Mayor Sullivan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Ms. Butler seconded and the motion passed 5-0

Planning Commission: No report.

Architectural Review Board: Mayor Sullivan reported that the ARB had met and had approved an application for an addition to George Eatman's house, an application for French doors on Debra Winsor's house, and an application for a sign for his and the Ballard's new business across the street from the Ballard's store.

Website: Ms. Kuhn reported that she had been adding things to the Town's Facebook site including that Little Washington was number 9 of the top 14 cities in Virginia as rated by a group called Cities Journal.com and that on the Virginia Tourism site Washington had made the list of the top 22 towns in Virginia.

Mayor Sullivan recommended that everyone attend a lecture by the Rappahannock Historical Society on May 22nd at 6 p.m. at Town Hall on the history of Washington, Virginia prior to when it was officially named Washington.

He also discussed that although it was not being organized by the Town, the Christmas Parade Committee had been meeting and it was now being led by full-time resident Judy deSarno, which was good news.

- TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Bennett congratulated everyone who was elected and reminded them to take their oath of office before June 30th otherwise the office would become vacant.

- PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2014-2015 Budget: Mayor Sullivan opened the public hearing and discussed that there had been several discussions already on the budget and that while the public hearing was being held that evening the Council would not vote on it until June.

Mr. Goebel discussed that there was now a new category for transferring money into Wastewater but there was no change to the numbers.

There being no further comments Mayor Sullivan closed the public hearing.

- OLD BUSINESS: a). Avon Hall Update: Ms. Kuhn discussed that John McCarthy had agreed to help the Avon Hall group forge ahead with deciding on what to do with Avon Hall and that he had contacted several managers of local governments that had similar properties to find out how they had structured the process and what was the result. She discussed that Mr. McCarthy would be meeting with the group once he had the results and then the group would come back with a presentation to the Council.

Mr. Spethmann discussed that the group would be including Judd Swift's and Butch Zindell's comments from the April meeting in its ongoing conversation regarding Avon Hall.

1. Mark's Painting Quote: Mayor Sullivan discussed that Avon Hall was in the process of being painted and through a misunderstanding of the original quote an additional \$2000 was needed to finish painting the two sides.

Ms. Kuhn asked what was the total cost of the painting including the additional \$2000.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that the cost excluding the cost of painting the roof was \$11,700, which was a good investment.

Mr. Spethmann made a motion to approve an additional \$2000 for Mark's Painting to complete the painting of the front and sides of Avon Hall and Ms. Butler seconded.

Mr. John MacPherson recommended that the Town get a written statement from Mark's Painting that the \$2000 would finish the job.

Ms. Dodd discussed that he would not get paid until the job was finished.

After a short discussion a roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"

Ms. Butler voted "yes"

Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"

Mr. Spethmann voted "yes"

Mr. Goebel voted "yes"

And the motion passed 5-0.

b). May 17th Music Festival Update: Mr. Spethmann discussed that basically the festival was being held on County property and that the concern for the Town was potential damage to the area being worked on by RappFlow. He discussed that Alma Viator was working with RappFlow to fence that area off.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that Ms. Viator had suggested that people put flags out around town to go with the Americana theme and he commented that the Town would be placing flags in the flower barrels.

Mr. Goebel discussed that he was looking into banners and bunting to hang up at Avon Hall for future events.

c). Wastewater System Update: Mayor Sullivan discussed that there had been ongoing issues throughout the winter and spring at the Wastewater Treatment Plant which now seemed under control.

- NEW BUSINESS: a). ESS Proposal for Replacing Filter Airlift at the Wastewater Treatment Plant: Mayor Sullivan discussed that there was a need to replace the filter airlift with equipment costing \$950 and labor costing \$600 and that Mr. Schwartz had reviewed and agreed to proposal. Mr. Goebel made a motion to approve \$1,550 to replace the filter airlift and Mr. Spethmann seconded and a roll call was taken:
Ms. Kuhn voted “yes” Ms. Butler voted “yes”
Mayor Sullivan voted “yes” Mr. Spethmann voted “yes”
Mr. Goebel voted “yes”
And the motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Gary Aichele asked if there was a capital fund to cover expenses of equipment failures.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that the Town needed to develop a capital fund but these costs were coming out of operations.

Mr. Aichele recommended that the Town develop a capital fund.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that he agreed and that it was part of the bigger picture of financing the maintenance of the plant.

- PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Sullivan opened the Public Forum.
Mr. MacPherson congratulated the Council on their re-election.
Ms. Buntin asked about the Comcast agreement.
Mayor Sullivan discussed that the Comcast was asking to have their franchise agreement renewed and that the Town had received a draft agreement which the County had already agreed to. He discussed the Mr. Bennett had looked at the agreement, which was a basic agreement, and that the Town might try to negotiate some of the terms. He discussed that he welcomed observations and suggestions from the public on the draft.
Mr. Aichele discussed that Comcast was basically a monopoly with no alternatives and that the only question was whether or not there were any trade-offs or adjustments that could be made to benefit the Town.
Mr. Roger Piantadosi asked if the franchise agreement included phone service.
Mayor Sullivan discussed that Comcast did provide some phone service.
Mr. Aichele discussed that Comcast did not provide some contracted services because they were not available in this area. He discussed that he had seen some improvement in services but basically people were at the mercy of the infrastructure and the provider and that he hoped that the Town could agitate quietly to get more services.
Mr. Bennett discussed that there were some things that the Town would receive that it did not want, like a governmental channel and services, which it could possibly give up in exchange for something else.
Mr. Aichele discussed that the Town might trade off something to facilitate being put on the top of the list for other services such as phone services.

Mayor Sullivan closed the Public Forum.

- CLOSED SESSION:

Mayor Sullivan made a motion to change the June 9th Council meeting to June 16th and Ms. Kuhn seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Kuhn voted “yes”

Ms. Butler voted “yes”

Mayor Sullivan voted “yes”

Mr. Spethmann voted “yes”

Mr. Goebel voted “yes”

And the motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:50 p.m. Ms. Kuhn made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Goebel seconded and the motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON June 16, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Dodd
Town Clerk

Attachments:

Treasurer’s report

Additional Bills to be Paid

Bills to be Paid

Mark’s Painting Avon Hall proposal

FY 2014-2015 Draft Budget for Public Hearing

ESS Proposal for Replacing Filter Airlift