

The Town of Washington

"THE FIRST WASHINGTON OF ALL"

February 13, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Town Council Meeting

Approved Minutes

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

- MINUTES: November 14, 2016 minutes Mayor Sullivan asked that on page 2, second to last paragraph the word exactly be removed, that on page 3, line 33 the year 2017 be corrected to 2018, and that on page 6 Sharone Proper be corrected to Sharron Proper. Ms. Kuhn gave Ms. Dodd a few typographical and grammatical corrections including that Ms. Leggett be added to those Council members present. She asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect them. Ms. Leggett made a motion to approve the November 14, 2016 as corrected and Mayor Sullivan seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

- 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. Aichele asked how January's income compared to last year.

Mayor Sullivan said it was up \$5000.

Mr. Aichele discussed that it was good to see the water and sewer rates coming up.

Ms. Kuhn made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Mr. Aichele seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Planning Commission: Planning Commissioner Alan Comp discussed that the Planning Commission was meeting regularly to continue the Comprehensive Plan review. He discussed that the Planning Commission was waiting for a confirmation of two joint work sessions with the Council to review the draft Comprehensive Plan.

Architectural Review Board: Mayor Sullivan reported that the ARB had met to consider an application from the Inn at Little Washington for renovations to the Norman House which had gotten partial approval with some items needing to be brought back for approval.

Mayor Sullivan showed a sketch of Little Washington done in 1863 by Edwin Forbes given to him by Judy Tole of the Historical Society. He identified several building including the old Mill, Mrs. Cox's Tavern, the Town Hall, the Meadows, and the Middleton Inn. He discussed that he hoped to get a really good copy from Boston College.

Mr. O’Connell discussed that the Town could petition Boston College to loan the original sketch to the Town.

- TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Bennett had no report.
- NEW BUSINESS: ESS Contract Renewal: Mayor Sullivan discussed that the Town had received a contract from ESS to operate the waste water and water works systems and another contract to do lab testing and reports for the water plant. He discussed that the contract for the water and wastewater operations was about \$1,500 more than last year’s. and it was different from previous contracts in that the boiler plat had been removed and that water and wastewater operations were being billed separately He discussed that the contracts had been reviewed with ESS by himself, Mr. Schneider, and Ms. Dodd.

After a short discussion, Mayor Sullivan made a motion to approve the ESS contracts as presented and Mr. Aichele seconded based on a review from Counsel. A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. O’Connell voted “yes”	Mr. Goebel voted “yes”
Ms. Kuhn voted “yes”	Ms. Leggett voted “yes”
Mayor Sullivan voted “yes”	Mr. Aichele voted “yes”

And the motion passed 6-0.

- OLD BUSINESS: a). Country Water Piedmont Avenue On-line Hydrant Repair: Mayor Sullivan discussed that the Council was considering a proposal from Country Water to take out the non-functioning fire hydrant on Piedmont Ave. and to repair a fire hydrant, also on Piedmont Ave., that was not draining properly for \$4,500.

After a short discussion, Mr. Aichele made a motion to approve up to \$5000 per the Country Water proposal and Ms. Leggett seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Aichele voted “yes”	Mayor Sullivan voted “yes”
Ms. Leggett voted “yes”	Ms. Kuhn voted “yes”
Mr. Goebel voted “yes”	Mr. O’Connell voted “yes”

And the motion passed 6-0.

- b). Fredette Eagle Gay Street Stub Street

Abandonment Petition: Fredette Eagle and others have filed various documents asking the Town Council to consider and approve the abandonment of the Gay Street Stub Street. Council may take this matter up for discussion, as the documents presented are not off such a form as to presently permit the formal consideration of this matter, nor the advertisement of the required public hearing to formally consider such a request: Mayor Sullivan discussed that Fredette Eagle, George Eatman, and Lisa Leftwich had approached the Council to consider vacating the stub street at the end of Gay Street, which runs in front of Mr. Eatman’s yard and which he maintained. He discussed that there was not a final application which could be decided on that evening.

Tabitha Eagle discussed that her mother, Fredette Eagle, owned the shed on the corner of Gay and Calvert Streets. She discussed that her mother wanted more land for this shed to possibly replace it, Mr. Eatman wanted more land in his front yard, and Ms. Leftwich wanted access to her back yard. She discussed that the Hodges did not need it for excess. She discussed that whatever they wanted to do with the shed was contingent on having the stub street vacated.

There was a short discussion where Mr. Bennett advised them that all the adjacent property owners would have to agree and present a document where they were specific in what each party wanted and that they agreed on how the stub street would be divided,

that a survey would have to be done, as well as an appraisal. He discussed that if the Town agreed to vacate the stub street it would need to be compensated at fair market value.

It was discussed that Ms. Leftwich might lose the ability to drive a truck onto her property from the stub street once it was vacated to the neighbors.

Mr. Aichele discussed that the Planning Commission would also need to look at the issue.

Council agreed that they were open to the idea continuing the discussion of dividing up amongst the neighbors by vacating the stub street based on conditions once they received a proper application agreed to by all adjoining property owners.

Tabitha Eagle discussed that they would go back to the neighbors and get with Mr. Bennett.

c). RKE Environoclean Proposal to clean out Water Plant backwash solids collection tank: Mayor Sullivan discussed that the back wash tanks needed to be cleaned out. After a short discussion, Mr. Aichele made a motion to approve up \$1,800 for the RKE Environoclean proposal and Ms. Leggett seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"	Mr. Goebel voted "yes"
Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"	Ms. Leggett voted "yes"
Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"	Mr. Aichele voted "yes"

And the motion passed 6-0.

d). Planning Commission request for joint meeting on the Comprehensive Plan Review: After a short discussion, Mayor Sullivan made a motion to hold joint work sessions with the Planning Commission on the Comprehensive Plan on April 17, and May 1, 2017 and Ms. Kuhn seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Aichele voted "yes"	Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"
Ms. Leggett voted "yes"	Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"
Mr. Goebel voted "yes"	Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"

And the motion passed 6-0.

c), Possible repairs to the Town memorial statue between the County Administrator's office and RAAC Theatre on Gay Street. Mayor Sullivan discussed that Town memorial from the 1930's was deteriorating and that the Town had received two quotes from Terry Wagner for the repair, one for \$3000 for a flush caulking and another for \$4000 for raised caulking, similar to what it has now. After a short discussion, Mr. Aichele made a motion to authorize up to \$4000 for the repair with as close to the existing joining as possible and Ms. Kuhn seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"	Mr. Goebel voted "yes"
Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"	Ms. Leggett voted "yes"
Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"	Mr. Aichele voted "yes"

And the motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Aichele discussed the deterioration of the stone wall and fence along the side of the Town Hall and that he hoped the Council would have a proposal for its repair at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Sullivan discussed Virginia Garden Club was sponsoring a house and garden Tour in Washington at the end of April and he encouraged the Town and citizens to help get the town cleaned up.

- **PUBLIC FORUM:** Mayor Sullivan opened the Public Forum:
Nancy Buntin asked if someone was working on the Packing Shed.
Mayor Sullivan said yes and that the owner was committed to doing something with it.
Mr. Aichele discussed that the lot had been worked on and now looked much cleaner and safer.
Mayor Sullivan closed the Public Forum.

- **CLOSED SESSION:** At 8:25 p.m. Mr. Aichele made a motion to go into closed session in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.2-3711.A.5 for consultation with the Town Attorney in regard to a matter requiring the provision of legal advice namely the sale of Parcel 3, 0.5853 acres of the Avon Hall property and in accordance with Section 2.2-3711.A.3 for a discussion and consideration of a sale or possible sale of Parcel 3, 0.5853 acres of the Avon Hall property where a discussion in open session would adversely affect the negotiation strategy of the Town and Ms. Leggett seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"	Mr. Goebel voted "yes"
Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"	Ms. Leggett voted "yes"
Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"	Mr. Aichele voted "yes"

And the motion passed 6-0.

- **OPEN SESSION:** Mayor Sullivan reconvened the public session at 8:49 p.m. and 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 closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered by the Town Council:

Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"	Mr. Goebel voted "yes"
Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"	Ms. Leggett voted "yes"
Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"	Mr. Aichele voted "yes"

Mr. Aichele moved that Council, having considered all information before it up to this point, wishes to resolve and make clear that Parcel 3 of the Avon Hall Property, consisting of .5853 acres, remains on the market, and encourages any and all parties having an interest in the property, and especially any with proposals for creative uses that would advance the unique historical character of the Town, should be submitted forthwith to the Town Attorney, Mr. Bennett, for consideration. Ms. Leggett seconded and a roll call was taken:

Mr. Aichele voted "yes"	Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"
Ms. Leggett voted "yes"	Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"
Mr. Goebel voted "yes"	Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"

And the motion passed 6-0.

- ADJOURNMENT: At 8:51 p.m. Mr. O’Connell moved to adjourn and Ms. Kuhn and the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MARCH 10, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Dodd

Attachments:

Treasurer’s report

Additional Bills to be Paid

Bills to be Paid

ESS Contracts

RKL Environclean Proposal

Country Water Proposal

Terry Wagner Memorial Repair Proposal