

The Town of Washington

"THE FIRST WASHINGTON OF ALL"

March 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 arrived at 7:10 p.m. Town Attorney John Bennett and Town Clerk Laura Dodd were present.
- MINUTES: December 12, 2016 minutes: Ms. Kuhn asked that first the sentence on page 3 be corrected to include the word "had" and also on page 3 that "Airbnbs" be corrected to "Airbnb's". Ms. Kuhn made a motion to approve the December 12, 2016 as corrected and Ms. Leggett seconded and the motion passed 6-0.
- 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. He discussed that the Additional Bills to be Paid list included a check for \$9307.50 to the Spotsylvania Count Treasurer for nutrient credits which the Town had previously paid for but the checks had never been cashed and so the payments had to be reissued. Mayor Sullivan made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Mr. Aichele seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Schneider arrived.

Planning Commission: Chairman Catlin discussed that the draft 2.2 of the Comprehensive Plan had been made available that night to the Council and the public. He discussed that the Planning Commission would be meeting on March 27, 2017 to continue the review focusing on census information and demographics and to begin identifying goals and objectives. He discussed that the meeting was open to the public and that the Planning Commission welcomed the public to attend. He discussed that the Planning Commission hoped to hold a joint work session with the Council on the Comprehensive Plan on April 17, 2017. He thanked the Planning Commission members for all their hard work.

Mayor Sullivan also thanked the Planning Commission for all their hard work and discussed that he was looking forward to reading the draft.

Mr. Aichele discussed that he was impressed with the draft, which recorded and integrated a lot of information that had come out of two work sessions and that the Planning Commission was not just reflecting the opinions and ideas of its members and they were planning not just for themselves but for the entire community. He commended them for their work.

He discussed that where the Comprehensive Plan notes challenges and concerns, such as the dependence of the town on the Inn at Little Washington, it was not a judgement in

any way against the Inn but it was a concern of where the Town was going to be in twenty years.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that this was a draft of the Town of Washington's Comprehensive Plan and that he felt it was of interest to residents of the town, to the people who had a Washington address who might not be residents but who still felt it was their home, and to people in the county who came into town. He encouraged everyone to be involved with the Comprehensive Plan as it moved forward.

Chairman Catlin discussed that contact information was included in the draft.

Judy deSarno discussed that the Commission hoped to have the draft posted to the Town's web site.

Gail Swift discussed that she would be working with Martin Henze to get it posted on the web site.

Mr. Schneider discussed that the Planning Commission had been focused on text but there would be a lot more information included moving forward.

Architectural Review Board: Mayor Sullivan reported that the ARB had approved two applications, one for renovations of the Schwartz's old house on Piedmont Avenue, now owned Jim Abdo and another for renovations of the Norman House, owned by the Inn at Little Washington, next to the Post Office.

He discussed that these two applications would now bring to 19 the number of buildings that had been improved only on Main Street and that there were another 12 to 15 that had been improved in the rest of town.

He discussed a sheet of paper, attached, which listed all the accolades and awards that the Inn at Little Washington had received either for the restaurant or for the Inn, including having recently received two Michelin stars. He discussed that this was extraordinary and he congratulated Mr. O'Connell.

He reminded the public that the Washington Film Festival would be held on the weekend of April 7, 8, and 9 2017

- **TOWN ATTORNEY:** Mr. Bennett discussed that the draft Comcast Franchise Agreement still needed some revision and that it was not suited to a town with a Historic District and that there were also other issues so it was not ready for consideration.

He discussed that the Comprehensive Plan review was coming along and that the Town also needed to update both its Sub-Division and its Zoning Ordinances on mainly technical issues, including that references to Section 15.1 of the Virginia Code, which no longer existed. He discussed that he would like to work on revising the Sub-Division and Zoning Ordinances so that they were complaint in the hopes that they could be advertised and adopted at the same time as the Comprehensive Plan.

During a short discussion Mayor Sullivan authorized Mr. Bennett to spend up to \$750 of his time on a first attempt at revising the Sub-Division and Zoning Ordinances and for him to bring those revisions back to the Council.

Mr. Aichele discussed that he felt that the Town was obligated to keep its ordinances complaint with the State Code and that the money spent on Mr. Bennett revising them would be money well spent.

Mr. Schneider asked Mr. Bennett if the revisions to the Comcast Agreement regarding the Historic District were tied to the Virginia Municipal League and Richmond.

Mr. Bennett discussed he did not know the answer to that but Comcast was asking for the absolute right to install in any public right of way without local approval but he didn't know if that had passed in Richmond. He discussed that Comcast was saying in the draft Agreement that they had the right to install on the lines overhead in Town, which

conflicted with the Town's ordinance that the new installations had to be underground. He discussed that there were other instances in the draft that conflicted with the Town's ordinances.

Council agreed by consensus to table the Comcast Agreement until Mr. Bennett could work out disagreements with Comcast.

- NEW BUSINESS: a). Comcast Franchise Agreement Update: This agenda item was covered under Town Attorney.

- OLD BUSINESS: a). Set Date for Budget Work Session: Council agreed by consensus to hold a budget work session on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

- PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Sullivan opened the Public Forum.

Ms. deSarno discussed that she was a member of the State Board of Elections and suggested that the Town's election date be moved from May to November, the same date as the general elections, which would save money and would also probably result in a larger voter turn-out.

After a short discussion, Mr. Bennett discussed that changing the election date had been looked at by Council around 10 years ago, and it had been determined that it would require a Town Charter amendment by the General Assembly. He discussed that there had not been support for a change and that town elections state wide were in May, separate from any other elections.

Ms. deSarno discussed that there would not be time for a change this year if it required a Charter amendment.

There was a short discussion of the possibility of the State looking at the Town's Charter to amend the election date might also cause other amendments to happen or to even cause the loss of the Charter.

Drew Mitchell invited everyone to come by for hot chocolate and sledding at Avon Hall after the coming storm as they would be holding an open house.

Mr. Goebel asked about the Town Hall wall.

Ms. Dodd discussed that she had heard from one contractor that he was too busy and had not gotten a response from another.

Mr. O'Connell recommended Sierra Stone.

Mr. Aichele asked about the Piedmont Avenue hydrant removal.

Ms. Dodd discussed that County Water had had an emergency repair on a hydrant that affected fire services and that after the upcoming storm they would be coming to remove the hydrant on Piedmont Avenue.

Sharone Proper asked whether the Comprehensive Plan included anything about the former Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) property and affordable housing.

Chairman Catlin discussed that VDOT property did not come under the Planning Commission purview as it was not in town and they couldn't dictate what happened on private property.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that the draft Comprehensive Plan would be discussing the potential for the Town expanding its boundaries.

Mr. Aichele discussed that the County was also looking at its Comprehensive Plan and that existing County Comprehensive Plan encouraged development in the Town and in the villages that already provided services. He discussed that there seemed to be confusion about what was happening in the County's Comprehensive Plan and what was happening in the Town's.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that if residents in the County wanted to become part of the Town and the Town also agreed and supported that then he thought that the County would be happy for that to happen.

Ms. Proper asked if the Town had anything to do with the short road that went to the Library and the Visitor's Center.

Mayor Sullivan said no as it was out of town.

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 Mr. Goebel seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

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

And the motion passed 7-0.

- **OPEN SESSION:** Mayor Sullivan reconvened the public session at 9:10 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. Schneider voted "yes"	Mr. Goebel voted "yes"
Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"	Ms. Leggett voted "yes"
Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"	Mr. Aichele voted "yes"
Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"	

And the motion passed 7-0.

- **CONTINUED MEETING:** At 9:15 p.m. Mr. Goebel moved to continue the meeting to April 4, 2017 at 10 a.m. to hold a budget work session and Ms. Leggett seconded and a roll call was taken:

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

And the motion passed 7-0.

CONTINUED COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 4, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Dodd

Attachments:

Treasurer's report

Additional Bills to be Paid

Bills to be Paid

Draft 2.2 Comprehensive Plan

List of the Inn at Little Washington's Awards