

# The Town of Washington

"THE FIRST WASHINGTON OF ALL"

May 8, 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 7:04 p.m. Council members Jerry Goebel, Mary Ann Kuhn, Katharine Leggett, Patrick O'Connell and Gary Aichele, and Brad Schneider were present. Town Attorney John Bennett and Town Clerk Laura Dodd were present.

Mayor Sullivan welcomed the new owners of the Gay Street Inn, Drew and Deborah Harris, present, to town.

- MINUTES: February 13, 2017 minutes: Mr. Goebel made a motion to approve the February 13, 2017 and Mayor Sullivan 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. Goebel discussed that the Meals and Lodging tax revenue was low as some payments had arrived after the end of the month. He discussed that the Washington Fire Department had been reimbursed \$9,000 for expenses under the Fire Programs Grant.

Ms. Kuhn made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Mr. Goebel seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Planning Commission: Planning Commission Brad Schneider reported that the Planning Commission would be meeting on Monday, May 15, and on Monday, May 22, 2017 and that they would be incorporating the various comments from the joint work sessions with the Council into the draft Comprehensive Plan. He discussed that they would be presenting the finalized draft to the Council on June 12, 2017.

Architectural Review Board: Mayor Sullivan reported that the ARB would not be meeting this month as there were no applications.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that the Virginia Historic Garden Tour had been a great success and that he had 675 people come through his house and that 94% had come from outside the county and that the Town had looked fabulous and that Mr. O'Connell deserved credit for replanting the street next to the Post Office building. He discussed that Beth DeBergh deserved credit for bringing the Tour to the town and county.

Mr. Aichele suggested that the Mayor send a letter to Ms. deBergh thanking her for her efforts.

- TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Bennett discussed that he wished the Council to consider passing a resolution authorizing him to execute liens and he read through the

resolution: “Be it Resolved, by the Town Council of the Town of Washington, Virginia, the Town Attorney is authorized and empowered in the name of the Tow as may be necessary or appropriate to file, perfect, and prosecute any liens to which the Town may be entitled under its ordinances or general laws.”

Mayor Sullivan discussed that there were occasions when the times when someone had not paid the Town when it was appropriate to do so. He discussed that the Town had always been sensitive to the fact that economically for some people time were tough but sometimes there came a time when the Town needed to collect.

Mr. Aichele spoke in favor of the resolution and discussed that at the time of disposition of a property it made sense for the Town to collect any money owed. He made the motion to approve the resolution to authorize the Town Attorney to execute liens.

Mr. Bennett discussed that having the authority did not mean that the lien would be executed.

Mr. Schneider discussed that he would like to see the proposed resolution written up and distributed to the Council for consideration at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Bennett discussed that there was a sewer assessment due that needed to be dealt with before the next Council meeting.

Mr. Goebel discussed that the Sewer Ordinance already authorized imposing liens for non-payment of sewer assessments.

Mr. Bennett discussed that this resolution just said who would sign the lien.

Mayor Sullivan spoke in favor of passing the resolution that evening.

Ms. Kuhn asked about the sense of urgency in passing the motion that evening.

Mr. Bennett discussed that an issue had come up that day where the Town might want to file a lien before a property was transferred on which a sewer assessment was due.

Ms. Leggett seconded Mr. Aichele’s motion and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Aichele voted “yes”

Ms. Kuhn voted “yes”

Ms. Leggett voted “yes”

Mr. O’Connell voted “yes”

Mr. Goebel voted “yes”

Mr. Schneider voted “yes”

Mayor Sullivan voted “yes”

And the motion passed 7-0 and the resolution was approved.

- PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2017-2018 Budget: Mayor Sullivan opened the public hearing.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that the budget had been presented last month and gave a short recap. He discussed that the Town had sold Avon Hall and had made significant strides with raising the water and sewer rates so this budget showed a modest surplus in the water budget for the first time in years, which could be set aside for capital improvements. He discussed that the wastewater operations revenues and expenses almost matched due to the rate increases and other savings that had occurred and that the \$178,000 yearly sewer loan payments would be covered by a surplus in the Town’s budget. He discussed that the Town’s budget was largely derived from Meals and Lodgings tax revenues and that there was substantial savings in the proposed Town budget as the Town was no longer paying on the principal and the interest of the Avon Hall loan, which was a \$72,000 savings and that also legal fees had been reduced.

Alan Comp asked if there was money in the budget for the Town Hall roof to be painted as it was rusting.

Both the Mayor and Mr. Goebel discussed that money for painting the roof could be available. The Mayor discussed he did not want to get into deferred maintenance issues.

Sharron Proper expressed her concerns that she had not heard the church bells ringing throughout the town.

Several Council members agreed that they had not heard the bells ringing regularly.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that he would raise the issue of the bells with the Trinity Church. He asked if there were any more questions and there being none he closed the public hearing.

He discussed that the budget would be considered for approval at the June 12, 2017 Council meeting.

- OLD BUSINESS: There were no Old Business agenda items.

Mayor Sullivan asked if Council had any items to discuss.

Mr. Goebel asked about the Civil War Monument repair.

Ms. Dodd discussed that the repair was almost done.

Mr. Aichele asked if the Town had received any quotes on the Town Hall wall repair.

Ms. Dodd discussed that the Town had received one quote that was unreasonably high and that no one else had responded.

- NEW BUSINESS: a). There was no New Business.

- PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Sullivan opened the Public Forum.

Sheila Gresinger spoke in favor the Garden Tour and said it was fabulous as was the village market and that there were a lot of reasons why people were attracted in coming into town and into coming back again.

Mr. Goebel discussed that the Inn's Farmer's Market had opened up last Sunday.

Mr. O'Connell discussed that the market would be open throughout the summer and that there was a nice mi of vendors and that the market would gradually get bigger each year.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that the local merchants appreciated the Garden tour and Farm Market.

Mayor Sullivan closed the Public Forum.

- CLOSED SESSION: At 7:50 Mr. Goebel made a motion to go into The Council may enter 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 Mayor Sullivan 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 :8:20 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”	

- ADJOURNMENT: At 8:24 p.m. Mr. Goebel moved to adjourn and Mayor Sullivan seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 12, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Dodd

Attachments:

Treasurer’s report

Additional Bills to be Paid

Bills to be Paid

Resolution Authorizing Town Attorney to Execute Liens

Draft FY 2017-2018 Budget