

The Town of Washington

"THE FIRST WASHINGTON OF ALL"

February 8, 2021

Council Meeting

Approved Agenda

7:00 p.m.

- CALL TO ORDER Action
- APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Action
- MINUTES
 - January 11, 2021 Council meeting minutes Action
 - January 15, 2021 Council meeting minutes Action
- REPORTS
 - Mayor's Report: Mayor Catlin Information
 - Treasury Report: Ms. Swift Information
 - Planning Commission Information
 - Architectural Review Board Information
- TOWN ATTORNEY Mr. Bennett Information
- OLD BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Public Hearing for special use permit for Pattio's Café and other uses in the old post office building. So as to permit expanded restaurant and café operations and outdoor seating and food service. Information
 - b) Top soil removal from Post Office site Possible action
 - c) COVID water report (Brad Schneider) Possible action
 - d) Report on Board of Supervisors presentation Information
 - e) Scheduling a work session for the FY 21-22 budget. Possible action
 - f) Pathway in Town
- PUBLIC FORUM
- ADJOURNMENT

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
March 8, 2020

THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WAS CONTINUED TO FEBRUARY 16, 2021 and to February 27, 2021.

Barbara Batson, Town Clerk

Attachments:

Treasurer's Report

Bills to be paid

Patty O's Special Use Permit

Installation of pathway email

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February 8, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Approved Minutes

- CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Fred Catlin opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Council members Jean Goodine (joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.), Patrick O'Connell, Brad Schneider, Gail Swift and Joe Whited were present. Town Attorney John Bennett and Town Clerk Barbara Batson were present. Mary Ann Kuhn was absent. Mayor Catlin requested attendees wear a face mask and reminded everyone to speak six inches from the microphones.
- APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Ms. Swift requested the Public Hearing be moved to occur following the agenda approval so that any participants would then be free to leave if they wished. Mayor Catlin requested item F: Pathway in Town, be added under new business. Mr. Schneider motioned the amended agenda be approved and Mr. Whited seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

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. Goodine and Ms. Kuhn absent.

- a) MINUTES: Mayor Catlin motioned to accept the January 11 and 15 minutes and Ms. Swift seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Goodine 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 with Ms. Kuhn absent.

- b) REPORTS:

Mayor's Report: Mayor Catlin thanked Keir Whitson, the postmistress for the Washington Post Office and Jean Goodine for their efforts to place a blue mailbox at 353 Main Street, in front of the Wine Loves Chocolate building. Mayor Catlin hopes this will relieve some of the pressure at the Sperryville Post Office and for Town residents. Ms. Goodine asked how will residents know about the box. Mayor Catlin responded there would be a news item in the Rappahannock News and he would reach out to the MadRapp Recorder. Ms. Swift said that the Town Clerk can send the notice out to the Town's email distribution list.

Mayor Catlin has spoken with the occupant of the log house on Main Street regarding the steps that are blocking the sidewalk. He hopes to have a solution by the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Swift reported the town is standing well on its account balances but will soon need to begin paying the sewer mortgage of \$99,000 in May. She shared that Joe Wenk resigned from doing the water meter readings and while the Town is considering hiring a Town employee, Jacob Batson has agreed to read the meters at the same rate as Joe Wenk. She also brought to the Council's attention that Rebecca Batson created a database for all SUPs.

Mr. Schneider asked if the Updike charge on the bills to be paid list was for waste disposal. Ms. Swift said that we pay for one of the dumpsters located at the fire station.

Ms. Swift made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and approve the bills to be paid and Mr. Whited seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Goodine 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 with Ms. Kuhn absent.

Planning Commission Report: It did not meet in January

Architectural Review Board Report: The ARB will not meet in February.

Town Attorney: Mr. Bennett had no report.

- OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.
- NEW BUSINESS:
 - (a) Public Hearing for special use permit for Patty O's Café and other uses in the old post office building. So as to permit expanded restaurant and café operations and outdoor seating and food service: Mr. O'Connell recused himself from the discussion and Mayor Catlin opened the meeting for public comment. There were no comments from the public and Mayor Catlin closed the public comments at 7:06 p.m.

Mayor Catlin asked if anyone from the Council had any comments or questions. Mr. Schneider asked what the proper spelling was for the establishment and Robert Fasce replied, Patty O's was the correct spelling.

Ms. Goodine had a question regarding slide 12. She asked where would the sidewalk be located. Robert Fasce responded the Inn would build the sidewalk from the corner of Main and Middle streets to the Carter House. Ms. Goodine asked if the new sidewalk would go onto her property. Robert Fasce responded that the new sidewalk would end at the current sidewalk at Carter House and would not affect Ms. Goodine's property. He further clarified that the sidewalk would go from the brick parking area at the Carter House to the Patty O's building.

Mayor Catlin said residents have commented they are looking forward to the new Café. He feels this will be a boon for Town tourism and he is personally looking forward to it.

Ms. Swift made a motion to approve the special use permit for the owner of the building commonly known as the old post office building to use the entire first floor of the structure for restaurant and associated uses and further use the front and sides of the lot, an area approximately 1500 sq. ft., for outdoor restaurant and associated uses and Mr. Whited seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Goodine 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 Mr. O’Connell recused and Ms. Kuhn absent.

- (b) Top soil removal from Post Office site: Mr. Schneider reported he is working with Tim Tedrick, contractor for the new post office, to help keep the project moving along. There is a large pile of soil currently pushed up close to the road. Instead of the soil being hauled away Mr. Schneider asked if it could be moved to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The dirt could be leveled off to create a pad for a future building he’d like to have at the plant.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to move the topsoil from the post office to the WWTP and Mayor Catlin seconded and a voice vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

- (c) COVID water report: Mr. Schneider said he hasn’t had an opportunity to speak with Mr. Garrey Curry, Rappahannock County Administrator, yet. There are other localities taking water samples and doing testing that could potentially give a one week notice of a possible COVID outbreak. ESS cannot run this test and it would need to go to an outside laboratory. He wants to reach out to Rappahannock County to see if they would be interested in doing this test and potentially picking up the cost. Ms. Goodine asked how much the testing costs. Mr. Schneider said he thinks it’s approximately \$50 to \$100 per test. He will check and have a response at the next meeting.
- (d) Report on Board of Supervisors (BOS) presentation: Mayor Catlin said he had a discussion at the February 1 BOS meeting regarding the post office. He presented a rough timeline for construction. He shared that the footers have been put in place and the place where the pad will go has been covered. Mr. Schneider said the pad hasn’t gone in yet because of the previous storm. He anticipates the construction accelerating once the contractor is able to get back onsite. Ms. Goodine said she heard the footers did not pass inspection. Mr. Schneider said the footers had to be installed deeper than originally planned. The inspector was onsite when Mr. Schneider was and everything passed inspection.

Mr. Schneider is working with the contractor installing the sewer line. There is an issue he is working to resolve regarding connecting to the sewer line coming up from Warren Ave. It is a tight area that runs parallel to the water lines making it difficult to install the sewer line at the right depth. Code requires sewer lines be deeper than water lines. There is also the presence of a large maple tree in the path of the sewer line, which is not on the post office site. He is waiting for quotes to do horizontal boring to install the sewer line and save the tree.

Mr. Schneider shared the plan was to run the water line from Warren Avenue but that path may touch the corner of the asphalt drive which would require VDOT approval. There is a 6-inch line that parallels Leggett Lane going up to the WWTP. He walked the site with Craig Jebson from Country Water and they feel the best option is to bore horizontally under Leggett Lane to the post office site. Once he has the quotes for that option, he will present them to the Council.

Ms. Goodine asked if the tree is on someone's private property or on the right of way. Mr. Schneider said he isn't sure but for the purposes of this project they were considering the tree on private property. Mayor Catlin mentioned the horizontal boring solution was mentioned by a Town resident who did the same thing when the water lines were installed on her property and it saved her tree.

Mayor Catlin said June 1 is when the USPS wants the post office open. He also shared there are residents of the town who are concerned that the proposed post office doesn't show a lot of character and the style is very basic. A group of citizens got together to form a task force to raise funds to increase the height of the roof pitch to match other buildings in Town. Instead of a 4x12 pitch it would be an 8x12 pitch and have a metal standing seam roof instead of an asphalt tile roof along with some other enhancements. Mayor Catlin said If you are a resident of the Town you will receive a "love" note asking for a donation to the Northern Piedmont Community Foundation (NPCF) for this project. The NPCF Board of Directors knows these donations are intended for the post office building enhancement fund and will make a decision on the use of the funds. Mayor Catlin shared that construction has been delayed due to recent and anticipated storms but expects a massive level of activity once the contractor is able to get back onsite. Mayor Catlin thanked members of the post office task force including Nancy Buntin and Drew Mitchell who were present at the Council meeting.

Mayor Catlin also shared that the BOS has asked him to attend its March 1 meeting to discuss the boundary line issue.

- (e) Scheduling a work session for the FY 21-22 budget: Ms. Swift asked John Bennett if the budget work session can be done via Zoom. Mr. Bennett responded any business related to keeping the Town functioning could be held as an electronic meeting and the budget falls into that category. Ms. Swift informed the Council this will be the initial session and there will be a more in-depth session in March. Mayor Catlin proposed to have the budget work session on February 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mayor Catlin asked Mr. Bennett if the Town would use the normal method of advertising the meeting and Mr. Bennett replied we would advertise the meeting as normally done. Mayor Catlin asked for a voice vote to schedule the budget work session on February 27 at 10 a.m. and the motion passed unanimously.

- (f) Pathway in Town: Jimmie DeBergh, longtime Harris Hollow resident who owns properties in the town, would like to install a walking path approximately 5 ft wide behind his property next to the Washington School building on Mt. Salem Avenue. The path would go through Town property in the wooded area and extend diagonally to the field west of the WWTP and circle behind the plant and connect to Leggett Lane. Mayor Catlin mentioned the Town would be seeking funds in the future to make the path permanent. This path would allow an easy connection from Mt. Salem Avenue to the post office and provide a beginning for a network of

paths in Town that are in the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. DeBergh will be doing the work with no cost to the Town. Ms. Goodine asked whether there was a plan to have a path centrally located from Town to the post office. Mayor Catlin responded that there was a plan and the Town would be seeking professional advice.

John Bennett advised a resolution would need to be adopted if a permanent path were installed by the Town but at this time a voice vote to grant permission for the construction of this path as described is sufficient with the stipulation that council could revoke access to Town property with 30 days' notice.

Mr. Whited asked John Bennett if the Town would be liable for the path. Mr. Bennett said the Town would need to see whether it was covered under its liability insurance.

Mayor Catlin motioned for the Town to grant permission for the construction of this path as described at will, which would be revocable with 30 days' notice and Mr. Schneider seconded and a roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Goodine 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 with Ms. Kuhn absent.

PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Catlin opened the public forum at 7:52 p.m.

Nancy Buntin suggested the path from Mt. Salem Avenue to the post office not be too complicated. There was previously a path through the wetlands that has since overgrown. She suggested it be a grass path that is regularly mowed.

Mayor Catlin closed the public forum at 7:54 p.m.

Mayor Catlin asked Mr. Bennett whether there was a need to have a special Council meeting before February 19 to discuss the floodplain ordinance. Mr. Bennett said the Town was not in the floodplain and he has made calls to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to discuss the issue. He is waiting for FEMA to get back to him and does not recommend scheduling a special meeting at this time. Mayor Catlin asked Mr. Bennett if the Council could continue tonight's meeting to February 16 at 7:00 p.m. in case Mr. Bennett determined a special meeting was needed. He also asked if a continuation to February 27 for the budget work session could be voted on at tonight's meeting. Mr. Bennett responded that yes both items could be voted on.

Mayor Catlin motioned to continue this meeting to a meeting via Zoom on February 16 at 7:00 p.m. and to February 27 for a budget work session at 10:00 a.m. and Ms. Swift seconded and a roll call vote was taken.

Ms. Goodine 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 with Ms. Kuhn absent.