The Town of Washington

"THE FIRST WASHINGTON OF ALL"

August 8, 2016 7:00 p.m. Town Council Meeting Approved Minutes

• <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>: Vice Mayor Gary Schwartz called the Town Council to order at 7:06 p.m. Council members Jerry Goebel, Mary Ann Kuhn, Katharine Leggett, and Gary Aichele were present. Mayor John Fox Sullivan and Council member Patrick O'Connell were absent. Town Attorney John Bennett and Town Clerk Laura Dodd were also present.

April 5, 2016, April 11, 2016, and July 11, 2016: Ms. Leggett made MINUTES: a motion to approve the April 5, 2016 minutes and Mr. Aichele seconded and the motion was approved 5-0. Mr. Aichele asked that the following corrections be made to the April 11, 2016 minutes: on pages 3, and 4 on the 4 roll call votes replace the 2nd yes vote by Mayor Sullivan with a yes vote from him, and also on page 5 replace the wording of the Council going into a possible closed session with the words "There was no closed session". Ms. Kuhn also had some typos and grammar corrections. Mr. Aichele made a motion to approve the April 11, 2016 as corrected and Ms. Kuhn seconded and the motion passed 5-0. Mr. Aichele asked that the following corrections be made to the July 11, 2016 minutes: On page 2: Paragraph 3, line 2 add a comma after resolved; under New Business a). add that there was no new business, under Public Forum after Vice Mayor Schwartz opened the public forum add that there were no public comments; and under Closed Session underline the last statement that there was no closed session. Mr. Aichele made a motion to approve the July 11, 2016 minutes as corrected and Vice Mayor Schwartz seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

• <u>REPORTS:</u> Treasury Report: Treasurer Goebel reviewed the attached Bank Summary Report, the Bills-To-Be Paid List, and the Additional Bills to Be Paid List.

Mr. Goebel reported that there was a large amount of water pumped due to a problem at the plant that caused the water to overflow at the reservoir.

Mr. Aichele made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Mr. Schwartz seconded seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Planning Commission: Chairman Schwartz reported that the Planning Commission had met July to continue the Comprehensive Plan review.

Planning Commissioner Judy deSarno discussed that the Planning Commission was looking for more public input regarding the Comprehensive Plan and they wanted to invite people to come to the September 26, 2016 Planning Commission meeting and let the Planning Commission know what they wanted to see in the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Schwartz asked the people present to also encourage their neighbors and County residents to attend to increase participation and input.

Mr. Aichele discussed that if the Town could get people to participate early in the Comprehensive Plan review process as it controls all future evolution of the Town it would make it a more productive and ultimately rewarding process.

Chairman Schwartz discussed that the Planning Commission would be meeting in August and that it was still looking for letters of interest for the vacant position.

Architectural Review Board: Vice Mayor Schwartz discussed that the ARB would be meeting on August 10, 2016 and would be considering 5 applications from 3 applicants.

- <u>TOWN ATTORNEY</u>: Mr. Bennett had no report.
- <u>OLD BUSINESS</u>: a). There was no Old Business

• <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>: a). ESS Filter Sand Replacement Proposal: Vice Mayor Schwartz discussed that the Town had received a proposal from ESS to replace the sand in the sand filter at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

After a short discussion, Mr. Aichele made a motion to approve up to \$14,195.41 to replace the sand in the sand filter and Ms. Leggett seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes" Vice Mayor Schwartz voted "yes" Mr. Goebel voted "yes" And the motion passed 5-0. Ms. Leggett voted "yes" Mr. Aichele voted "yes"

• PUBLIC FORUM: Vice Mayor Schwartz opened the Public Forum:

Nancy Buntin expressed her concern regarding the large loss of water at the reservoir and asked if there was a redundancy system.

There was a short conversation on how the pump worked and how the system worked.

Ms. Dodd discussed that the problem was with the auto cut-off failing so the pump was set in manual which sometimes resulted in an overflow if the operator couldn't get back to shut the pump off. She discussed that it had been repaired but that in the future she would work with the operator to have the pump shut off if he couldn't get back to shut it off in order to keep the loss down.

Mr. Aichele discussed that it was better to have a loss than not having enough water.

Mr. Kevin Adams asked for an update on the fire hydrant on Piedmont Avenue.

Mr. Schwartz discussed that there was no update.

Mr. Goebel discussed that he thought that there was not going to be a new hydrant.

Mr. Aichele discussed that the subject had been tabled over the question of the \$25,000 estimate for a new hydrant when the Fire Department assured the Town it was not essential.

Mr. Adams asked if a decision had been made not to replace the hydrant.

Mr. Goebel discussed that it had been tabled.

Mr. Aichele discussed that it been tabled because at the time the Town was borrowing money to pay the Town's debts and it didn't seem prudent to put in a fire hydrant that was redundant. He discussed that his view had been that once Avon Hall was sold and the bridge loan were paid off, the Town could go back and revisit what the expense would be and what would be the best financial way to get it done.

Vice Mayor Schwartz discussed that the Council needed to revisit the subject.

Mr. Aichele discussed that he hoped to see it on the September agenda.

Sharon Proper discussed that peoples insurance rates would go down near the new hydrant.

Vice Mayor Schwartz discussed that rates might not be affected by the loss of one hydrant.

Ms. Proper expressed her concern about the sidewalk on Mount Salem Avenue breaking up and being a hazard to pedestrians, which there were now more of since the apartments opened.

Mr. Bennett discussed that this was a huge question of who owned and maintained the sidewalks and that the Town had never undertaken sidewalk maintenance.

Ms. Dodd suggested that the Town could try and get a Transportation Enhancement grant to get sidewalks.

Mr. Schwartz discussed if that if the Town got a grant it would then have to always maintain the sidewalks.

Mr. Bennett discussed there were legal issues involved particularly over ongoing maintenance.

Mr. Aichele discussed that sidewalks could be discussed in the Comprehensive Plan as well as off-street parking, lighting at night, and the need for public restrooms. He discussed that in some places if the sidewalk was on private property it was the property owner's responsibility to maintain it.

Mr. Bennett discussed that typically the property owner paid or developers paid for sidewalks.

Ms. Buntin expressed her concern again about the clogged drains on Porter Street, which she had to keep clearing so that water wouldn't flood Main Street. She discussed that it was a Town issue and the Town should keep them cleared.

Mr. Schwartz asked Ms. Dodd to contact VDOT about clearing the drains and culverts.

Council agreed by consensus that if VDOT wouldn't clear them the Town should find someone who would.

Vice Mayor Schwartz closed the public forum

Mr. Aichele asked if there was a positive reaction to the Inn at Little Washington's farmer's market.

Christa Weeks said it was great but needed to be bigger.

The general consensus from everyone present that it was a positive addition and there were no negative comments.

• <u>CLOSED SESSION</u>: (OLD BUSINESS) At 8:06 p.m. Mr. Aichele made a motion to go into closed session under the provisions of Section 2.2-3711A.7 for consultation with the Town Attorney regarding the provision of legal advice namely legal options related to potential zoning violations and Vice Mayor Schwartz seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes" Vice Mayor Schwartz voted "yes" Mr. Goebel voted "yes" And the motion passed 5-0. Ms. Leggett voted "yes" Mr. Aichele voted "yes"

• <u>OPEN SESSION</u>: Vice Mayor Schwartz reconvened the public session at 8:45 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:

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes" Vice Mayor Schwartz voted "yes" Mr. Goebel voted "yes" Ms. Leggett voted "yes" Mr. Aichele voted "yes"

Ms. Leggett made a motion that Council authorize Mr. Aichele to negotiate with affected parties about potential zoning violations related to Airbnb operations and Ms. Kuhn seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"Ms. Leggett voted "yes"Vice Mayor Schwartz voted "yes"Mr. Aichele voted "yes"Mr. Goebel voted "yes"And the motion passed 5-0.

• <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>: At 8: 47 p.m. Vice Mayor Schwartz moved to adjourn and Mr. Aichele seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

NEXT SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Dodd

Attachments: Treasurer's report Additional Bills to be Paid Bills to be Paid