



February 10, 2024  
Town Council Approved Minutes

- CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Whited opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Council members, Drew Beard, Fred Catlin, Jean Goodine, Patrick O’Connell, Brad Schneider and Gail Swift were present. Town Manager/Clerk Barbara Batson was present and Town Attorney Mr. Martin Crim attended remotely.
- APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Mr. Catlin made a motion to approve the agenda, Ms. Swift seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Beard voted “yes”  
Ms. Goodine voted “yes”  
Mr. Schneider voted “yes”  
Mayor Whited voted “yes”  
And the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Catlin voted “yes”  
Mr. O’Connell voted “yes”  
Ms. Swift voted “yes”

- MINUTES: Ms. Swift motioned to accept the minutes for January 13, 2025, Mr. Beard seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Beard voted “yes”  
Ms. Goodine voted “yes”  
Mr. Schneider voted “yes”  
Mayor Whited voted “yes”  
And the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Catlin voted “yes”  
Mr. O’Connell voted “yes”  
Ms. Swift voted “yes”

REPORTS:

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Whited thanked Ms. Swift and Mr. Schneider for helping during the ice storm when the power went out. Mr. Schneider picked up a temporary generator and had it installed. Since the weather forecast is bad, the town is pushing George Washington’s birthday celebration to later in the year. Rush River Commons is working through the last steps to receive their certificates of occupancy.

Treasurer report: There was no report.

Town Attorney: Mr. Crim reported the boundary line adjustment hearing is on April 4. Mr. Foote will not be present. Mr. Crim will be presenting the agreement to the court. Mayor Whited asked how long it usually takes to get a decision, Mr. Crim said approx. 4-6 weeks.

Zoning Administrator: Mr. Steve Gyurisin submitted a written report.

Planning Commission (PC): Ms. Caroline Anstey reported the PC met and reelected officers at the January meeting. They also discussed two issues. They'd like a quarterly update on water and sewer consumption, and recommended a section be added on applications that would require the applicant to estimate their usage.

In 2022 the PC reaffirmed the comprehensive plan. They have received feedback from residents to do an updated comprehensive plan. The PC will hold public meetings to receive comments and anticipate the review will take six months.

Architectural Review Board (ARB): Ms. Harris reported that the ARB completed an election of officers. Ryan Crabbe was elected as the secretary and the other officers remained the same.

Infrastructure update: Mr. Schneider said that the pump house did lose power during the storm. There were 125k gallons of water in the tower that would last for three days. With the storms forecasted in the near future, he rented a generator for four weeks. The new generator is in Richmond and waiting for the concrete pads to be poured. He anticipates that will happen as soon as we have clear weather.

The aerators at the plant need to be replaced. He is looking for a new solution and hopes that repair will take place soon.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Path update: Mr. Catlin reported that funding for the pathway is complete. The construction should start early March and be completed before the end of April.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Request to purchase town property: Mayor Whited said the property requested for sale is about nine to ten thousand square feet. He asked TC if they are willing to sell the land and what they'd like to see in an offer packet. He reminded TC that a public hearing would be needed.

Ms. Goodine asked if a minimum amount could be set. Mr. Schneider said he would like to see a larger survey of the property. Mr. Catlin said it's one parcel, includes Legett Lane, the wastewater treatment plant, and the path. He suggested the TC first figure out what portion of the property we want to sell. Ms. Swift remembers having discussions about selling this property but that it was too close to the plant.

Mr. Catlin said when he worked on the Avon Hall task force there was talk about developing the land. VDOT would not allow access to the property via the road near the County Treasurer's office.

Mayor Whited motioned that TC move forward with investigating if the town is interested in selling the lot proposed or any other adjacent property. Mr. Catlin seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Beard voted "yes"  
Ms. Goodine voted "yes"  
Mr. Schneider voted "yes"  
Mayor Whited voted "yes"

Mr. Catlin voted "yes"  
Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"  
Ms. Swift voted "yes"

And the motion passed 7-0.

- b) Discussion of water and sewer rates: Ms. Batson presented the report submitted to TC. Mr. Catlin suggested the discussion occur during the budget work session.

PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Whited opened the public forum at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. John Sullivan suggested the TC needs to have a public hearing to educate residents on the water and sewer rate issue. Mayor Catlin suggested it could be included in the town announcements. Mr. Sullivan gave the example that expenses have gone up dramatically and the public may not be aware of it. He said the public needs to be better informed about what the numbers mean. Ms. Goodine asked Mr. Sullivan if he had a suggestion on how the public could be educated? He suggested that at the next meeting there should be a thorough discussion of what the numbers mean.

Ms. Anstey said, in her opinion, there's a lot of misunderstanding about the budget. A larger discussion needs to be had regarding finances and the budget.

Ms. Anstey also asked if the potential land sale happens what would that do to the value of the remaining land?

Mr. O'Connell asked if the general account currently supports the utilities. Mayor Whited responded that it does.

Mr. Jerome Edwards asked how the rates compare to other localities. Ms. Harris stated that the cost of electricity will continue to go up. Mr. Schneider said he has a few ideas he'd like to look at to help with the cost of electricity.

Mr. Sullivan said there are three budgets in town. The wastewater and water systems are unbalanced. The General bucket, the majority of which is meals and lodging taxes, support both systems. The question is to what extent does the town want to help itself economically.

Mayor Whited closed the public hearing at 7:57 p.m.

Mr. Catlin made a motion to adjourn at 7:57, Mr. Beard seconded, and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Beard voted "yes"

Ms. Goodine voted "yes"

Mr. Schneider voted "yes"

Mayor Whited voted "yes"

And the motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Catlin voted "yes"

Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"

Ms. Swift voted "yes"

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL IS

March 10, 2025

Barbara Batson, Town Manager/ Clerk

Attachments:

Zoning Administrator's report  
Water and sewer rates report