

Town of Lovettsville

Town Council Minutes of the April 21, 2016 Special Meeting

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Mayor Senate called the special meeting of the Lovettsville Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. on April 21, 2016 at the Lovettsville Town Hall, 6 East Pennsylvania Avenue, Lovettsville, VA. The Vice Mayor noted that Mayor Zoldos was working this evening.

Staff Present

- Town Manager Laszlo Palko
- Town Engineer Karin Fellers
- Town Clerk Harriet West

Council Members Present

- Mayor Robert Zoldos II (arrived at 9:06 p.m.)
- Vice Mayor Michael Senate
- Council Member Kimberly Allar
- Council Member Tiffany Carder
- Council Member Rodney Gray
- Council Member James McIntyre

Council Members Absent

- Council Member Jennifer Jones

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Mayor Senate led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Comments from the Public

Vice Mayor Senate called for comments from the public and read the rules for public comment.

Michael Banish said he has lived in the Town of Lovettsville for the past eight or nine years. He referenced an email from two weeks ago about plans for a Town police department. He said he is not representing his department and that his comments are as a taxpayer and citizen. There were several things from the email that caught his attention, including two specific questions for the Town Council:

- Out of the 150 crimes in Sector 520, how many were in the Town of Lovettsville?
- As far as a police department in general, has the Town ever completed a comprehensive study?

Action/Discussion Items

A. Street Sign Replacement Materials

Town Engineer Fellers presented this item. The Council is being asked to provide direction to staff on type of materials for replacement street signs. Ms. Fellers presented several options and responded to questions from the Council. Following discussion, Town Manager Palko suggested continuing the discussion after the guest speakers for the police panel. There was no objection from the Council.

FY 2017 Budget Work Session

A. Police Panel

Town Manager Palko introduced the following guest speakers:

- Captain Greg Ahlemann, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office
- Chief Cynthia McAlister, Purcellville Police Chief
- Retired Chief Steve Webber, Town of Middleburg

Vice Mayor Senate thanked all of the speakers and noted the Council was in the process of trying to determine if it is viable for the Town to have its own police department. Manager Palko noted that they had been told that the Town of Lovettsville is the largest town in the Commonwealth of Virginia without its own police department.

Captain Ahlemann said the Sheriff Departments role was to support the Town in whatever direction it wanted to go. He noted that an increase in population brings an increase in crime and that Western Loudoun County is unique in response times due to the large geographic coverage area. Chief Webber and Chief McAlister shared their perspectives regarding coverage, staffing, response times, and working with the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department.

The speakers responded to questions from the Council Members. Captain Ahlemann stated the Sheriff's Office tracks calls by sector. He offered to meet with the Mayor and Town Manager to filter through the data just for the Town so the Council can make an informed decision. He then provided information regarding crimes and calls for service for Sector 520, which includes Lovettsville, over the past three years. Captain Ahlemann and Chief McAlister stressed the need for residents to call when there is a problem. The Council and Town Manager continued to discuss police services with the speakers.

Continued – Street Sign Replacement Materials

Manager Palko reviewed the three options before the Council. Mayor Zoldos arrived at this point during the meeting. Following discussion, Councilman McIntyre made the following motion:

I move that Town Council adopt Table 1 as the Town Sign Standard and direct staff to replace damaged or missing signs with this new standard for all signs throughout the Town. I further direct staff to notify the HOAs of this decision and identify that if they wish to retain a special street post or sign, they will be required to provide and install those items at the HOA's cost.

Before the motion was seconded, a discussion ensued about how this would apply to commercial property, the Town Square, and HOAs. Councilman McIntyre modified his motion as follows:

Motion: I move that Town Council adopt Table 1 as the Town Sign Standard with the following exceptions: the Town Center sign replacement when post remains; and direct staff to replace damaged or missing signs with this new standard for all signs throughout the Town. I further direct staff to notify the HOAs of this decision and identify that if they wish to retain a special street post or sign, they will be required to provide and install those items at the HOA's cost.

By: Council Member McIntyre

Second: Council Member Carder

Aye: Council Members Carder, Gray, McIntyre, Allar, and Senate

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Council Member Jones

B. Capital Improvement Plan – General Fund Continuation

Manager Palko reported on his meeting with the County Department of Transportation and Infrastructure and how to get on the County and VDOT's six-year plan. As a result, he is more optimistic about getting support from the County for the Town's capital items. The Town will need to submit its request to the County in August/September for the next six-year cycle. Town Engineer Fellers noted that all of the County's gas tax money is going towards the METRO expansion and operations.

Manager Palko then reviewed the priority items for next year including replacing railings on South Berlin Pike, Engle Tract and Town Square Master Plan, Asset Management Plan, Town Hall, Quarter Branch Park, Storm Water Management Plan, and Transportation Plan. He discussed the completion of 2A of the East Broad Way streetscape, from Park Place to Light Street, which is scheduled in the CIP for FY 2024/2025; however, they may be able to start the design work before then. He discussed other capital projects including additional parking for downtown and the completion of 2B of East Broad Way. He

noted that next year the Town would be making an additional investment in the clock tower. Phase 2 of the Shared Use Path is shown in FY 2030/2031 and is heavily dependent on VDOT.

Town Manager Palko reviewed potential new revenue options based on a trash fee, 1 cent property tax, and personal property tax; as well as the average cost per household. The Council discussed each of the options.

Closed Session

Mayor Zoldos announced that the Council would be going into closed session.

Motion: I move that the Lovettsville Town Council convene in closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711A1 for discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body, for the performance review of the Town Manager; and thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

By: Vice Mayor Senate
Second: Council Member McIntyre
Aye: Council Members Carder, Gray, McIntyre, Allar, and Senate
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Council Member Jones

The Council went into closed session at 10:13 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 10:59 p.m.

Certification of the Closed Session

Mayor: Do you certify that to the best of your knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements under this chapter and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Council Members Carder, Gray, McIntyre, Allar, and Senate certified to the above.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Harriet West, Town Clerk

Date Approved: January 19, 2017

Attachments:
None