

Town of Lovettsville

Town Council Minutes of the May 19, 2016 Regular Meeting and Public Hearing

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Zoldos called the regular meeting of the Lovettsville Town Council to order at 7:31 p.m. on May 19, 2016 at the Lovettsville Town Hall, 6 East Pennsylvania Avenue, Lovettsville, VA.

Council Members Present

- Mayor Robert Zoldos II
- Vice Mayor Michael Senate
- Council Member Kimberly Allar
- Council Member Tiffaney Carder
- Council Member Rodney Gray
- Council Member Jennifer Jones

Council Members Absent

- Council Member James McIntyre

Staff Present

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Zoldos led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Closed Session

The Mayor announced that the Council would meet in closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss the Town Manager's performance review.

Presentations

There were none.

Comments from the Public

Mayor Zoldos called for comments from the public.

Elaine Walker requested a resolution from the Council in recognition of the Lovettsville Fire and Rescue Company's upcoming 50th anniversary. She also spoke about a prominent Lovettsville area resident, Mr. Jimmy Athey, who passed away recently. She noted that he built the Parrish Hall at St. James Church and more than 800 homes, including a state-of-the-art house just outside of Town. In the 1980's he completed Phase 2 of Lakeview Village and in the 1990s he purchased the Hammond Farm, which is now Town Center. The largest contribution he made to the Town was to put up a sizable amount of money for the purchase of taps, which enabled the Town to meet the requirements for obtaining a \$3.5 million loan for the waste water treatment plant. His last project was a small subdivision on S. Loudoun Street. She said Mr. Athey was good to the Town.

Community Presentations

A. Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Mayor Zoldos said that due to changes within the Sheriff's Department, Deputy LoPreto will not be attending Town Council meetings on a routine basis anymore.

There were no other reports.

Town Commission and Committee

A. Lovettsville Planning Commission

There was no report.

B. Parks Committee

Vice Mayor Senate gave an update on the clock faces.

C. We're In Committee

Councilwoman Carder gave an update on the concert series and preliminary plans for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the commercial building in mid-July.

D. MayFest Committee

Councilwoman Carder gave an update on final preparation for MayFest. She noted there will be various fundraisers, including a dunk tank, food drive, and raffle prizes.

E. Memorial Day

Councilwoman Allar said Boy Scout Troop 962 will be assisting with the flag raising ceremony.

F. Oktoberfest Committee

There was no report.

Additions/Deletions/Modifications to the Agenda

The following item was added to the agenda:

C. Need for Immediate Inspector

Minutes

There were no minutes.

Quarterly Financial Report

There was no report.

Staff Reports

Town Manager Palko asked the Council to send him any comments or concerns regarding the 7-Eleven in preparation for the June 2 Town Council meeting.

Action/Discussion Items

A. Public Hearing: Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

Mayor Zoldos recessed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing at 7:49 p.m. Vice Mayor Senate read the notice of public hearing. Mayor Zoldos called for comments from the public.

Chris Hornbaker, 15 Black Forest Lane, asked the Town to define the difference between a tax and a subsidy. He said that as new development comes in, if availability fees don't cover any capital improvements that need to be made for our infrastructure, we don't get a redo, we all have to make it up.

Mayor Zoldos closed the public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget at 7:49 p.m. and opened the regular meeting.

B. Clock Tower Faces Discussion

Mayor Zoldos said that as a result of the clock face discussion at the previous Town Council meeting, the Parks Committee met today to come up with more options that the public could vote on. He said this was something they had discussed previously. He noted they want to start a fundraising effort and one of the best ways to get that started is to get people engaged with the decision making process.

Mayor Zoldos then presented the design options and noted the intent is to get the public to vote on their top choices. The Parks Committee will then look at the top four choices and determine which clock face(s) will be selected. He said the eighth option includes a digital/computerized version that would face

the Town Square; however, they need more time to research how this would work and what the cost would be. He noted that most of the time it would stay a clock face; however, it could also be used for other purposes, such as messages for special events. Vice Mayor Senate said it may be necessary to enter into a lease agreement to rent the clock tower for a nominal fee. Mayor Zoldos agreed that since the building is not municipally owned, the Council should enter into a lease agreement and suggested \$1.00/year. Following further discussion, the Council agreed to keep all seven design options presented and to research the digital option to see if it's feasible.

Mayor Zoldos then discussed fundraising possibilities. He noted that Warner Workman started a GoFundMe site, which is something the Town had discussed back in January. Moving forward, the Mayor suggested having a pickle jar at MayFest so people can make a donation. He said that voting would take place at MayFest, digitally, and at the first concert. He noted that anytime there's an opportunity to vote, they will be trying to raise funds. The Mayor said he would follow up with Mr. Workman so there are not two competing fundraising efforts occurring simultaneously.

C. Need for Immediate Inspector Support

Manager Palko presented this item. The Council is being asked to authorize the Town Manager to present an amended budget at the end of the fiscal year that allocates utility fund surpluses to pay for a part-time position to provide inspections for development projects.

Manager Palko explained that Loudoun Water will no longer be providing inspection services to the Town starting in 2016. Staff has explored several options for conducting the inspections including hiring a consulting firm, hiring a retired inspector, and contracting with other towns, but none of these options proved to be feasible. Manager Palko said the Town has plans to hire another utility operator in FY 18 to implement Miss Utility, support selling water, and perform in-house inspections; however, he is requesting the Council hire a part-time person for FY 17 to begin providing inspection services. The estimated cost is \$15,000-\$25,000 and funding would come from anticipated utility fund surpluses. The Town will recover some of the costs by charging developers a fee for inspections. Manager Palko said he is requesting authorization from the Council to present a budget amendment that allocates a portion of the expected surplus balance to hiring a part-time operator for FY 17 to enable the Utility Department to provide inspection services to the Town.

Motion: I move to authorize to the Town Manager to present a Budget Amendment at the close of FY 16 that allocates a portion of the expected FY 16 surplus balance to hiring a part-time operator for FY 17 to enable the Lovettsville Utility Department to provide inspection services for the Town.

By: Vice Mayor Senate

Second: Council Member Gray

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Council Member McIntyre

Information Items

There were none.

Comments from the Mayor and Town Council

Councilwoman Carder said the young man who won the National Anthem competition in Purcellville will sing the National Anthem at MayFest.

Councilwoman Jones said the Garden Club was featured this month in the Friday email Volunteer Spot and the Game Club will be featured next month.

Mayor Zoldos reported on the following:

- This year is the 50th anniversary of the Lovettsville Fire Station. The Town will provide a resolution for the banquet in November.

- Kim Forcino, Principal at Lovettsville Elementary School, is retiring this year. The Town will present her with a proclamation at her retirement party.
- He received an email from Supervisor Higgins confirming receipt of the Town's resolutions regarding the fire hall and AT&T facility. The applicant (AT&T) will be holding a public information meeting at the Game Club on May 23 regarding the proposed facility. Councilman Gray said he would attend the meeting.
- He met with Karen Deli, President of the Lovettsville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, and Chief Tobia, Loudoun County Department of Fire and Rescue, again last week. This is the third meeting they have had to go over possibilities there. The County will not support retail assembly use on that property once it is no longer a fire house. The VFD (Volunteer Fire Department) voted to keep the current structure as a bingo/banquet hall because they clear over \$40,000/year and that money all goes back into fire house equipment. They also want to use the front of the building as a retail area and the Lovettsville Co-op has expressed an interest in the space. Once the building is no longer a fire house, they will lose their informal exemption from the County for the banquet hall. Representatives from the fire house reached out to see how the Town could help them out. The simple answer is the current building could be annexed into the Town because it is contiguous with the Town line and the Town could zone it as commercial. This would be great for the Town – it brings in more commercial and it brings in the banquet hall, which the Town could use for meetings. The concern from the County is the speed of the process; they do not want to slow the new fire house down in order for the Town to go through this process. He believes they can do this concurrently and will discuss this further with the Zoning Administrator. The VFD is probably going to solicit the Town's help to bring the building into Town, if not the whole parcel. Mayor Zoldos said he told them the Town's current Annexation Policy supports commercial. The property is zoned AR1 (Agricultural-Residential). He told them the Town would be open to looking at bringing the whole property in but not as residential. He likes the idea of the Co-op going there and the Council supports more retail in Town. Once the Zoning Administrator gets back they will go over step-by-step what needs to be done and then meet with the County. He said that ultimately this would come back to the Council as an annexation, but he did not see any reason not to move forward with this now to see if they can support it. Manager Palko said the Town's Annexation Process is still being vetted by the County. He has some updates which he will bring back to the Council. He noted that the annexation process will be lengthy.
- He asked if anyone would like to attend the State of the County address in his place next week.

Closed Session

At 9:06 p.m. Mayor Zoldos announced that the Council would be going into closed session and they would announce when they are back in open session.

Motion: I move that the Lovettsville Town Council convene in closed session pursuant to Virginia Code 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 contract review of the Town Manager; and thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

By: Vice Mayor Senate

Second: Council Member Jones

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Council Member McIntyre

The Council went into closed session at 9:08 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 10:04 p.m.

Certification of the Closed Session

Mayor Zoldos read the following Certification of Closed Session aloud: 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 Gray, Senate, Carder, Allar, and Jones certified to the above.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Harriet West, Town Clerk

Date Approved: March 23, 2017

Attachments:
None