

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Public Hearing and Regular Town Council Meeting
August 10, 2021

Council Members: Mayor Paige, CM Reams, VM Moss, CM Tyree, CM Baker, CM Jones (via phone)

Council Members Absent: CM Harris

Others: Clerk Reams, Donna McRae-Jones, Adrian Jones, June Dixon, Arianna Tyree

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Open the Meeting: The meeting was held at 1030 Main Street, Dillwyn, VA (Town Hall). A moment of silence was offered by Mayor Paige followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Paige. Mayor Paige established that a quorum was present.

Minutes: A motion was made by VM Moss and was seconded by CM Reams to accept the minutes as written. All others: Aye. The motion carried.

Donna McRae-Jones: SERCAP (Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project) brochures for the community are available at Town Hall to share with the community.

Habitat for Humanity: Ms. McRae-Jones is the President of the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity Piedmont. She announced that Habitat has a program to assist people with outside repairs to their homes. This program addresses the outside of the home only. There will be no interior repairs with this program. It covers things like roof repairs, siding, windows, etc. The qualification for this program is based on the participants income.

Tony Huddleston is the Building Inspector for Habitat.

Habitat is also beginning the build of the fifth house in Buckingham located on Francisco Road on Route 24 close to Appomattox.

Relay for Life: Mrs. McRae-Jones will be retiring from her position and turning the responsibilities over to someone new. That person is yet to be determined. She will continue to organize Hope Day which is the fourth Saturday in April annually.

Veterans are awarded a free iPad from Apple. They can also receive a platform device to measure temperature in their feet if they have diabetes. There can be some very serious conditions that come with having diabetes. One of those conditions is getting gangrene and losing their toes, feet, or legs. Mrs. McRae-Jones will email the Clerk the information to distribute to the Council and place in the kiosks.

Internet connections are being installed throughout Buckingham County.

Adrian Jones: Mr. Jones has purchased the Ranson home property. He would like some ideas for what to do with the property. Some ideas are sports, recreation and entertainment options to be offered.

Maybe some festivals such as reggae, blue, or county music would be welcomed and enjoyed. His ideas are to have two or three events annually.

Public Hearing on Amended Budget for FY22. The budget was amended with the addition of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds of \$229,291.00. There were no objections or public comments concerning the amended budget.

A motion was made by CM Tyree and seconded by VM Moss to accept the budget as amended. All others: Aye. The motion carried.

HOUSING: The removal of the trailer at 84 Hancock Street should begin the week of August 9-13, 2021. The task should take two to three days to complete. The tree will also be removed.

ZONING FOR RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS

Zoning and Residential:

Ordinances:

PARK EVENTS

GRASS CUTTING:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

(discussion on items)

A motion was made to transfer \$10,000.00 from the General Fund to the Cemetery Fund to cover costs created since the pandemic started. The cemetery has been maintained since the beginning of the pandemic due to several residents that passed away from COVID-19.

NEW BUSINESS:

Halloween Event: Last year the Council decided to cancel the Halloween Event due to the pandemic and the children not being in school full-time. This year the children are back in school, so the Council is considering holding the event this year for the children.

The basement of Town Hall is flooded again, and the sump pump is not working any longer. The company that the Town uses for pest control discovered this and contacted their department that does Dry Seal. Brandon Sherman with Dry Seal through Bug Busters came by and left an estimate for getting the water out of the basement. The estimate is for \$250. A motion was made by VM Moss and seconded by CM Tyree. All others: Aye. The motion carried.

SERCAP (Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project) Russ Rice, Director of Planning and Development, Mayor Paige, and Lafonia Thornton, Rural Housing Specialist, also with SERCAP held a telephone conference regarding a youth center and the idea of potential grant applications. That program is known as Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grant Program. The RISE program offers grant assistance to create and augment high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, support industry clusters and maximize the use of local productive assets in eligible low-income rural areas. There are several ways these grant funds can be used. Those include to build or support a business incubator facility, provide worker training to assist in the creation of new jobs, train the existing

workforce with skills for higher-paying jobs, or develop a base of skilled workers and improve their opportunities to obtain high-wage jobs in new or existing local industries. Perhaps the funds could be used to open an affordable day care facility for the community. Affordable day care is very difficult to find.

The front porch of Town Hall needs a lot of repair work due to wood rot. It needs to be replaced. The sign on the building for "Dillwyn Town Hall" needs to be redone. CM Tyree suggests a local artist to do the artwork.

The printer has had the cartridges removed from it. It does not work any longer. The Clerk is not able to use the printer for any functions to scan, print, or fax any documents. There is no way to know who it was that took the parts out of the printer due to the cameras not being reconnected to the desktop. The new desktop was installed last fall and the cameras have not been functioning since that time. The Clerk has tried to reach out to get them reconnected but has not been able to reach the person that does the work to schedule it.

Flags need to be replaced. VM Moss made a motion to purchase 20 flags for the Town. The motion was seconded by CM Baker. All others: Aye. The motion carried.

There has been another complaint regarding Mr. Travis Towns and his parking on Main Street. He parks his vehicles on the street, but it makes it difficult for traffic to pass each other on the street. Someone must stop and wait for one of the cars pass in order to travel up or down Main Street.

Announcements:

COMMITTEES:

Finance – Linda Paige, Karen Sue Moss, Ossie J. Harris, III, James Tyree

Town Buildings/Grounds – James Tyree, Ossie J. Harris, III, Gilbert W. Reams

Planning Commission – Karen Sue Moss, James O'Bryant, Bill Carmines, Dennis Carney, Consultant, Joseph Patterson, Beverly Hudgins-King

Beautification – Gilbert Reams, Sandra Moss, Mark Brown, Tricia Taylor

Ordinance – Linda Paige, Tora Jones, Karen Sue Moss, Dennis Carney

Christmas Parade – Linda Paige, Diane Holman-James, Sarah Walker, Sharon Baker, Gilbert Reams

Community Service Workers – Linda Paige, RW Maxey

Halloween Event – Linda Paige, Sharon Baker, Gilbert W. Reams, James Tyree, Melissa Wallace, Buckingham Chamber of Commerce

Ad Hoc-Housing – Tora Jones, Todd Fortune, Dave Ottinger, Linda V. Paige

Housing Rehab Board – Dave Ottinger, William Fulton, Todd Fortune, Lafonia Thornton, Linda V. Paige, Donna McRae-Jones

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The minutes were scribed by Loretta C. Reams, Clerk, Town of Dillwyn, VA.