

**Town of Louisa  
Monthly Meeting  
March 18, 2008**

**Present:** James S. Artz, Mayor; Mary Jane Clarke, Vice-Mayor; A. Daniel Carter; Pamela H. Stone, Warren D. Gehle, Matthew L. Kersey, Council Members; Ronald M. Maupin, Attorney; Brian W. Marks, Town Manager; Donna L. Pinter, Treasurer; Jessica M. Ellis, Clerk; M. Brad Humphrey, Project Manager; Stan Batten, Chief of Police

**Also Attending:** Town of Louisa Planning Commission Members: Carter Cooke, Renee Munford, Judy Kavanagh, and Manning Woodward; Kettrina Merkel, Receptionist for Louisa Town Office; Shana Strang, The Central Virginian; Mr. & Mrs. I. H. Dulaney, 135 West Street, Louisa; Ryan Moyers of Dewberry

**Absent:**

***All copies including: reports, handouts, and documents can be found following the minutes.***

Mayor Artz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council Member Kersey gave the invocation.

Mayor Artz informed Council that he would be leaving the meeting early to attend another meeting and that Vice-Mayor Clarke would be presiding over the meeting in his absence.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Council member Stone made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Council member Clarke seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Louisa Town Council and Town of Louisa Planning Commission Joint Public Hearing: RZ 2008-01**

**An application submitted by the Town of Louisa for a change in zoning classification from the existing Residential General to the General Commercial zone of approximately 4.46 acres of land located on Pine Ridge Road.**

Mr. Carter Cooke opened the Planning Commission's meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Mayor Artz then opened the Louisa Town Council's public hearing at 7:06 p.m. Mr. Carter followed by opening the Planning Commission's public hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Mr. Marks updated both the Council and Planning Commission by providing an explanation of the zoning of the property where the WWTP is located. Mr. Marks stated that during the 1977 annex, the property where the plant currently sits was brought inside the town's boundaries and was zoned RG – Residential General. The property was initially zoned RG and has remained RG to this day. In 1984 the WWTP was built on the property, and in 1996 the WWTP was expanded. Mr. Marks noted that the zoning of the property never changed, not during the construction of the plant nor during the expansion. According to Mr. Marks, RG does not allow waste water treatment plants; therefore, since another large expansion is taking place he felt it was necessary to rezone the property as GC – General Commercial.

Ryan Moyers, of Dewberry, stood before Council and spoke briefly of the plans for the expansion pointing out specific locations on a site map.

Following a very brief question period, Mr. Cooke closed the Planning Commission's public hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Mayor Artz then closed the public hearing for the Louisa Town Council at 7:20 p.m.

Planning Commission member Woodward made a motion recommending the approval of the rezoning of the 4.46 acres on Pine Ridge Drive from RG to GC. Planning Commission member Munford seconded the motion. The vote was conducted by Mr. Cooke and resulted in a 4-0 vote in favor of the motion.

Mr. Carter closed the Planning Commission's meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Council member Kersey then made a motion to approve the rezoning of the 4.46 acres on Pine Ridge Drive from RG to GC. Council member Carter seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Proposed Historic District Overlay**

Mr. Marks reported that Council has been looking at a historic district overlay since January for the downtown corridor area. Mr. Marks also reported that the Planning Commission, several members of Council and himself have received verbal and written opposition to the historic overlay. Mr. Marks stated that the Planning Commission sent the matter back to Council, in the form of a motion, to be reconsidered in light of the strong public opposition.

Mr. Cooke spoke stating that the ad for the Planning Commission's public hearing had not yet appeared in the newspaper and they were already hearing opposition. Planning Commission member Manning

Woodward stated that 42 properties would have potentially been included in the historic overlay, and of those 42 properties, at least half of the property owners had expressed their opposition to the project.

Mayor Artz stated that he too had spoken to several property owners who were in opposition of the project, and that one particular property owner expressed that he felt he had already done a number of improvements to his property on Main Street and had more improvements planned for the future. Mayor Artz stated that the gentleman felt that the historic overlay added more government regulations that were not needed. Mayor Artz added that he personally felt that there was nothing that could be said or done to change the gentleman's mind and felt the project had become a dead issue.

Mr. Cooke stated that he was in agreement with Mayor Artz even though he did not want see the project be taken off the table.

At 7:26 p.m., Mayor Artz handed the meeting over to Vice-Mayor Clarke to run in his absence.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. FY 2009 Budget**

Mr. Marks stated that Council had the first draft of three separate budgets in their packets. Mr. Marks noted that he had included a letter to the Personnel Committee informing them that he felt it was necessary for them to meet with him to discuss pay equalizations and salary rates before the Council collectively met to discuss the budget as a whole. The Personnel Committee then set March 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. as the date for the meeting. Mr. Marks then stated that a work session needed to be scheduled for Council to sit down and begin discussing the FY 2009 budget. The work session was set for March 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Marks stated that he would like to schedule the public hearing for the FY 2009 budget at the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **B. Smoking Policy for the Town Hall and Community Center Grounds**

Mr. Marks reported that the Louisa County Historical Society President had approached him asking if the town had a smoking policy for the town hall and grounds. Mr. Marks stated that he informed him that we do not have a policy in place at this time. Mr. Marks then informed Council that it is common knowledge that there is no smoking in the building and there have been no problems to date relative to the matter. Mr. Marks stated that if further smoking restrictions are added, for example: to the parking area and park grounds, then we may see a decline in use of the park and grounds.

Council member Kersey questioned if there had been any administrative problems regarding smoking in and around the building. Mr. Marks reported that there had been no problems of any kind. Mr. Kersey then stated that since there had been no problems, he felt that any future encounters could be handled administratively or could be brought back to Council if necessary.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Police Department:**

(Please refer to the Police Department report.)

Chief Batten reported that the newest officer was working out well and is now out on his own.

Mr. Marks thanked the Louisa Police Department for their response to recent calls at the town park.

### **Water & Sewer Department:**

(Please refer to the Water & Sewer Department report.)

Mr. Humphrey stood before Council and read aloud from his report, highlighting areas of interest.

Litter Committee:

No report.

Streets & Sidewalks

No report.

Cemetery

No report.

**REPORTS FROM STAFF**

Counsel

No report.

Clerk

No report.

Treasurer

Mrs. Pinter stated that a delinquent tax list has been accumulated and is available for Council's review.

Manager

Mr. Marks reported:

- He is watching the market for the best rate for long term financing for the WWTP.
- Jeff Lawson, the town hall and park grounds keeper, had major health problem occur while at work last Friday and was taken to

the hospital and has since been released. He will be out of work for at least ten days.

- A letter was received by Mr. Michael Kubat regarding pedestrian safety in the town. Mr. Kubat stated in all the little towns he has lived and visited, this town is the worst for pedestrian safety.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Council member Stone noted the newly remodeled Chinese restaurant in the Food Lion shopping center as well as the addition of the Goodwill store and the renovation work that has been done to other stores in the shopping center over the past several months.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Kersey moved to adjourn the March 18, 2008 meeting at 7:53 p.m.

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