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**Town of Louisa
Monthly Meeting
May 21, 2024**

Present: R. Garland Nuckols, Mayor; Jessi Lassiter, Vice-Mayor; Danny Carter, Sylvia Rigsby, Vicky Harte, Council members; Jeff Gore, Legal Counsel; Elizabeth T. Nelson, Town Manager; Jessica M. Ellis, Clerk/Treasurer; Craig Buckley, Chief of Police

Absent: John J. Purcell IV, Council member

Also in Attendance: Daniel Crawford and Deborah Crawford, 107 Patrick Henry Drive; Roger Henry, 303 Cutler Avenue; Chuck Nuckols, 219 Fredericksburg Avenue; Janice Breeden, 300 Bibb Street

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

Mayor Nuckols called the Louisa Town Council meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nuckols questioned if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. Mrs. Nelson reported that there was a budget appropriation to be considered with item no. 4 under new business.

Council member Rigsby made the motion to approve the amended consent agenda. Council member Carter seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 4-0 in favor.

1 **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

2
3 **1) Budget Amendment for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Adopted**
4 **Budget**

5
6 Mayor Nuckols opened the public hearing at 6:07 pm asking if there
7 was anyone who would like to speak for or against the budget
8 amendment. Hearing no response, Mayor Nuckols closed the public
9 hearing at 6:08 pm.

10
11 **2) Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget, Water and Sewer Rate**
12 **Ordinance, and Zoning and Planning Ordinance**

13
14 Mayor Nuckols opened the public hearing at 6:09 pm asking if there
15 was anyone who would like to speak for or against the proposed
16 FY 2024-2025 budget, Water and Sewer Rate Ordinance, and Zoning
17 and Planning Ordinance.

18
19 The following town citizens stood and addressed Council during
20 the public comment period: Daniel and Deborah Crawford, 107
21 Patrick Henry Drive; Roger Henry, 303 Cutler Avenue; Chuck
22 Nuckols, 219 Fredericksburg Avenue; and Janice Breeden, 300 Bibb
23 Street. They each expressed concerns with the proposed
24 water/sewer rate increase, departmental salary increases/raises,
25 and the cost of living. Other concerns such as the need for speed
26 checks on Fredericksburg Avenue, twenty-four-hour police coverage,
27 and the need for additional competitive businesses in town were
28 voiced to Council.

29
30 Mrs. Nelson reported that the following submitted written comments
31 to be included with public comment: Andy Lemon, owner of Louisa
32 Mini Mart; and Louise Jennings-McCullar, with Real Estate Southeast
33 - managers of Triangle Plaza. Mr. Lemon's and Ms. Jennings-
34 McCullar's comments echoed one other with both expressing
35 concerns with water/sewer rate increases and the need for
36 departmental salary increases.

37
38 Mayor Nuckols closed the public hearing at 6:26 pm after no further
39 public comment.

1 Council member Harte, Council member Rigsby, and Mayor Nuckols
2 then took a moment to speak as well.

3
4 Council member Harte spoke stating that her position is that she
5 cannot support the water/sewer increase without seeing the numbers
6 and justification behind it. Mrs. Harte also stated that she would
7 prefer to see funding go towards a fully funded police department as
8 it is a tough profession and there is a need for more officers.

9
10 Council member Rigsby thanked all those in attendance for coming to
11 the meeting and for voicing their opinions, as their opinions are very
12 helpful when working on the budget. Ms. Rigsby stated that Council
13 has no control over the Water Authority's actions, but commented
14 that they will try to negotiate the best that they can for the town. Ms.
15 Rigsby also suggested looking further at salaries, specifically noting
16 the salaries in the Public Works Department as well as the Police
17 Department.

18
19 Mayor Nuckols then spoke at length about the Water Authority's
20 proposed water/sewer rates and the open positions within the Public
21 Works Department and Police Department. Mr. Nuckols stated that
22 he and Council will work hard to do the best they can for the town.

23
24 **OLD BUSINESS**

25
26 **1) Action/Discussion: SUP 2023-03 Virginia United Methodist**
27 **Housing Development Corporation Traffic Generation**
28 **Clarification/SUP Condition**

29
30 Mrs. Nelson updated Council stating that, per a condition of approval
31 of SUP 2023-03, the Virginia United Methodist Housing Development
32 Corporation reviewed the traffic on Cammack Street and sought out
33 guidance from VDOT by means of: a Traffic Generation Clarification
34 prepared by Stuart Little, PE; a Trip Generation Analysis prepared by
35 the transportation planners of Gorove Slade; and email
36 correspondence sent from Heather McAlister, Land Use Engineer for
37 the Louisa Residency with VDOT. It was established that, based on
38 the number of trips generated for the senior apartment development
39 being substantially lower than single family residences, it is their

1 opinion that there will be minimal impact on the adjoining road
2 network. VDOT stated that due to the low trip count at that site, they
3 would not normally ask for a TIA (Traffic Impact Analysis).
4

5 Council member Carter made the motion to accept that the condition
6 of the SUP was met. Council member Harte seconded the motion.
7 The vote went as follows: Harte, for; Lassiter, for; Carter, for; Rigsby,
8 against (3-1 in favor).
9

10 **NEW BUSINESS**

11

12 **1) Action/Discussion: Special Event Application Request –** 13 **Louisa Volunteer Fire Department**

14

15 Mrs. Nelson referred to the application enclosed, and updated
16 Council stating that the event had been briefly discussed at a prior
17 meeting wherein the event was originally planned as a car show, but
18 the Louisa Volunteer Fire Department joined in the organizing of the
19 event and revised the plan to host a “100 Years” celebration for the
20 LVFD. The event, scheduled for June 8th, will feature a car and craft
21 show, food truck, and beverages sold by the Louisa Arts Center.
22

23 Council member Rigsby made the motion to approve the Special
24 Event Permit. Council member Lassiter seconded the motion. The
25 vote went as follows: 4-0 in favor.
26

27 **2) Action/Discussion: Special Event Application Request –** 28 **Louisa County Historical Society**

29

30 Mrs. Nelson reported that the Louisa Historical Society has submitted
31 a special event application for their 2nd annual Juneteenth Celebration
32 on the town hall campus on Saturday, June 15th.
33

34 Council member Lassiter made the motion to approve the application.
35 Council Rigsby seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 4-0
36 in favor.
37

38 **3) Action/Discussion: Resolution as an Endorsement of the** 39 **West Main Street Sidewalk Extension Project**

1 Mrs. Nelson updated Council reporting that VDOT is requiring a
2 resolution endorsing the West Main Street Extension Project
3 including amended project cost estimates and a deadline extension
4 request in order to continue to move forward with the project seeking
5 supplemental funding options.
6

7 Following a lengthy explanation in which staff and Council brought
8 Council member Harte up to speed on the project, and wherein Ms.
9 Harte expressed concerns with the town needing to seek out
10 additional funds in the amount of approximately \$500,000 to complete
11 the project or face the possibility of having to reimburse money due to
12 cancelling the project, Council moved to vote as follows:
13

14 Council member Lassiter made the motion to approve the resolution.
15 Council member Rigsby seconded the motion. The vote carried 3-1
16 with Council member Harte voting against.
17

18 **4) Action/Discussion: Resolution to Amend the Town Budget**

19

20 Mrs. Nelson explained that any time the town's revenues exceed the
21 budgeted amount by more than 1%, state law requires public notice
22 and a hearing on budget amendments. She further stated that the
23 town needs to amend to the FY 2024 budget due to receiving
24 unbudgeted ARPA funding. Mrs. Nelson provided the resolution with
25 amounts and general ledger accounts in the packet for review.
26

27 Council member Carter made the motion to approve the resolution
28 amending the town budget. Council member Lassiter seconded the
29 motion. The vote went as follows: 4-0 in favor.
30

31 Mrs. Nelson also reported that there is a need to reallocate funds that
32 were not included in the budget amendment. She explained that we
33 budgeted \$50,000 to upgrade the storm water pond in Countryside
34 Subdivision and the cost came back at \$24,000. Mrs. Nelson
35 explained further that earlier in the fiscal year when Council approved
36 the new entryway signs, we had hoped the EDA would assist with the
37 cost, however they declined, therefore the town paid for the signs in
38 full, but had stated that if there were cost savings we would use them
39 to cover the signs. Mrs. Nelson stated that a reallocation can be done

1 by moving \$14,000 from the Storm Water Pond Project to the
2 Entryway Sign Project.

3
4 Council member Rigsby made the motion to reallocate budgeted
5 funds from the Storm Water Pond Project to Streets and Sidewalks
6 Capital Improvements for the Entryway Sign Project in the amount of
7 \$14,000. Council member Lassiter seconded the motion. The vote
8 went as follows: 4-0 in favor.

9
10 **5) Action/Discussion: Proclamation Recognizing the Louisa**
11 **Volunteer Fire Department for 100 Years of Service**

12
13 Council member Lassiter made the motion to approve the
14 proclamation. Council member Rigsby seconded the motion. The
15 vote went as follows: 4-0 in favor.

16
17 **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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19 **Refuse Collection, Recycling and Litter Control Committee:**

20
21 Mrs. Nelson reported that there has been an increase in the number
22 of calls recently regarding trash collection issues throughout the town.
23 Mrs. Nelson stated that it is an ongoing issue and she was informed
24 by Updike that they have been experiencing equipment problems in
25 combination with new employees/truck drivers. Mrs. Nelson also
26 informed Council that Steve Wunsh, of Wunsh & Wunsh Accounting,
27 requested that she relay how unhappy he is with the trash service.

28
29 Council member Harte questioned possible clauses in our contract
30 with Updike for instances such as what we have been repeatedly
31 experiencing. Mrs. Nelson confirmed that there are clauses and Mrs.
32 Harte then questioned if there is a recommendation for the committee
33 to review the contract because they are not meeting their contractual
34 obligations. Mrs. Nelson stated that while the level of service has
35 been discouraging, she is not sure if the need is there to revisit the
36 contract at this moment, but is open to do so if/when directed. Council
37 member Rigsby stated that before moving towards looking into other
38 options, she would like to know what corrective measures are being
39 taken to remedy the problem.

1 Council member Harte then continued with the committee report
2 giving an update on Louisa Cleanup Day which is slated for
3 September 21st with a rain date of September 22nd. Mrs. Harte
4 explained the scope of the project, and also made mention of a statue
5 project for Streets & Sidewalks to possibly consider. Council member
6 Rigsby stated that she would like to see the whole town included in
7 the event, and Mrs. Nelson responded that the event is volunteer
8 driven so the scope of the work and the areas covered will be
9 determined by how many people/organizations are willing to
10 participate. Council member Harte commented that it is a “project in
11 the works” and that we have until September to fine tune it.

12
13 Mayor Nuckols reported that Sherry Evans, who lives in Countryside
14 Subdivision, has been appointed to serve on the trash committee as
15 requested.

16
17 **Cemetery Committee:**

18
19 Council member Harte reported that the open hole in the Oakland
20 Cemetery fence has been repaired by an anonymous volunteer. She
21 also reported that the committee discussed the process involved to
22 possibly get Oakland Cemetery on the National Registry. The Eagle
23 Scout project at Hillcrest cemetery is complete and looks very nice.
24 American Heritage Girl Troop 3160 recently cleaned up Oakland
25 Cemetery prior to the start of cutting season.

26
27 **Streets and Sidewalks Committee:**

28
29 Mrs. Nelson reported that Streets and Sidewalks was covered during
30 the discussion of the VDOT resolution request for the sidewalk
31 project earlier in the meeting.

32
33 **Water and Sewer Committee:**

34
35 Council member Rigsby gave a quick update on the West Street
36 water project stating that it was moving forward, and Mrs. Nelson
37 reported that, as of today, the easements were being reviewed by
38 Eric Sherrard with Thrasher.
39

1 Council member Harte requested the site locations for the lead &
2 copper testing in town. Mrs. Nelson reported that CHA engineering
3 firm was awarded the project via the RFP process to complete the
4 lead service inventory for the town.
5

6 **STAFF REPORTS**

7

8 **Police:**

9

10 Chief Buckley reported that two new officers have been brought on
11 board with the department, one being full time and one part time, that
12 will bring years of experience with them. He also informed Council
13 that he is wrapping up the ARPA grant.
14

15 Chief Buckley was asked about salaries by Council member Harte
16 and he responded at length. In summarization, he stated that there
17 are more reasons why officers come to the town than just money. He
18 went on to say that appreciation, respect, and the support of the
19 community play a huge role in attracting and keeping people here.
20 He stated that he has not lost an applicant due to salary – he stated
21 that we have lost them along the way due to other reasons, but not
22 because of our starting salary, and went on to say that the town offers
23 very good benefits. He said that he's sure we have missed a few
24 applicants as he knows via the website traffic counter how many
25 people have viewed our listing, but he can't say that it is or isn't
26 because of our salary because no one has ever given him that
27 reason. The chief says he attributes networking and our community to
28 obtaining the officers we have now. He acknowledges that our
29 starting salary is behind other localities, which will continue to
30 happen, but he feels the current staff are not going anywhere as they
31 are very happy and concluded his response stating that the decision
32 is Council's to make.
33

34 **Project Manager:**

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36 Mr. Synder's report was included in the packet. He had nothing to
37 add to the items mentioned.
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39 **Legal Counsel:**

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No report.

Clerk/Treasurer:

No report.

Manager:

Mrs. Nelson reported that the charging stations on the town's campus and at Frostie's have been fully installed and are waiting to go live.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Nuckols reported that swing sets and other playground equipment will be installed in our park that will feature special needs accessibility. To date, Mayor Nuckols reported that we have received \$9,000 donated towards the new equipment. LCPR will assist with design.

ADJOURNMENT

Council member Lassiter made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. Council member Rigsby seconded the motion.

Mayor

Clerk