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**Town of Louisa
Monthly Meeting
April 16, 2024**

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Present: R. Garland Nuckols, Mayor; Jessi Lassiter, Vice-Mayor; Danny Carter, John J. Purcell IV, Sylvia Rigsby, Vicky Harte, Council members; Elizabeth T. Nelson, Town Manager; Jessica M. Ellis, Clerk/Treasurer; Craig Buckley, Chief of Police; Paul Snyder, Project Manager/Zoning Administrator

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Absent: Jeff Gore, Legal Counsel

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Also in Attendance: Mitchell Sasser, town resident at 101 Pinehurst Drive and Editor for The Central Virginian; Manning Woodward, town resident at 115 Club Road and Louisa District Supervisor for the County of Louisa

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

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Mayor Nuckols called the Louisa Town Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mitchell Sasser, town resident at 101 Pinehurst Drive and editor of The Central Virginian, stood and introduced himself to Council. Mr. Sasser spoke briefly about town coverage in the newspaper and encouraged Council to reach out to them for publishing.

Manning Woodward, town resident at 115 Club Road and newly elected Louisa County Supervisor for the Louisa District, stood and introduced himself. Mr. Woodward then took a moment to express his desire to work closely with the town and spoke of his goal - to have the town and county work well together.

CONSENT AGENDA

1 Mayor Nuckols questioned if there were any changes or additions to
2 the agenda. Mrs. Nelson reported that correspondence from Michael
3 Throckmorton, town resident at 204 Lyde Avenue, was placed at their
4 seats prior to the meeting. Mrs. Nelson stated that Mr. Throckmorton
5 had planned to attend the meeting this evening, but was
6 unexpectedly unable to make it, therefore submitted his comments in
7 writing. Mayor Nuckols and Council members Purcell and Carter
8 requested that Mrs. Nelson read the comments aloud for public
9 record and be included in the meeting minutes.

10
11 Mrs. Nelson then read Mr. Throckmorton's comments wherein he
12 described a recent late evening solicitation at his home on Lyde
13 Avenue by a person who had no identification or business cards. Mr.
14 Throckmorton stated that the visit left him uneasy as door-to-door
15 solicitation is a popular method used by criminals to find prospective
16 burglary targets. Mr. Throckmorton then expressed that he had
17 additional concerns because the solicitor told him that his company
18 was working with Town Council member Harte; and was also able to
19 ascertain that the company did not have a peddler's license with the
20 town. He concluded his comments by thanking the police department
21 for looking into the matter.

22
23 Council member Lassiter made the motion to approve the consent
24 agenda. Council member Harte seconded the motion. The vote went
25 as follows: 5-0 in favor.

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27 **NEW BUSINESS**

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29 **1) Discussion/Action: Musical or Entertainment Festival**
30 **Application Approval – Louisa Arts Center**

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32 Mrs. Nelson briefly explained that the music event will be held at the
33 fairgrounds on Saturday, June 1, 2024, and is being set up similarly
34 to concerts that were held there last year featuring food trucks as well
35 as beer and wine sales. Mrs. Nelson noted that all permitting and
36 licensing have been issued from the Dept. of Health and the Dept. of
37 ABC, and the Arts Center has already submitted their plans to the
38 Chief of Police for review. Mrs. Nelson noted that the permit would be
39 issued contingent upon final review by Chief Buckley.

1 Council member Purcell made the motion to approve the Art Center's
2 event application. Council member Lassiter seconded the motion.
3 The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.
4

5 **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

6 **Finance:**

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9 Council member Rigsby reported that the Finance Committee met on
10 March 27th to review and discuss the first draft of the upcoming
11 budget. Ms. Rigsby stated that the committee made substantial
12 progress and felt that the next step was to hold a full Council work
13 session.
14

15 Mrs. Nelson stated that in order to stay on schedule with a public
16 hearing in May and approval by June 30th, Council will need to hold a
17 full Council work session very soon in order to meet the advertising
18 deadline of May 6th. Mrs. Nelson explained that the reason we are
19 delayed this year is because we have been waiting for the Louisa
20 County Water Authority to announce their water rate increase, which
21 we now know is proposed at 24%. Mrs. Nelson reported that in
22 addition to the public hearing, Supervisor Woodward and Roger
23 Henry, town resident at 303 Cutler, have requested a citizen's
24 meeting with the Water Authority to answer any questions prior to the
25 public hearing. Mrs. Nelson stated that the town's budget only
26 proposes a 15% increase in water and sewer rates due to our
27 customer discount with the Water Authority, and because our water
28 fund operates in a surplus which supports our sewer fund that
29 operates in deficit.
30

31 Mrs. Nelson stated that she is happy to answer any questions on the
32 budget prior to the full Council work session to help things run more
33 smoothly and efficiently at the work session.
34

35 **Streets & Sidewalks / Water & Sewer:**

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37 Mrs. Nelson reported that the Streets & Sidewalks Committee and the
38 Water & Sewer Committee held a joint meeting and reported that they
39 met with VDOT wherein pretty much all concerns expressed by

1 Council over the past two years appeared on the agenda for
2 discussion. Mrs. Nelson stated that VDOT was aware of the town's
3 older issues and was made aware of newer concerns during the
4 meeting.

5
6 Mrs. Nelson reported that the 2019 study that the town has been
7 using to base some of our projects around is no longer valid. VDOT
8 is having another study conducted with revisions to the 2019 study
9 which should be reported back to us in the next 12 months.

10
11 Council member Purcell reported that they met with Thrasher
12 Engineering to discuss funding options for the sidewalk project due to
13 cost increases and the omittance of the water line under the sidewalk.
14 The engineers are looking into alternatives, but one option would be
15 to end the current project and source it differently as the cost has now
16 reached \$2.6 million - without the water line.

17
18 Mrs. Nelson then reported that RFPs went out February 29th and
19 came back April 8th. She noted that we received three proposals for
20 the mapping and modeling of the entire water and sewer system, and
21 one proposal for the decommission and demolition of the wastewater
22 treatment plant on the corner of Elm Avenue and Courthouse Rd.
23 We are currently in the process of ranking and setting up interviews
24 for the three companies who submitted proposals for mapping and
25 modeling. Mrs. Nelson reported that ARPA funds will be used for
26 those projects.

27
28 **Cemetery Committee:**

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30 Councilmember Harte stated that she requested a cemetery
31 committee meeting at the last town Council meeting, and no one got
32 back to her. She stated that she also requested that Mayor Nuckols
33 reach out to a citizen who is interested in serving on the trash
34 committee as she would like to set up a committee meeting soon.

35
36 Mrs. Nelson responded that her time is currently strained due to
37 budget preparation. She stated that the committee can set up a
38 meeting in the coming weeks, and noted that since both Mrs. Harte
39 and Mr. Carter serve on both committees and are available for early

1 meetings, it would make scheduling easier. Mrs. Nelson also stated
2 that she forwarded the citizen's information to the mayor for him to
3 reach out to her. Mayor Nuckols responded that he did not receive
4 the email. Mrs. Nelson stated that she would resend the info, but
5 informed Mrs. Harte that she could also do the same.

6
7 **STAFF REPORTS**

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9 **Police:**

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11 Chief Buckley reported:

- 12
- 13 • They are on track with the interviewing process of two applicants.
14 All is going well.
 - 15 • Tech grant update: looking for approval in May.
 - 16 • The new police vehicle is under design review with the Police
17 Committee for new markings and decals.
 - 18 • They have received their protective rifle-ready shields.
- 19

20 Mayor Nuckols reported receiving positive feedback from a citizen
21 who complimented Chief Buckley's professionalism.

22

23 **Project Manager:**

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25 Mr. Synder reported:

- 26
- 27 • The Region Ten project is moving forward nicely.
 - 28 • Mr. Zaheer, at 114 Jefferson Hwy, has moved the cars that were in
29 violation of his SUP. Also, in accordance with the SUP was the
30 construction of a building on the property to be used as a shop to
31 work on the vehicles. It was established that Mr. Zaheer was not
32 close to being ready to go into construction, therefore Mr. Snyder
33 stated that there were several options that the town could take, if
34 desired, and would bring them back to Council, if directed.
 - 35 • Scott Curry has reached out to the town on how to rezone property
36 in town. After conferring with Mr. Snyder, it was clarified that he did
37 not need to rezone the property he purchased behind Spring Oak
38 Assisted Living to meet town code.

- 1 • Mr. Tim Miller came in to discuss the issues that the town has with
2 his by-right plans for Timber Oaks. He has been working through
3 each item/issue individually to get them rectified as he would like
4 to bring the plans back for the May 28th Planning Commission
5 meeting. Mr. Snyder reported that he is currently reviewing the
6 plans himself in detail and offered to answer any questions
7 Council may have about his recent meeting with Mr. Miller.
8

9 Council member Harte asked a question about the expiration of their
10 DEQ permit and the start of construction. Mr. Snyder responded that
11 he could not answer that question at this time, but he would reach out
12 to DEQ to find out.
13

14 **Legal Counsel:**

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16 No report.
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18 **Clerk/Treasurer:**

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20 No report.
21

22 **Manager:**

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24 Mrs. Nelson reported:
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- 26 • The National Day of Prayer will be held on May 2nd on the
27 courthouse lawn. Chief Buckley reported that he has reviewed the
28 plans for the event, and all is in accordance.
29

30 **COMMUNICATIONS**

31
32 Mayor Nuckols reported that he has been working on funding for
33 playground equipment for children with disabilities on the town's
34 campus. He informed Council that he has received some nice
35 donations, but was approached by Country Boys BBQ requesting a
36 permit for an event in June featuring a car show, live music, and food
37 at the fairgrounds as a fundraiser for the playground equipment. Staff
38 and Council stated that because the event was not included on the

1 agenda for discussion/approval tonight, they could not vote on it. Mrs.
2 Nelson stated that an application for the event could be considered at
3 the May meeting. Mayor Nuckols remarked that the organizers
4 wanted to get started on preparing for the event as soon as possible
5 and asked Council if there was a consensus on the event so that they
6 could move forward with planning until the May meeting. Council
7 agreed to allow Country Boys to begin accepting donations, noting
8 that all proceeds would be submitted to the town by Country Boys
9 BBQ for the purpose of updating playground equipment.

10
11 Council member Harte took a moment to respond to comments
12 submitted during public comments stating that she has no affiliation
13 with any pest control company.

14
15 **ADJOURNMENT**

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17 Council member Lassiter made the motion to adjourn the meeting at
18 6:47 p.m. Council member Purcell seconded the motion.

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21 _____
22 Mayor

Clerk