

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40

**Town of Louisa  
Monthly Meeting  
December 20, 2022**

**Present:** R. Garland Nuckols, Mayor; Danny Carter, Bud Dulaney, John J. Purcell IV, Council members; Elizabeth T. Nelson, Town Manager; Jessica M. Ellis, Clerk/Treasurer; Craig Buckley, Chief of Police; John Robins, Project Manager

**Absent:** Jessi Lassiter, Vice-Mayor; Sylvia Rigsby, Council member; Jeff Gore, Legal Counsel

**Also in Attendance:** Vicky Harte, town resident at 311 Club Road; Bob Bangle, Knights of Columbus

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

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

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Vicky Harte, town resident at 311 Club Rd., stood before Council to report problems with underage individuals operating golf carts in her neighborhood of Tanyard Subdivision. Mrs. Harte reported that in addition to them being underage, they were not operating the golf carts in accordance with state code.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mrs. Nelson reported that item no. 7 under New Business needed to be tabled until the January meeting; and that she was approached, after the agenda had been set, by the Louisa Arts Center about installing a Free Little Art Gallery on the town hall campus. Mrs. Nelson stated that if Council wished to discuss the request, they could do so by adding it to the agenda as item no. 2 under New

1 Business following the Art Center Lease Agreement as  
2 representatives would be present to discuss both items.

3  
4 Council member Dulaney made the motion to approve the amended  
5 agenda. Council member Purcell seconded the motion. The vote  
6 went as follows: 3-0 in favor.

7  
8 **PRESENTATION**

9  
10 **Bob Bangle – Knights on Bikes, Tunnels to Towers Fundraiser**

11  
12 Mr. Bangle referred to an event itinerary he prepared and distributed  
13 to Council. He was brief in his explanation of the event, however,  
14 stated that the Knights of Columbus often hold fundraising events for  
15 several different causes and they were looking to hold a charitable  
16 motorcycle ride that would begin and end at the Fireman's  
17 Fairgrounds in town on May 20, 2023. He is estimating at this point  
18 to have around 200 motorcycles participate, and plans to have local  
19 food truck vendors on site, and possibly, retail vendors as well. Mr.  
20 Bangle also reported that the event/riders are insured.

21  
22 Mrs. Nelson stated that, at this time, the event does not need a permit  
23 as it does not involve music/entertainment – it only involves the use  
24 of the Fireman's Fairgrounds which solely serves as the starting and  
25 ending point for the ride. Mrs. Nelson added that the fire department  
26 will need to grant permission to use the property, and if there are any  
27 changes such as the addition of music, etc. Mr. Bangle would need to  
28 contact the town to file for the appropriate permit.

29  
30 No action was taken.

31  
32 **OLD BUSINESS**

33  
34 None.

35  
36 **NEW BUSINESS**

37  
38 **1) Discussion/Action: Arts Center Lease Agreement**  
39

1 Mrs. Nelson reported that both the town and Arts Center wished to  
2 update the lease agreement as it is now considered outdated due to  
3 its language regarding lending, renovations, and construction, etc.  
4

5 The new lease, that was included in the packet for review and  
6 consideration, was reviewed and approved by: the Arts Center's legal  
7 counsel; Daniel Lauro, the town's bond counsel, to be sure it is in  
8 compliance with the town taking on the LDDC's USDA loan in 2018;  
9 and Jeff Gore, the town's legal representation. Mrs. Nelson stated  
10 that none of the aforementioned legal counselors had any concerns  
11 with the final draft of the agreement.  
12

13 Mrs. Nelson took a moment to point out a few important items: the  
14 40 year term remained the same; utilities were thoughtfully discussed  
15 as there are several shared utilities in the building; permitting  
16 language has been changed/added for events; future payments were  
17 also thoughtfully discussed wherein it was decided that the  
18 agreement of \$12,000 annually would begin effective July 1, 2023  
19 and would be due by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2024; and  
20 no currently occupied or shared spaces would be changing.  
21

22 Council member Carter made the motion to approve the lease  
23 agreement. Council member Purcell seconded the motion. The vote  
24 went as follows: 3-0 in favor.  
25

## 26 **2) Discussion/Action: Arts Center Free Little Art Gallery Request**

27

28 Mrs. Nelson reported that, similar to the Free Little Library in town,  
29 the Arts Center has requested the installation of a Free Little Art  
30 Gallery on the town's campus.  
31

32 In their request to Council, the Arts Center has stated that the gallery  
33 would provide a small space for those in the community to share art,  
34 inspire ideas, and spread joy. A member of the Arts Center's  
35 community has offered to donate the structure and their time to install  
36 and curate the little gallery. They would like to install the gallery  
37 between two small trees adjacent to the terrace, and to the left of the  
38 main entrance to the building.  
39

1 Council member Dulaney made the motion to approve the Art  
2 Center's request for a Free Little Art Gallery. Council member Purcell  
3 seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 3-0 in favor.  
4

### 5 **3) Discussion/Action: Golf Cart Ordinance**

6  
7 Mrs. Nelson began by stating that Chief Buckley has submitted a  
8 memo, at the request of town residents, to have additional streets  
9 added to our Golf Cart and Utility Vehicle Ordinance.  
10

11 The streets they are requesting to be added are as follows: School  
12 Street; Church Street; Patrick Henry Drive; Cutler Avenue; Pinehurst  
13 Drive; Sims Avenue; and Locust Street.  
14

15 Mrs. Nelson stated that in order to approve the request, Council  
16 would first have to amend the code (by ordinance), and then the town  
17 would have to submit a Land Use Permit to the Virginia Department  
18 of Transportation. Mrs. Nelson reported that she reached out to  
19 VDOT in regards to the ordinance change and they have directed that  
20 it must be included in our ordinance that Main Street and  
21 Fredericksburg Avenue are not accessible. Mrs. Nelson added that  
22 Mr. Gore has already reviewed the request, the proposed changes,  
23 and VDOT's guidelines for compliance.  
24

25 If approved, Mrs. Nelson stated that she would submit for the Land  
26 Use Permit from VDOT, and noted that as required by the permit, the  
27 town would be responsible for all golf cart signage and the  
28 enforcement of such use.  
29

30 Council member Dulaney questioned if Chief Buckley was  
31 comfortable with the changes to which he stated that he had no  
32 objection to the proposed amendment and would help with  
33 implementation.  
34

35 Council member Purcell made the motion to approve the Golf Cart  
36 Ordinance. Council member Dulaney seconded the motion. The  
37 vote went as follows: 3-0 in favor.  
38

### 39 **4) Discussion/Action: Take Home Vehicles – Police Department**

1 Chief Buckley recommended that the two full-time officers have the  
2 ability to take their town issued vehicles home when off duty. Chief  
3 Buckley spoke at length as to why he feels the officers should be  
4 given authorization. He explained: currently, they are the only two  
5 employed officers; they have been working very hard to provide  
6 coverage; they have completed their 12 month probationary period;  
7 they are both very dedicated and reliable; and they are both very  
8 willing to respond to work when needed. Chief Buckley stated that he  
9 is not a fan of take home vehicles, but because of the department  
10 experiencing multiple openings, this authorization could provide an  
11 opportunity to retain them.

12  
13 Chief Buckley recommended that officer Fallon park his car at the  
14 Area 15 Virginia State Police parking lot in Culpeper as he lives 51  
15 miles from Louisa and does not approve of him taking his cruiser all  
16 the way to his home. The VSP parking lot is 31 miles from Louisa.

17  
18 Chief Buckley recommended that officer Nachtman be able to drive  
19 his cruiser home as he is located 24 miles from Louisa.

20  
21 Mrs. Nelson then stated that in this particular situation, she is in favor  
22 of allowing the officers take their cruisers home.

23  
24 Council and staff discussed the recommendation noting: the  
25 numerous discussions on the topic over the years; fuel costs; calls for  
26 service; staffing; and the benefits to the community.

27  
28 Council member Purcell stated that he would like to add that the  
29 allowance would be temporary for up to six months.

30  
31 After some discussion, the following vote was made:

32  
33 Council member Dulaney made the motion to approve the Chief's  
34 recommendation of take home vehicles for Officer Nachtman and  
35 Officer Fallon, conditionally, for six months based upon the continued  
36 evaluations by the Chief of Police and Town Manager. Council  
37 member Purcell seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 3-0  
38 in favor.

39

1           **5) Discussion/Action: Chief Search**

2  
3           Mrs. Nelson updated Council reporting that Chief Buckley has  
4           announced his retirement effective January 31, 2023. Mrs. Nelson  
5           reported that Tom Leary had previously offered to assist temporarily,  
6           but has since taken a new position and is no longer available to  
7           help after the 31<sup>st</sup> of January. Mrs. Nelson has reached out to Dana  
8           Schrad with the Virginia Chief's Association to get advertising started  
9           at the beginning of the year, and to get their assistance with the  
10          search. Mrs. Nelson stated that Council will need to approve the  
11          allocation of \$3700 from salary savings for vacant positions to fund  
12          the search and any additional travel accommodations for the panel.  
13          Mrs. Nelson reported that Dana informed her that there are currently  
14          several Chief's positions open, so it may take a little time. If the town  
15          feels the need to have an interim Chief appointed to fill in until a full  
16          time Chief can be hired, Ms. Schrad said they are happy to assist as  
17          there are several individuals who are willing to serve.

18  
19          Mrs. Nelson reported that she and Chief Buckley have started  
20          interviewing for open positions, however, most applicants seem to  
21          only be interested in part-time work at the moment, so they are  
22          moving forward with pursuing part-time officers to assist the  
23          department. Mrs. Nelson stated that they also plan to have interviews  
24          complete for the Sergeant's position before Chief Buckley retires.

25  
26          Council member Dulaney made the motion to approve the allocation  
27          of funds for the Police Chief Search with the VCA. Council member  
28          Carter seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 3-0 in favor.

29  
30           **6) Discussion/Action: 2023 Holiday Schedule**

31  
32          Council member Purcell made the motion to approve the 2023  
33          Holiday Schedule. Council member Dulaney seconded the motion.  
34          The vote went as follows: 3-0 in favor.

35  
36          Following the vote, Mayor Nuckols then stated that he would like to  
37          make Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> a half day due to how the holiday fell on  
38          a weekend this year. He asked Council for their thoughts before they  
39          took the following action:

1  
2 Council member Dulaney made the motion to approve making Friday,  
3 December 30<sup>th</sup> a half work day. Council member Purcell seconded  
4 the motion. The vote went as follows: 3-0 in favor.

5  
6 **7) Discussion/Action: Town EDA & County Planning**  
7 **Commission Liaison Appointments**

8  
9 Council member Carter made the motion to approve appointing Mr.  
10 Pierce Stone to the EDA and to appoint Council member Purcell as  
11 the liaison to the Louisa County Planning Commission. Council  
12 member Purcell seconded the motion. The vote went as follows:  
13 Dulaney, for; Carter, for; Purcell, abstain.

14  
15 **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

16  
17 There were no committee reports.

18  
19 **STAFF REPORTS**

20  
21 **Police:**

22  
23 Chief Buckley spoke at length about the struggles Tow Operators  
24 face when trying to collect for work done after being summoned to  
25 recover stolen vehicles. He also spoke of the work he is doing to  
26 bring more attention to the problem by encouraging people to take  
27 the matter to their respective Delegate and Senator. Chief Buckley  
28 also read aloud a letter he sent to Mr. James Dowell, President of the  
29 Virginia Association of Towing & Recovery Operations and provided a  
30 copy for the minutes.

31  
32 Chief Buckley then took a moment to speak of the applicant that he  
33 and Mrs. Nelson recently interviewed. Chief Buckley stated that he is  
34 an excellent candidate who only wants to work part time. He has a  
35 tremendous amount of experience and would be very beneficial to the  
36 town.

37  
38 Council member Dulaney made mention of the Louisa Police  
39 Department Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards

1 Commission Briefing and Update that was prepared and submitted in  
2 the packet by Tom Leary. Mr. Dulaney commended the report and  
3 the department's progress. Mr. Dulaney also took a moment to thank  
4 Chief Buckley for his service to the town and wished him the best in  
5 the future.

6  
7 **Project Manager:**

8  
9 Mr. Robins stated that he had been out sick recently and had nothing  
10 further to add to the report he prepared for the Council packet.

11  
12 **Legal Counsel:**

13  
14 No report.

15  
16 **Clerk/Treasurer:**

17  
18 No report.

19  
20 **Manager:**

21  
22 No report.

23  
24 **COMMUNICATIONS**

25  
26 Mayor Nuckols took a moment to acknowledge that this evening was  
27 Council member Dulaney's last meeting and thanked him for his  
28 years of service and stated that he hoped they would continue their  
29 friendship outside of the scope of the town, and welcomed him to  
30 come back to future meetings and possibly serve as a citizen  
31 member of a committee.

32  
33 Council member Dulaney also took a few minutes to speak on being  
34 an effective public servant versus a politician. Mr. Dulaney spoke of  
35 the diligent work that Council and staff do to serve the town and  
36 stated that we should all be proud of what we've accomplished, and  
37 thanked everyone for their kindness and conversations over the  
38 years.

39



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council member Dulaney made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk