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**Town of Louisa
Monthly Meeting
July 18, 2023**

Present: R. Garland Nuckols, Mayor; Danny Carter, John J. Purcell IV, Vicky Harte, Council members; Jeff Gore, Legal Counsel; 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

Also in Attendance: None

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

Mayor Nuckols called the Louisa Town Council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

PRESENTATION

Mr. John McGuire, Delegate for Virginia's the 56th District, presented Mr. John Jones with House Joint Resolution No. 676 commending him for his 50 years of service to the Town of Louisa.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Roger Henry, 303 Patrick Henry Drive, stood and spoke against the town joining FEMA due to the flood program's costly expenses, and the unseen loss in town. Mr. Henry instead suggested that the government allow subsidizing.

Patrick Fike stood and spoke on behalf of the Das brothers who own the gas station/convenience store at 450 E. Main Street. Mr. Fike addressed Council seeking a meeting with them to address an amendment to town code to allow the Das brothers to operate

1 gaming machines again. Mr. Fike, seeking an immediate response,
2 was informed of the proper procedural process by Mr. Gore, legal
3 counsel for the town, as dictated by the State of Virginia.
4

5 Council Member Harte, following a discussion with legal counsel
6 about the appropriate time for a Council member to address personal
7 concerns, went to the podium stating she wanted to speak as a
8 private town citizen rather than a Council member. Mrs. Harte
9 informed Council that she is bringing American Heritage Girls and
10 Trail Life USA to Louisa as alternatives to the Boys Scouts and Girls
11 Scouts due to recent changes to their programs. Mrs. Harte then
12 responded to earlier remarks made by Mr. Henry in regards to FEMA
13 costs stating that FEMA already taxes us through federal taxes and
14 that she, personally, cannot afford private FEMA insurance coverage.
15 Mrs. Harte also provided a photo of water standing on property
16 adjacent to the Loyalty Inn on Jefferson Hwy stating that the water
17 was a result of a recent storm and is believed to have come from a
18 solar farm belonging to Dominion Energy. Mrs. Harte concluded by
19 expressing her frustrations with the town not being a participant in the
20 FEMA program.
21

22 Mr. Larry Breckenridge, of 331 Cardinal Road, addressed Council
23 explaining that Brittany's Transit Services is a nonemergency medical
24 transport company and is seeking a resolution that to operate as a
25 Basic Life Support (BLS) service. Mr. Breckenridge stated that they
26 currently provide service to those who are on Medicaid/Medicare and
27 are at a level of ambulatory, wheelchair, or stretcher needs. Mr.
28 Breckenridge stated that they transport individuals to the hospital
29 or doctor's appointments if they do not have transportation
30 themselves. Mr. Breckenridge reported that in order to be qualified
31 as BLS, per OMES, they need a resolution of approval from the town.
32 Mr. Gore stated that they would work on a resolution for approval at
33 the next meeting.
34

35 **CONSENT AGENDA**

36
37 Mrs. Nelson stated that the presentation for Emergency Services
38 Amateur Radio needs to be struck from the agenda as the presenters

1 were unable to provide information for Council's consideration and
2 are currently looking into other options.

3
4 Council member Carter 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.

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8 **OLD BUSINESS**

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10 None.

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12 **NEW BUSINESS**

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14 **1) Discussion/Action: Rappahannock Electric Communications,**
15 **Inc. – EV Charging Station Host Lease Agreement**

16
17 Mrs. Nelson reported that the lease is currently with REC's legal
18 staff and she has not been provided with a final draft and explained
19 that, at this point, Council has two options: "approve it with the
20 recommendations from Mr. Gore to run it with our current lease with
21 Dr. Andre and include the \$10 fee as we did at this site; or we can
22 table it until we get something back from REC." Mrs. Nelson added
23 that she believed REC is ready to install in August and that putting off
24 approving the lease could potentially cause a setback.

25
26 Council member Purcell made the motion to approve the final lease
27 pending attorney and staff review. Council member Carter seconded
28 the motion. The vote went as follows: 3-0 in favor.

29
30 **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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32 None.

33
34 **STAFF REPORTS**

35
36 **Police:**

37
38 Chief Buckley spoke on the following:
39

- 1 • National Night Out is August 1, 2023 at Courthouse Square; there
2 are 23 confirmed organizations attending; they will have 6-8
3 corporate sponsors.
- 4 • The ARPA grant funds incorporated funding for a new police
5 vehicle, and due to availability and rules, they are now looking into
6 purchasing a Dodge Charger versus Ford SUV.
- 7 • A full-time applicant came in today for a brief interview and
8 paperwork; the Chief will be following up with a panel interview in
9 the coming days/weeks.

10
11 **Project Manager:**

12
13 Mr. Robins stated that he had nothing to add to his report.

14
15 **Legal Counsel:**

16
17 Mr. Gore reported that there is a 10 page document on new laws that
18 took effect as of July 1, 2023 based on bills that were recently
19 passed. His office will be composing a memo that will summarize
20 and explain those new laws. Mr. Gore stated that he believes there
21 will be changes next year as problems will arise with towns like
22 Louisa due to time constraint issues affecting public notice
23 requirements.

24
25 **Clerk/Treasurer:**

26
27 No report.

28
29 **Manager:**

30
31 Mrs. Nelson reported:

- 32
33 • Advertising costs have increased and the Daily Progress is only
34 publishing three days a week now; due to costs and new laws she
35 will no longer publish the agenda, but will publish a letter of
36 notification to the public on how to find/obtain one.
- 37 • The EDA has requested a joint meeting with Council to discuss their
38 roll and the expectations of the EDA.

- 1 • Weather pending, concrete stamped paving is scheduled July 30th-
2 August 3rd/4th at town hall and the parking lot will be closed. Parking
3 will be available across the street in the gravel lot.
4

5 Following Mrs. Nelson’s report, Mrs. Harte held a discussion with
6 Mrs. Nelson about handicap spaces and the lack of availability when
7 several events are happening on campus simultaneously.
8

9 **COMMUNICATIONS**

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11 None.
12

13 **ADJOURNMENT**

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15 Council member Carter made the motion to adjourn the meeting at
16 6:51 p.m. Council member Purcell seconded the motion.
17

18
19 _____
20 Mayor

18
19 _____
20 Clerk

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