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**Town of Louisa
Monthly Meeting
March 16, 2021**

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Please note that this meeting is being held by all-electronic means with no physical quorum of council members assembled together and no staff or members of the public assembled together. This meeting is being conducted pursuant to Va. Code 2.2-3708 (A) 3 as authorized when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with Va. Code § 44-146.17, provided that (i) the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and (ii) the purpose of the meeting is to address the emergency.

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Present: R. Garland Nuckols, Mayor; Jessie Lassiter, Vice-Mayor; A. Daniel Carter, Bud Dulaney, John J. Purcell IV, Sylvia Rigsby, Council members; Jeff Gore, Legal Counsel; Elizabeth T. Nelson, Town Manager; Jessica M. Ellis, Clerk/Treasurer

Absent: Tom Leary, Chief of Police

Also in Attendance: The Thrasher Group: Shawn Kelly and Rob Milne; Rick Rohm and Tom Fitzpatrick with the Virginia Department of Transportation; Sergeant Tussing, Town of Louisa Police Department; John Robins, Independent Contractor

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

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council member Rigsby made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Council member Carter seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

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2 **PUBLIC HEARING:**

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4 ***West Main Street Sidewalk Extension Project***

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6 Mayor Nuckols opened the public hearing at 6:05 pm asking if there
7 was anyone present who would like to speak for or against the
8 proposed sidewalk extension project. Mrs. Nelson reported that
9 members of The Thrasher Group were in attendance and would like
10 to speak about the project. The group provided visual plans via the
11 meeting platform for Council to review during their discussion.

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13 Council members Rigsby, Dulaney and Mayor Nuckols posed
14 questions to the group in regards to: recent plan changes, street
15 inlets, sidewalk grading, ROW acquisition, property width after
16 easement acquisition, public notification, public safety concerns,
17 traffic delays and diversions, and if plan changes following this
18 evening's meeting can be made/negotiated. Shawn Kelley and Rob
19 Milne with The Thrasher Group, and Rick Rome and Tom Fitzpatrick
20 with the Virginia Department of Transportation responded to their
21 questions by referencing the plans.

22
23 Council member Rigsby then questioned if the plans are finalized at
24 this point or if property owners can request changes. Rick Rohm with
25 VDOT stated that property owners will have 14 days from the date of
26 the public hearing to make comments or requests for consideration.
27 Once the 14 day period has passed, the plans are finalized as
28 designed. Mayor Nuckols questioned if property owners have been
29 notified of the project. Mrs. Nelson responded stating that the
30 property owners have not been notified about the project, other than
31 the public hearing notice [posted online and in the legal section of the
32 local newspaper], but noted that they will be notified once the plans
33 have been reviewed and we enter into the negotiation phase of ROW
34 acquisition. Mrs. Nelson stated that holding a property owner's
35 meeting has been discussed to get everyone on the same page prior
36 to entering ROW acquisition. Mayor Nuckols responded that some
37 property owners may not have seen/been aware of the public hearing
38 notice. Council member Rigsby questioned if property owners should
39 be notified of the 14 day period in which to respond prior to the ROW

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2 acquisition process. Before Mrs. Nelson deferred to VDOT for clarity,
3 she stated that Brad Humphrey, previous Project Manager, had
4 spoken with some of the property owners back when the project first
5 came to fruition, but was not sure if they were all aware of the project.
6 Rick Rohm then replied that at the time of ROW acquisition, the
7 design is pretty much written in stone – the public hearing is held to
8 allow for citizen comments.

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10 Council members Mayor Nuckols closed the public hearing at 6:39
11 pm.

12 **OLD BUSINESS**

13 **1) Discussion/Action: Budget Workshop Schedule**

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17 Council member Rigsby reported that the Finance Committee met
18 with staff to go over preliminary budget numbers. Ms. Rigsby stated
19 that the committee has planned to meet again to review information
20 requested of staff at the first meeting. Ms. Rigsby stated she felt it
21 would be useful for the committee and Council to have a second
22 committee meeting to review and digest the requested materials prior
23 to meeting as once large group.

24 **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

25 **Finance Committee**

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29 *Ms. Rigsby gave the committee report under Old Business – item*
30 *no. 1.*

31 **STAFF REPORTS**

32 **Police:**

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36 Sergeant Tussing reported the following:

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38 • Officers are conducting more patrols at the west end of town as

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pedestrian and vehicular traffic has been heavier in that area in recent weeks.

- Chief Leary wanted Council to be made aware of the recent academic accolades accomplished by the Police Department’s part-time Administrative Assistant, Breanna Burkhead. Breanna is a senior at Randolph Macon College and is studying Criminal Justice.

Legal Counsel:

No report.

Clerk/Treasurer:

No report.

Manager:

Mrs. Nelson reported/discussed the following:

- Change order #3 for the sewer line replacement project actually reflects a cost deduction and has provided additional funds to spend in other areas of town – staff, Tristate, and Dewberry met last week and walked potential areas in town. Staff and engineers will report back next month with more information.
- The water project packet has been sent to USDA for consideration and is currently in the underwriting phase.
- John Robins, an independent inspector working with the town on the USDA funded sewer line replacement project, has formally accepted the part-time Project Manager position. John applied for the position a few months ago, was interviewed, and has made the decision to join the town as an employee. He is awaiting approval from USDA to step into his new position so as not to interfere with the sewer project.
- A brief discussion led to the decision to tentatively hold the April 20, 2021 Council meeting in person.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Council member Dulaney took a moment to congratulate Sergeant Tussing on receiving Officer of the Year from the Louisa County Crime Solvers.

He also questioned when Council plans to install and dedicate the new street sign – John Jones Way – in honor of John Jones at the entrance of the town’s property at 219 E. Main Street. Mrs. Nelson replied that plans have been made for a spring reveal in hopes that the governor will lift gathering restrictions so that Mr. Jones may have is family and friends attend.

Mr. Dulaney also asked Mrs. Nelson to speak about the Chief of Police search. Mrs. Nelson said the process is moving along. Dana Schrad, with the VACP, recently compiled a list of candidates for interviews and will be scheduling them in the next week or two. Mrs. Nelson and Chief Leary will conduct the final interviews.

ADJOURNMENT

Council member Dulaney made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Council member Lassiter seconded the motion.

Mayor

Clerk