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

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Present: R. Garland Nuckols, Mayor; Jessi Lassiter, Vice-Mayor; 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; John Robins, Project Manager

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Absent: Danny Carter, Council member; Jeff Gore, Legal Counsel

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Also in Attendance: Ian Baxter, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission; Tracy Clarke, Executive Director for the Louisa County Chamber of Commerce; Casey Hollins, Secretary for the Chamber of Commerce and Managing Director of Communications and Public Relations for Rappahannock Electric Cooperative

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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 6:03 p.m.

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BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

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None.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Nelson stated that, under New Business - item no. 2, Rappahannock Electric and the Louisa Forward Foundation has requested a discussion for a grant application in addition to the EV charging station host lease agreement.

1 Council member Rigsby made the motion to approve the amended
2 agenda. Council member Lassiter seconded the motion. The vote
3 went as follows: 4-0 in favor.
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5 **NEW BUSINESS**

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7 **1) Discussion/Action: Resolution of Adoption – Regional Natural**
8 **Hazard Mitigation Plan**
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10 Mrs. Nelson stated that last July, Ian Baxter, with the Thomas
11 Jefferson Planning District Commission, presented the Natural
12 Mitigation Plan Update for 2023 to Council. Since then, the plan
13 has been reviewed and approved by the Virginia Department of
14 Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency
15 Management Agency. Mrs. Nelson reported that Mr. Baxter is in
16 attendance for any questions, and explained that each locality is
17 required show their support of the plan by adopting the resolution.
18

19 Council member Harte questioned what the action items would be
20 for the town. Mrs. Nelson and Mr. Baxter replied stating: the town hall
21 would serve as a warming station; we will continue our efforts in
22 having all homes labeled with 911 addresses; and incorporate the
23 hazard mitigation plan into the town’s comprehensive plan.
24

25 Council member Harte then questioned why flood loss was not
26 addressed, which led to a lengthy discussion amongst Council, staff,
27 and Mr. Baxter. The discussion concluded in categorizing the flooding
28 as more of a storm water issue that occurs on private property and is
29 currently being addressed by both the County of Louisa as well as the
30 town in the form of a work group in cooperation with multiple state
31 and federal agencies; and acknowledging that the mitigation plan
32 recognizes a more broad response to all natural disasters – and will
33 serve as a starting point that will allow for future planning.
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35 Council member Purcell made the motion to adopt the Regional
36 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution. Council member Lassiter
37 seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 4-0 in favor.
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1 **2) Discussion/Action: Rappahannock Electric Communications,**
2 **Inc. – EV Charging Station Host Lease Agreement & Grant**
3 **Opportunity**
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5 Mrs. Nelson reported that a draft copy of the lease was included
6 in the packet for Council’s review and that it was prepared by legal
7 counsel for Rappahannock Electric and reviewed by Mr. Gore. We
8 are awaiting the final draft of the lease as it pertains to the actual EV
9 charging station locations. If the lease agreement would be ready for
10 approval by the next meeting, it would then need to go to public
11 hearing.

12
13 Casey Hollins, Secretary for the Chamber of Commerce, Managing
14 Director of Communications and Public Relations for Rappahannock
15 Electric Cooperative, and member of the Louisa Forward Foundation
16 then spoke to the details of a new grant opportunity. Casey explained
17 that Julie Manzari, of Dominion Energy, contacted she and Tracy
18 Clark, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, to inform
19 them of a federal grant through the Department of Transportation.
20 This grant, the DOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure
21 Discretionary Grant, targets rural areas and would provide significant
22 funding to town and county governments. Town and county
23 governments would apply for funding to install EV charging stations in
24 areas that are deemed appropriate to attract people to charge
25 vehicles and support the local economy. The minimum award would
26 be \$500,000 and range to \$15,000,000. The deadline to apply is
27 May 30th, and Ms. Hollins stated that REC is committed to assisting
28 the town with the process.

29
30 Tracy Clark, then took a moment to speak in regards to the
31 opportunity that the town is being presented with and how much the
32 town would benefit from the grant. Ms. Clark stated that they have
33 reached out to the businesses in town to obtain who would be
34 interested, and she reported that they got a really good response.

35
36 Ms. Hollins noted that the town/government agency is required to be
37 the applicant, and that the funding can be used for several aspects of
38 the project leading up to the actual installation. She then reiterated

1 that they would like to be a partner and assist the town through the
2 process/project.

3
4 Mayor Nuckols expressed concerns with overwhelming town staff
5 with additional work associated with the grant. Ms. Hollins responded
6 stating that they would assist with that work and help to oversee that
7 all information is received and processed correctly. Ms. Hollins also
8 stated that the town would not be bound to the grant just for applying.
9 The town would have to accept or deny the funds, if awarded.

10
11 Council member Harte questioned if grid upgrades would be
12 necessary to which Ms. Hollins stated that it is possible, but currently,
13 there are any upgrades planned. Ms. Hollins added to the
14 discussion that the grant would allow for both Level 2 and DC
15 charging stations. Ms. Hollins and Ms. Clark also noted that the grant
16 is not specific about where the funds need to be used – meaning that
17 funds could be used to do something in the county or possibly with
18 the school system as they currently have the associated EV
19 curriculum/programs in place.

20
21 Council member Rigsby questioned the how the Charge Up Louisa
22 project is being funded and Ms. Hollins responded stating that REC
23 is providing the funding, with the exception of the civil engineering.
24 Ms. Clark responded that the Louisa Forward Foundation is looking
25 into grant funding to cover the costs of the engineering work to
26 minimize or eliminate costs for the town. Mrs. Nelson stated that the
27 cost to the town is expected to be minimal.

28
29 Council member Purcell made the motion to move forward with
30 applying for the DOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure
31 Discretionary Grant. Council member Harte seconded the motion.
32 The vote went as follows: Purcell, for; Lassiter, for; Harte, for; Rigsby,
33 against (3-1 in favor).

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35 **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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37 No reports.

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39 **STAFF REPORTS**

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Police:

Chief Buckley reported:

- National Day of Prayer will be Thursday, May 4th at 12:00 on the courthouse lawn.
- ARPA grant update: was asked to provide more justification, nothing more at this time.
- Chief Buckley brought in an older lap top and router to show what they were using vs. what we changed to - per COVID grant funds.
- The onsite accreditation assessment is coming up in the first quarter of the new fiscal year. He would like to budget \$3000 for food and lodging for five inspectors.

Council member Harte questioned 110 calls for service – specifically what type of calls they were and how we are addressing them given our limited staffing issues. Chief Buckley stated that they could be a range of calls, and added that back up calls to support the Sheriff’s department also count as service calls.

Project Manager:

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

Legal Counsel:

No report.

Clerk/Treasurer:

No report.

Manager:

Mrs. Nelson reported:

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- The town’s 150th Anniversary Committee has been meeting once a month and moving forward with planning. We are working on designing and purchasing promotional materials and banners.
- Hometown Heroes Update: The VFW does not want to be the funds collector/holder. They are searching for another entity to assist them in that position. The Town Manager requested Council’s position on the matter and if they were interested in assisting in that capacity to which they replied “no”.
- Beginning in May, Chick-fil-a will be setting up in front of Louisa Hardware selling limited quantities of food on a temporary basis – it’s an exploratory project that was requested by restaurant staff that live in the area.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Council member Lassiter made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Council member Purcell seconded the motion.

Mayor

Clerk