

The Pearisburg Town Council met in Regular Session on November 10, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pearisburg Town Hall. Present for the Meeting were: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Munsey, Williams, Journell, Eaton, Harrell and Clark; Town Manager Vittum; Town Attorney Hartley; Town Engineer Tawney; Chief Martin and Town Clerk Harless. Also present was Butch Mullins, Virginian Leader.

Councilwoman Harrell led the pledge of allegiance.

Journell made a motion to approve the October 14, 2014 Regular Council minutes. Harrell seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Munsey, Williams, Eaton, Journell, Harrell and Clark. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Council approved the following Consent Items and Reports: Police, Finance, Recreation, Building Permit, Manager, Water and Fire for October 2014.

Harrell reported on the Public Safety Committee. She reported on Officer Vinson being back to work and the recent 5K Race. The Police Department did not have any problems Halloween night and the business trick or treat in the downtown was well received.

The Committee made a recommendation that Council approve the purchase of up to \$1,000 for Fire Department baseball caps for resale as a fund-raiser for their dress uniforms. It was noted that the current budget has \$700 for uniforms as a budgeted line item. This project should have been discussed as part of the budget process for this year or could be considered in the upcoming budget process. Council discussed the recommendation and decided to table the item at this time.

Munsey made a motion to table the recommendation. Williams seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Munsey, Williams, Eaton, Journell, Harrell and Clark. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Munsey reported on the Property and Recreation Committee. The Committee discussed the boat landing status, upcoming sports programs and the Open House for Red Sun Farms. Tawney had asked Myers to continue filling out the monthly forms for revenue and expenditures for each sport. Tawney stated that these had not been filled out for May through October. Eaton asked what type of information was needed since he was already doing this on his monthly recreation report to Council. Munsey stated that the information was more detailed on the spreadsheets to show revenue versus expenditure for each

program. Vittum stated that this was needed by staff to help see which programs were self supportive.

Eaton reported on the Finance Committee. The Committee discussed creating line items on the finance report for the Farm to Fork Program and the Farmer's Market Grant. Staff will be asked to create a budget amendment to do so. The Committee also discussed the Community Center Renovation Project and tabled any further discussion until Council can hold a special planning meeting. The Committee deferred any decisions on Solar Equipment Ordinance and landscaping for the Town Hall to full Council.

The Committee made a recommendation that Council approve spending \$600 from the Community Center Donation Account on new chairs for the cafeteria. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Munsey, Williams, Eaton, Journell, Harrell and Clark. The recommendation carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

The Committee recommends to waive the Community Center rental fee for the Red Devil November 12, 2014 meeting. Also, the Committee recommended to table the request to waive rental fees for Aug. 21-22, 2015, and the October 14, 2015 due to possibility of renovation process. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Munsey, Williams, Eaton, Journell, Harrell and Clark. The recommendation carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

The Committee recommends that Council approve donating a Town's surplus computer to the Chamber of Commerce. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Munsey, Williams, Eaton, Journell and Harrell. Abstaining: Clark. The recommendation carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Williams reported on the Public Works Committee. The water loss for September was 14.17%. The Committee discussed the radar recorder that Tawney had information about. The Committee deferred any further discussion to full Council. He stated that Tawney had contacted VDOT to see if we could ride under their contract this year for purchasing road salt. Tawney also contacted Morton Salt and they will not return his calls. Tawney stated that he had ordered two barrels of liquid form salt and he will be purchasing some grit to mix with salt. Williams reported that staff had attended a Water Accountability and Leak Detection Class in Bedford recently. He reported that Hartley was reviewing the Bluff City bypass.

Council discussed the radar recorder further at this time. Tawney stated that the radar could be mounted to a telephone pole for an \$800 monthly rental fee. Eaton asked for the reason the speed bump was not an option. Tawney stated that he had contacted EMS workers to get their opinions. The ambulance service said it was not good to hit one and the fireman said it was hard on their trucks. Munsey stated that the recorder could be moved around weekly. Clark asked Chief Martin if he was familiar with the radar recorders. Martin is not familiar with them. He stated that his department had patrolled the area of concern for the past three months and they only had one violation for going six miles over the speed limit. The area was patrolled at different times of the day. Mayor Dickerson asked if someone would show us how to use the radar recorder. Tawney said the company said it would be easy to do. Eaton asked Tawney to respond to the citizen. There was no further action taken at this time.

There was no discussion of the Public Service Authority, NRV Planning District Commission or Giles County Board of Supervisors minutes.

Mayor Dickerson stated that the Finance Committee had discussed having a special planning meeting prior to the next regular council meeting to discuss the Community Center Renovations. Vittum stated that he had met with David Rose of Davenport about borrowing two million dollars. The funds could be borrowed separately. He stated that it would cost the town \$60,000 to 70,000 a year. Davenport could take a piece of the towns debt and do a layering approach. The town would be looking at a \$20,000 increase. David Rose discussed the tax credit financing with staff and felt there needed to be some questions answered before a decision is made to proceed with tax credits. Rose stated that finding out if the building is eligible may be a good start to see how best to move forward. Vittum stated that Spectrum quoted \$12,000 for submittal of Part I application. He stated that there could be potential cost for legal fees and for meeting standards for historic items. David Rose is looking at doing a formal presentation at the January Council Meeting. Vittum felt it would be a good idea for Council to get together and decide what they want to do for sure before meeting with Rose.

Eaton stated that the renovation of the Community Center was discussed in Finance. She stated that the Finance Committee would like to see cost estimates on plumbing the bathrooms, heating and air, cosmetic items in the cafeteria and asbestos removal. They would like to do the improvements in phases. Eaton asked if this was an option or should

we discuss this further in a planning session. Vittum stated that Spectrum had broken down figures for the heating and air, plumbing and electrical. Eaton asked about the figures she had and if they were the most current that would be used for the basic renovations. Munsey stated that if Council has a special meeting we could sit down and talk about what we want to do first. Munsey thinks Council should be able to sub the renovations out ourselves. He suggested Council get three quotes for each of these items. He feels it would be in Council's best interest to get a contractor and quotes for the different portions to have something comparable. Eaton felt Council needed to reduce the renovations from a major project to a necessary renovation. Mayor Dickson asked if Council thought we would have a lot of contractors bid on the smaller pieces. Clark asked if we could send out an RFP on what we are looking for once we determine what we want to do. Vittum stated that it would be best if we had a set of plans for the renovation so the contractor could have a guideline to give their quote. It was the consensus of Council to hold a Special Council meeting to discuss the Renovations of the Community Center and landscaping for the Town Hall on November 19, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Vittum briefed Council on the Farmers Market Grant Project. He stated that staff is working with a graduate student who is looking at the feasibility and design of a market. In early January she will present her work to Council. Vittum stated that Denise Blakeney has been unavailable. This created a few issues on what we need to accomplish with the arts project. Dianne Dinger has been working on this. The Town transferred funds to the Arts Council for the PATS Building project. This and the River Sculpture projects need to get moving this year. It was suggested to bolt the murals on the buildings. Munsey asked if we could back up change projects. Vittum stated the grants were project specific. Council discussed the Trails-Rails mural. Vittum informed Council that there is a contract between the owner and the Arts Council for each project. He thought the owner was suppose to maintain the art for a minimum of five years under these agreements.

Council Williams had to leave the meeting at this time.

Vittum stated that he was not sure what the intent of the current owner was for the mural on the building at the corner of Wenonah Avenue and Tazewell Street. Clark asked Hartley if that would have been placed on the deed. Hartley stated that if there was an easement on license agreement then it would have been recorded so the chain of title would continue. Clark asked if there was nothing recorded then the owner could do what

they wanted. Hartley stated that when the new owner purchased the property they could have investigated the mural to see if any agreements were set up. Hartley stated that it may be possible to get an agreement from the current owner about the mural.

Mayor Dickerson stated that he had no recommendations on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council.

Vittum stated that at this time the Farmers Market Grant Contracts were not available. He stated that when staff receives them they will be forwarded to Hartley for review and to go on next months agenda.

Vittum updated Council on the PSA Consolidation Project. CHA will be reporting back to the PSA Board. Eaton asked if CHA would report back on what comments Pearisburg made. Vittum stated that yes they planned to report this data back. Clark understood from the last meeting that a meeting of all localities would be set up to discuss the consolidation. Vittum reported that the PSA is over that decision and staff has not heard about a meeting yet.

Vittum updated Council on the PSA By-pass. He had received some comments back from Hartley today. Staff is getting revisions back to Kevin Belcher this week for their meeting.

Mayor Dickerson opened the floor for discussion on solar energy equipment. Harrell asked what were the state guidelines and whether it was solar only. Hartley stated that it was any equipment that provides solar energy. He was unsure whether it would apply to geo-thermal. Vittum stated that there are federal and state tax credits for alternate energy sources. Clark would like to be able to decide something tonight. She does not see a lot of citizens spending that kind of money. Harrell asked if we needed to put a time limit on the exemption. Council thought five (5) years would be adequate.

Hartley stated that Council could amend the draft ordinance to state a term of five (5) years. He stated that the Town could amend the ordinance again in five (5) years and decide what they think at that time. Clark asked how the Town went about this. Vittum stated that the Finance Department would get the tax ticket and make a manual adjustment for the credit.

Clark made a motion to approve Ordinance No: 2014-05 to exempt certified solar energy equipment, facilities or devices from taxation for a term of five (5) years. Harrell seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Munsey, Williams, Eaton, Journell, Harrell and Clark. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

ADOPTED: November 10, 2014

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-05

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 66, TAXATION OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF PEARISBURG, VIRGINIA, 1979, AS AMENDED, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 66-37, EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION OF CERTIFIED SOLAR ENERGY EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES OR DEVICES.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Town Council of the Town of Pearisburg, Virginia, 7 of the elected members concurring, that:

Section 1. A new section is added to the Code of the Town of Pearisburg as follows:

Section 66-37. EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION OF CERTIFIED SOLAR ENERGY EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES OR DEVICES.

Section 2. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 58.1-3661, certified solar energy equipment, facilities or devices as defined herein shall exempt from taxation.

Section 3: As used in this ordinance the following definitions shall apply:

"Solar Energy Equipment, Facilities or Devices" means any property, including real or personal property, equipment, facilities, or devices, certified by the Local Certifying Authority to be designed and used primarily for the purpose of providing for the collection and use of incident solar energy for water heating, space heating or cooling or other application which would otherwise require a conventional source of energy such as petroleum products, natural gas, or electricity.

"Local certifying authority" means the Giles County Building Department. Certifications shall be made pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development setting forth criteria for certifiable solar energy equipment.

Section 4: Any person residing in the Town of Pearisburg may proceed to have Solar Energy Equipment, Facilities or Devices certified as exempt, wholly or partially, from taxation by applying to the Giles County building department. Whenever the Giles County Commissioner of Revenue has received a certificate from the Giles County Building Department approving an application for exemption from taxation of Solar Energy Equipment, Facilities or Devices, and whenever the Commissioner of Revenue has determined the value of such qualifying Solar Energy Equipment, Facilities or Devices, then such Solar Energy Equipment, Facilities or Devices shall be exempt from taxation. The exemption provided by this section shall be determined by applying the Town of Pearisburg Real Estate Tax Rate to the value of such Solar Energy Equipment, Facilities or Devices and subtracting such amount, wholly, from the

total real property tax due on the real property to which such Solar Energy Equipment, Facilities or Devices are attached. This exemption shall be effective beginning in the next succeeding tax year after the Commissioner of Revenue determines the value of such Solar Energy Equipment, Facilities or Devices, and shall be permitted for a term of five years. For assessments of new construction, the exemption shall be first effective when such real estate is first assessed, but not prior to the date of such application for exemption.

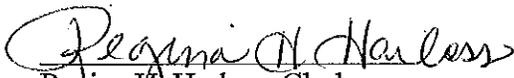
Section 5: It shall be presumed for purposes of the administration of ordinances pursuant to this section, and for no other purposes, that the value of such qualifying solar energy equipment, facilities and devices is not less than the normal cost of purchasing and installing such equipment, facilities and devices.

Section 6: This ordinance shall be in effect immediately upon its passage.

This 10th day of November, 2014.

APPROVED: 
Robert L. Dickerson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Regina M. Harless, Clerk

Council discussed the estimate from Take it Outside to do the landscaping for the Municipal building. Mayor Dickerson asked Tawney if he thought we could do this in house. Council would like to know how long the company would guarantee the plants. Munsey asked if the landscaping could be eligible for an Arts Grant. Vittum did not believe this would be an eligible item. Vittum asked Council if they had any suggestions on the landscaping. Journell noticed that the estimate did not include labor for installation. Eaton wondered if it would be feasible for Take it Outside to do the design and purchase of plants and our staff do the installation. Tawney was concerned whether the company would guarantee the plants if we planted them. Vittum stated that we would need to get some in ground soon or wait for spring. Eaton felt we needed to fill the void in front of the Town Hall and do a story with the sculpture and Mr. Bowman. She felt his work needed to be featured. She asked the status on getting the water feature repaired. Clark asked who would be responsible for fixing the fountain. Tawney stated that staff is trying to find some parts to make the repairs. Journell asked how the town would pay for the

landscaping. Vittum stated that there was extra funds available in the contingency line item of the budget. He felt we need to contact Take it Outside and see if it would be good to plant at this time or wait until spring. Journell would like to see an estimate on what it would cost to do the labor and installation. Harless stated she would contact Take it Outside and gather more information for Council. She will find out how long the the estimate is good. Whether they would agree to supervise the work and our guys do the installation or if Take if Outside would need to do everything. Vittum thought we could be preparing the area now with topsoil. Council will wait for more information and discuss this on November 19th.

Clark asked if Council need to vote on the funding for the Christmas lights to be put up by the 4-H as part of the upcoming Small Town Christmas. Vittum stated that staff would purchase the lights and the 4-H would reimburse the Town.

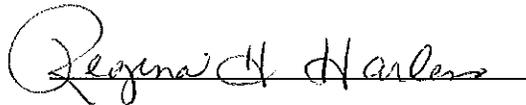
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:



Mayor Robert L. Dickerson

ATTEST:



Regina H. Harless, Town Clerk