

The Pearisburg Town Council met in Regular Session on April 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. jointly with Pearisburg Planning Commission at the Pearisburg Town Hall. Present for the Meeting were: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Munsey, Williams (Planning Commission), Journell, Eaton, Harrell and Clark; Town Attorney Hartley; Planning Commission Members Robertson and Collins; Town Manager Vittum; Town Engineer Tawney; Building Official Wilson, Chief Martin, Town Clerk Harless and Assistant Town Clerk Hazelwood. Also present Scott Moye, Joe N. Shanks Jr., Eric Thwaites, Mason Boggess, Corky Bailey, Jeffrey L. Morris, Chris Phillips, Dora Williams, Jacqueline T. Hannon, Linda Thornhill, Kevin Belcher, Pat Mullins, Roger Mullins, Josh Williams, Flois B. Evans, Gary L. Fields, Chris McKlarney, John Ross, Roberta D. Dickerson, Chad Tickle, Vera Epling, Richard McCoy, Maggie Hicks, Mark Hicks, Nick Clark, Chad Journell, Audrea Journell, P. Scott Hundley, Eric Gentry and Helen Wallace, citizens; and Zach Guynn, Virginian Leader.

Councilwoman Journell led the pledge of allegiance.

Williams made a motion to approve the March 8, 2016 Regular Council minutes. Munsey 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.

Eaton made a motion that the Parade Permit submitted by Dr. Nick Clark Pearisburg Eye Associates for a 5/10 K be approved. Journell 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.

Collins called the Planning Commission to order.

Mayor Dickerson opened the joint Public Hearing with Planning Commission on a Conditional Use Permit submitted by Giles County for converting the old hospital building into governmental offices using a phased approach. Collins opened the Public Hearing for the Planning Commission.

Chris McKlarney presented a power point presentation on the Giles County Conditional Use Permit. The old hospital was constructed in 1950 and served the community 60 years. In 2010 the hospital relocated to their new location. He stated that in 2013 the Board of Supervisors began looking at need for a new Sheriff's Office. The existing Sheriff's Office is over 100 years old. In 1996 the current-911 facility was last renovated and is outdated. They looked at county buildings and other offsite options for a new facility. They chose the Wades

site but the estimate came in \$900,000 over budget. The proposed new facility was going to be very basic and only house the Sheriff's Office and 911 Center.

McKlarney stated that the next option they considered was utilizing the former old Giles Hospital facility which is approximately 65,000 square feet. He stated that the shell is constructed and they would do a phase build-out and relocate County offices. The current School Board Office is in poor repair. They would like to relocate the Health Department to provide more needed space for court services. The current Timberlake building is maxed out on space. The courts would utilize the downstairs for juvenile probation and other needed offices. The dispatch and sheriff's offices would take up 13,000 sq. ft. on the main floor and the Health Department around 5,880 on the second floor. Currently there are two tenants in the old hospital building.

McKlarney went over concerns and issues that have come to their attention. He stated that the traffic should be less than when the hospital was there. The hospital had 150 employees along with the patients and visitors. The County employees 53 on any given day. The traffic should be considerably less. The concern about officers responding to calls in at high speed should be minimal because around 95% of the calls are answered by deputies already in the field. The officers are trained to drive in residential areas. He stated that running sirens and lights at night was in the Code of Virginia. Lights are required and you use your judgement on the use of sirens. He addressed the concern about detainees and the use of the sally port. The sally port is a holding area for booking until they are transported to the New River Valley Regional Jail. The typical time for holding does not exceed 3 hours. The inmate work force crews consist of 6 inmates accompanied by armed guards and already works at this site. The County plans to provide screening for the Country Club pool in the form of landscaping and fencing.

Council addressed McKlarney at this time with questions and concerns. Harrell asked how much they planned to spend on renovations. McKlarney stated that it will cost \$3.5 million which included the building renovations and equipment. It would cost an additional \$1 million to construct a new facility. Journell asked what the negatives were for use of the Industrial Park. McKlarney stated that the access was better but cost was an issue. The Sheriff's Office chose the industrial park over the Wades location. Journell asked about the possibility placing it at the school board office. McKlarney stated that the structure was not feasible and the electrical and mechanical was in need of replacement.

McKlarney answered questions from the public. Mark Hicks asked where the magistrates office would be located. McKlarney indicated the location on the map. Hicks suggested placing it elsewhere.

Flo Evans asked where the entrance to the Health Department would be located and if there would be access to the elevators. McKlarney stated that it would be accessible through the main front doors and there would be elevator access to the second floor to the Health Department.

Corky Bailey asked about the timeframe for completion. McKlarney stated that it would take between 16 and 18 months. He stated that if the conditional use was approved it would allow for any type of county offices and plans are to relocate the County Admin, School Board, Dispatch, Sheriff's Office and Health Dept. This will be a phased type development. Corky Bailey asked what the plans were for the vacant buildings. McKlarney stated that they would look at leasing or selling the school board property. There are no set plans at this time for the other buildings. They have looked at various options.

Linda Thornhill asked about using a facility at the industrial park that they own. McKlarney explained that they only owned land at the industrial park and not a building. They really like the idea of the old hospital which has an emergency generator. They could not afford to put one in a new facility. There are many very positive attributes with the proposed location.

Roger Mullins asked what would be done with the current building that houses the Sheriff's Office. McKlarney stated they have considered some different options but no decision has been made. The building needs a new roof which would cost \$75,000. It could be used for storage.

Corky Bailey stated that she had only been made aware of this last month. She asked if it had been made public knowledge. McKlarney stated that there had been several public meetings on the proposed relocation and it was covered in the Virginian Leader. The Board of Supervisors has not been required to hold a public hearing. They would need to have one only for the financing. Bailey asked what the odds of a road being built down through the field were in the future. McKlarney stated that this would be very expensive and is not being considered at this time.

Pat Mullins asked when a decision was made to move the facility. McKlarney stated that they had just recently made a decision. He stated that they took bids in October and the Board

of Supervisors rejected the bids. She asked about the buildings they owned in the Industrial Park. McKlarney stated that they own a site but not a building. Giles Rescue owns their building. He stated that Caterpillar owns the other building that is vacant.

Corky Bailey asked if there would be any emergency vehicles including ambulances coming and going. McKlarney stated that they have not considered using the old hospital for EMS. He could see a portion of Giles Rescue Squad building being used at some point for ambulance services. There is nothing being considered at this time. She is concerned with traffic on Buchanan Street. She stated that there will be noise 24/7, the police will be driving faster than 25 and she is concerned about the safety for children in the area. She was also concerned about pedophiles near the daycare and prisoners escaping.

Mark Hicks stated that he is a criminal defense attorney. He has recently purchased property adjoining the old hospital and is building a home. He expected the old hospital to be used at some point but did not think it's use would include a sally port and magistrate's office. The magistrate's office in Pulaski is at the regional jail. It normally takes around an hour and 15 minutes to process things with the magistrate. Therefore, there will be increased traffic. He does not feel it's a good idea to place the proposed use where families live. He stated that if clients see him outside his home they will know where he lives. These clients may not be happy with him. He feels it's a safety concern having the daycare and school that close to the facility. He does not feel it's a conducive use of the building.

Maggie Hicks stated that she is glad someone is looking at using the old hospital but is concerned about this type of use. She is concerned about placing the Sheriff's Office at this location. She did not know they were proposing a sally port. She did not know detainees would be driven up and down the street. These are not normal citizens. They have either committed a crime or been accused of committing a crime. It is not a plus for that type of business to be implanted into that area. She felt that the elected town and county officials should look at the safety issues.

Scott Hundley spoke on behalf of his parents who reside at 206 Buchanan Street. He agrees with what the previous speakers have said. He asked Council to not be hasty in making a decision and look at all the options.

Chad Journell stated that he resides on Easton Road. He agrees that the Sheriff's Office does need a new office but he does not feel the old hospital site is the location. He has a 7-year

old that plays on a busy road. There is a blind curve off Easton Road. He did not want to see more traffic in the area. He stated that we are looking at different clientele. He feels we are setting ourselves up for a disaster. He is not happy with the idea of police coming out of that neighborhood. He felt the best solution was to look at more options and give them the building they deserve. He has never seen a Sheriff's Office in a residential area.

Roger Mullins addressed Council and Planning and thanked them for allowing this to happen tonight. He stated that the big thing he is hearing tonight is that the leaders are not listening. He hopes that we listen. He stated that the area residents had met last night to discuss the proposed use of the old hospital. He stated that the biggest concern is the Sheriff's Office and Magistrate's Office. He has no objection about 9 to 5 business utilizing the facility. He stated that McKlarney gave a good explanation on how they got to this point. He stated that with law enforcement vehicles located at the facility there will be emergency calls. He felt they would respond aggressively and hopes they will do so in a safe manner. There are certain times a day there is severe traffic congestion on key pick-up and drop-off times at the daycare.

Josh Williams stated that he resides on the corner of Buchanan and Henson. He moved there two years ago mainly because it was a quiet street. He did not feel the street was wide enough for two cars to pass. He wondered if there were any plans for sidewalks in the future. He felt the value of the homes would decrease.

Mayor Dickerson read the letter received from Imagination Station to Giles County Board of Supervisors supporting the proposed Sheriff's Department being relocated to the old Giles Hospital. It stated they had surveyed several parents and they were in favor of relocation.

Eric Gentry stated that he had been a resident of Giles County and presently serves on the School Board. He stated that adapted reuse is what he would like to think we are doing. He felt we need to be adaptive with what we are given. If a new facility is constructed it would cost a million dollars more than relocation. He would like to see the school board office be moved to the hospital. The infrastructure, electrical and HVAC are in need of repair. He would also like to see the Stem Lab for kids K-12 have a place they could use and keep projects set up. He felt it was not just a EMS center but a community facility.

Helen Wallace stated that she had been on all sides of the situation. She felt that if the citizens heard that Buchanan Street was in a 15 year plan it might encourage the homeowners.

Pat Mullins stated the parents of the daycare facility were not told everything. They did not understand what all it entailed. She hopes it will be tabled.

Hearing no further comments Mayor Dickerson closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Dickerson referred the matter back to the Planning Commission to discuss and comment back to Council for their regular May meeting. Collins adjourned the Planning Commission at this time. The next Planning Commission meeting will be on April 19, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Council approved the following Consent Items and Reports: Police, Finance, Recreation, Building Permit, Manager, Water and Fire for March 2016.

Harrell reported on the Public Safety Committee. She stated that the Fire Department siren battery over charges and estimates to eliminate the systems are being gathered. There are three members enrolled in Fire Fighter I training. There were no recommendations.

Journell reported on the Property and Recreation Committee. The Community Center cafeteria flooring has been replaced with tile and the committee thought it looked great. She stated that most of the fixtures had been replaced in the men's bathroom. They discussed burning bushes and placing them along the rock wall adjoining the Town Park beside PATS building. There were no recommendations.

Eaton reported on the Finance Committee. She stated that they had discussed several budget items. The Committee asked staff to continue to budget for the full contribution rate for VRS and to use the current Health Insurance Plan in the draft budget. She asked Council to provide questions regarding a Computer Service Agreement for additional feedback from the vendor and to direct those questions to Harless or Vittum.

The Committee made a recommendation that Council approve refunds of Personal Property Taxes abated by the Commissioner of Revenue as follows: (Rubie Clear/Myra Sanders for \$278.08 and Charles Dotson for \$316.41. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Munsey, Williams, Eaton, Journell, Harrell and Clark. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Council looked at a sample of the proposed art made of concrete and recycled glass from the river. The River Art is being worked on by students and citizens. It will set in concrete and stand about 5 feet high.

The Committee made a recommendation that Council approve a Sub-grant of \$500.00 to the Giles Arts Council for Nikki Pynn Sculpture Project. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Journell, Harrell and Clark. Voting no: Williams and Munsey. The recommendation carried by a vote of 5 to 2.

Munsey reported on the Public Works Committee. He stated that the Committee reviewed the status of leak detection to help reduce loss. He reported that Goodwill planned to build on the lot just behind the car wash off of Boxwood Lane.

The Committee made a recommendation that Council approve the paving bid from AAA Paving and Sealing for \$105.00 a ton. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Munsey, Williams, Eaton, Journell, Harrell and Clark. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

The Committee made a recommendation that Council approve the ½ ton truck bid from Duncan Automotive for \$20,868.00. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Munsey, Williams, Eaton, Journell, Harrell and Clark. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

The Committee made a recommendation that Council approve the one-ton truck bid from Duncan Automotive for \$29,340.00. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Munsey, Williams, Eaton, Journell, Harrell and Clark. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Eaton asked when will paving be completed. Tawney stated that he would like it done by end of May. Eaton asked if there was any update on next year. Vittum stated that VDOT would not be funding the Town request next year.

Clark asked if the contact person at the Christ Fellowship Church was alright with the Town placing a new crosswalk and eliminating the current crosswalk in front of the Community Center. Eaton stated that the other crosswalks in town need to be refreshed. Tawney will look into getting them done.

Munsey asked about the status of a new location on town property for the PSA recycling bins. This was discussed at the last meeting. Vittum stated that it was suggested moving them from Macy School to the old town shop. He will get with the PSA and follow-up.

Mayor Dickerson recognized Board of Supervisors members McCoy and Morris attending the meeting.

Vittum updated Council on Virginia's First. He stated that the most recent update was included in the April 7<sup>th</sup> Memo to Council. He stated that the resolution was passed and Pearisburg cast a no vote. It amended payback time for refund of dues to a two-year period. The amount is reduced by this action to \$118,493. They also passed the withdrawal policy which Vittum voted no as directed by Council. The policy was adopted by a majority vote. He made an offer to the other entities to purchase the shares. The Pulaski Representative was interested but stating they are approaching 50% in the authority. They primarily wanted to talk about the 680 shares the town owns outright that was purchased in 2011. They may be interested in purchasing at a significant face value reduction. These shares are separate from the ones we pay \$5900 a year. Vittum stated that if the Withdrawal Resolution is approved before June 30, 2016 the required dues would be reduced by another \$5,000. Finance has included the annual payment in the upcoming draft budget.

Vittum reported on the Planning Project. He asked if Council had any questions about Dianne Dinger's Report. Clark stated that she would provide the Consultant Committee reporting during Executive Session. Council moved any decision on the upcoming contracts on the agenda until after they come out of Executive Session.

Munsey made a motion to appoint Amanda Moye to serve the unexpired Planning Commission vacant term ending June 30, 2019. Clark 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.

Staff will provide Council with the list from Clark and Eaton to be considered for the vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council at the next meeting.

Vittum explained the Appalachian Power Franchise Renewal. He stated that a Public Hearing will be needed for this item and should be called for at the regular May meeting. The Town would look at awarding the franchise for \$500. Hartley stated that the renewal is done every 30 years. He stated that state law required the locality to have a public hearing. Vittum stated that Hartley had reviewed the documents on the renewal and recommends Council moving forward with adoption of the ordinance.

Munsey made a motion that Council hold a public hearing on the Appalachian Power Franchise Renewal and adopt the Ordinance. Clark 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.

On a motion by Williams, seconded by Eaton, passed by the following recorded vote, Mayor Dickerson, yes; Council Members Williams, yes; Eaton, yes; Munsey, yes; Harrell, yes; Journell, yes; Clark, yes; Council went into Executive Session as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A) (1), for discussion, consideration or interviews of candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the Town of Pearisburg: Consultant and Administration; as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (3), for discussion or consideration of a matter involving the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the Town's bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Town: Whitt-Riverbend Park and Boxwood Right of Way; and Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A) (7), for consultation with legal counsel, and the briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Town; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the Town regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of the legal advice by such counsel: 7-Day Market.

On a motion by Munsey, seconded by Williams, passed by the following recorded vote, Mayor Dickerson, yes; Council Members Williams, yes; Eaton, yes; Munsey, yes; Harrell, yes; Journell, yes; Clark, yes; Council returned to regular session.

On a motion by Williams, seconded by Munsey, and passed by the following recorded vote, Mayor Dickerson, yes; Council Members Williams, yes; Eaton, yes; Munsey, yes; Harrell, yes; Journell, yes; Clark, yes; Council certified that the subject discussed in this Executive Session was the subject identified in the motion to go into Executive Session and only that subject, and that Council discussed no other subject while in Executive Session.

Clark moved that council approve the Cooking Class Coordinator/Lead Chef contract and the Grant Management contract and table the Media Coordinator contract until a meeting of the Grant Committee (Clark and Journell). Munsey seconds the motion. Voting aye: Dickerson, Williams, Munsey, Harrell, Journell, Clark, and Eaton. The motion passed 7-0.

There was general discussion of the Conditional Use Permit and the concerns expressed by residents of this proposal. No action was taken as this will go to Planning Commission on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

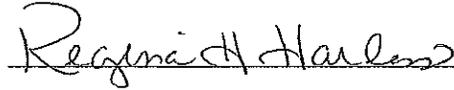
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Mayor Robert L. Dickerson



Regina H. Harless, Town Clerk