

The Pearisburg Town Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at the Pearisburg Municipal Building in the Council Chambers. Present for the meeting was Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Journell, Ballard and Williams; Town Attorney Hartley; Town Manager Meredith; Town Engineer Tawney; Police Chief Martin; and Town Clerk Harless. Also present was Betty Herbert of the Giles Arts Council; and Zach Guynn, Virginian Leader.

Williams made a motion to approve the minutes to the Regular February 14, 2017 Council Meeting. Ballard seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Journell, Ballard and Williams. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Betty Herbert, Giles Arts Council (GAC) member addressed Council on the Arts Challenge Grant. She asked Council to think outside the box and consider placing a living mosaic using perennial plants and shrubs in the Town Park. GAC would like to place it between the concrete slab in the sink hole and below the walking trail. The mural would be ever changing during the season. Herbert suggested planting Cardinal Dogwoods which grow like a shrub and they are pale green in spring and dark green in the summer. She stated that many vibrant colors would be planted that interchange with the seasons. GAC would work with Virginia Tech Landscape Architecture and Horticulture Departments to assist in the design. GAC would assist the town in getting volunteers to help maintain the living mosaic. Herbert asked Council to keep in mind it would take a few years for the plants to fully develop the mosaic. The mosaic landscape would be visible from Wenonah Avenue, the walking trail and other areas in the park.

Ballard inquired about the upkeep and maintenance needed for the living mosaic. Herbert stated that it would only need to be pruned routinely and require little maintenance. Ballard asked who would be doing the maintenance. Herbert indicated a master gardener would only be needed to get the plants established and volunteers would maintain the mosaic. Eaton suggested placing picnic tables on the slab. She felt the mosaic and picnic tables would help with beautification in the park. She was a little concerned about the budgeted amount and if it was sufficient. Herbert indicated she was comfortable with the amount. She planned to work with nurseries and clubs to obtain the plants.

Herbert updated Council on the quilt mural coming into town. GAC reached Cat who was the artist that designed the mural and painted it. She has given Nikki Penn permission to use the

design and paint the mural. They plan to paint the mural on panels mounted on the wall. This way the moisture from the building will not be an issue. Herbert is working on getting the owner's permission and the mural would be redone this summer.

Journell made a motion to approve staff submitting the Grant Application for the matching Local Commission on the Arts Challenge Grant for 2017-2018. Harrell seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Journell, Ballard and Williams. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Harrell reported on the Public Safety Committee. They did not have a quorum but discussed several items. Chief Stump asked if a budget line item could be created in the Fire Department Building Fund to track donations and expenditures for fire prevention initiatives. Manager Meredith was asked to create the line item. The Committee reviewed a letter written by a citizen complementing Officer Spicer for his professionalism during a traffic stop.

Journell made a motion that the monthly Fire Report for February be approved. Harrell seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Journell, Ballard and Williams. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Williams made a motion that the monthly Police Report for February be approved. Eaton seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Journell, Ballard and Williams. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Journell reported on the Property and Recreation Committee. She stated that improvements in the Community Center main bathrooms on enclosures have been completed along with renovations to the men's bathroom at the library. Staff has approved and received fees for Troy Williams Erosion and Sediment Control permit and bond. There were no recommendations.

Harrell reported on the Finance Committee. The Committee suggested staff meeting with the Giles County Treasurer to gain information regarding their tax collection policies. They discussed online payment software and advised staff to move forward on purchasing software from Harris to begin online payments July 1. Staff will no longer take payments over the phone or use the current online payment system after March 31. Once the new system is in place July 1 online payments will be accepted again. The Committee advised the Town Manager to move forward on signing the contract with Ricoh for the Document Mall program. The Committee had

no problems with the Recreation Director using her staff to run the ballfield concession stand this year.

The Committee recommended that Council approve a refund on Personal Property Tax for William C. Eason Jr. in the amount of \$15.00 for 2014-2015 tax years. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Journell, Ballard and Williams. The recommendation carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Council discussed the request from Suzanne Whittaker for reduced rent on Shelton Place space for Aly Katz. Meredith had prepared a spreadsheet showing the current agreement and the proposed agreement with Ms. Whittaker.

The Committee recommended Council approve the requested adjustment to the incentive package for Ms. Whittaker's lease on Shelton Place as shown. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Journell and Williams. Voting no: Ballard. The recommendation carried by a vote of 5 to 1.

Incentive Package Comparison for the Lease on Shelton Place

Month	<u>Current Agreement</u>			<u>Proposed Agreement</u>		
	Whittaker	Town	Corrected Town	Whittaker	Town	Corrected Town
November	\$350.00	\$850.00	\$900.00	\$350.00	\$850.00	\$900.00
December	\$350.00	\$850.00	\$900.00	\$350.00	\$850.00	\$900.00
January	\$450.00	\$750.00	\$800.00	\$450.00	\$750.00	\$800.00
February	\$450.00	\$750.00	\$800.00	\$450.00	\$750.00	\$800.00
March	\$550.00	\$650.00	\$700.00	\$550.00	\$650.00	\$700.00
April	\$550.00	\$650.00	\$700.00	\$200.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00
May	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00
June	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00
July	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00
August	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00
September	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$900.00	\$900.00
October	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$900.00	\$900.00
Totals	\$10,200.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,800.00	\$3,850.00	\$10,900.00	\$11,150.00

Council discussed the Business Incentive Grant Policy. Meredith stated that he had some concerns about the same businesses getting the grant repetitively. He made a change to No. 3 by adding in excess of two (2) times in a 5-year period. There were no restrictions on the previous policy. Meredith changed the deadline to September on No. 8. He felt it would be good to award the grants in September and require the business to make their improvements by May 1 of the following year and then submit receipts as noted in No. 4. He added a phrase to No. 6 that the business may be required to submit financial records. He changed No. 2 to read a match of 100% instead of the owner must invest \$50,000 in the new business.

Eaton made a motion to approve the revised Business Incentive Grant Policy. Harrell seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Journell, Ballard and Williams. The recommendation carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Eaton made a motion that the MDO board for the murals at the PATS building be paid out of the general fund at the estimated cost of \$500. Harrell seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Journell, Ballard and Williams. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Eaton reported on the Public Works Committee. The water loss for January was 34.48%. The Committee was informed by Tawney of a sewer line in VDOT parking lot that was crushed by a piece of their heavy equipment. The parts have been ordered and the line will be repaired soon.

The Committee recommended that Council approve AAA Paving and Sealing bid for \$94.75 per ton. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Journell, Ballard and Williams. The recommendation carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Journell reported on the Farmers Market Committee and stated that they are working on preparations for the May 18th kick-off.

Meredith explained to Council that Virginia Tech Design Team is asking for a timeline extension. He stated that VT is requesting an extension of May 31st to allow time to complete final design to present to Council. He stated there would be no additional cost for the extension.

Williams made a motion that Council extend the timeline to May 31st for the Virginia Tech Design Team to finish the Pearisburg Park proposed design for renovations. Ballard seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Journell, Ballard and Williams. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Meredith stated that he had made the changes to the Personnel Policy to include Finance Director and Assistant Finance Director changing to Town Treasurer and Assistant Town Treasurer and needed changes to Finance Clerk and Utility Clerk.

Journell made a motion that Council approve the necessary changes to the Personnel Policy on the Town Treasurer and Assistant Town Treasurer as well as the Finance Clerk and Utility Clerk. Harrell seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Journell, Ballard and Williams. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Journell made a motion that Council approve Ordinance 2017-01 to establish a separate tax rate for motor vehicles owned by a disabled veteran. Ballard seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Journell, Ballard and Williams. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

ADOPTED: March 14, 2017

ORDINANCE NO: 2017-01

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A SEPARATE TAX RATE FOR MOTOR VEHICLES OWNED BY A DISABLED VETERAN PURSUANT TO §58.1-3506(19) OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Town Council of the Town of Pearisburg, Virginia, 6 of the elected members concurring, that:

Section 1. That one (1) motor vehicle owned and regularly used by a veteran who has either lost, or lost the use of, one or both legs, or an arm or a hand, or who is blind or who is permanently and totally disabled as certified by the Department of Veterans Services shall be a separate class of property and shall constitute a classification for local taxation separate from other classifications of tangible personal property. To qualify for such separate classification, the veteran shall provide a written statement to the Commissioner of Revenue of Giles County, Virginia, or other assessing officer from the Department of Veterans Services that the veteran has been so designated or classified by the Department of Veterans Services as to meet the requirements of this section, and that his disability is service-connected. For purposes of this section, a person is blind if he meets the provisions of §46.2-100 of the Code of Virginia.

Section 2. The rate of tax for fiscal year 2017-18 on such a qualifying vehicle shall be \$0.005 per \$100.00 of assessed value.

This 14th day of March, 2017.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:


Robert L. Dickerson, Mayor


Regina H. Harless, Clerk

Meredith stated that the reason this policy has come to our attention recently is that VML Insurance was going to require us to have the policy in place to get the 5% discount on our annual policy fees. After drafting the policy, we were notified by VML that the requirement has been temporarily tabled. Meredith wanted to know how council felt about the policy should VML come back and require us to have one in place. Staff is considering equipment cost to have hands free devices installed in vehicles.

Hartley stated that we found out after the policy was drafted that state law exempts emergency personnel. Meredith stated the he drafted the policy from a VML model. Eaton, felt we could use the policy and make some modifications. She would like to see the hands-free removed and have it directed more to texting for town personnel except emergency personnel should be exempt. Council discussed the cell phone use with Chief Martin. Martin indicated that lots of serious calls are by cell phone now because most citizens have scanners and have portables. He stated that if an officer is rolling at high speed on a call they are skilled to know when not to be on a phone. Meredith asked Martin if it would be beneficial to have Bluetooth in the vehicles. Martin felt that it would and the last estimated cost he had was \$295. Meredith asked Martin if he felt it would be safer. Martin felt it would be a good idea.

Ballard brought up a situation that if an employee is driving and texting and has an accident could the other party could sue the town. If a town employee is violating the state law that would be a standard of negligence that would help prove the case. It may be a situation that you are driving the speed limit in town and you did not see person run out in front of you because you were on the phone. There are situations where an employee could violate state code. Staff should insure the employee take note of state law and that they could be disciplined for any violations.

Meredith asked if we could make the policy more restrictive. Hartley stated that this would be a civil policy of the town. The town is entitled to set those policies. The Town could make it more restrictive if they desired. He also stated there should be exceptions to emergency personnel mentioned in the policy. Ballard felt it was a good idea to have a policy in place and exclude emergency personnel. Council agreed a policy should be drafted and brought back to council for review and approval.

On a motion by Williams, seconded by Ballard, passed by the following recorded vote, Mayor Dickerson, yes; Council Members Eaton, yes; Williams, yes; Ballard, yes; Harrell, yes;

Journell, yes; and Clark, absent; Council went into Executive Session as permitted by Virginia Code Section 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 Council went into Executive Session as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (29), for discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Town.

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

On a motion by Journell, seconded by Eaton, and passed by the following recorded vote, Mayor Dickerson, yes; Council Members Eaton, yes; Williams, yes; Ballard, yes; Harrell, yes; Journell, yes; and Clark, absent; 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.

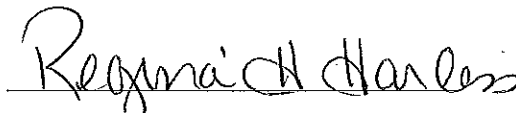
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Mayor Robert L. Dickerson



Regina H. Harless, Town Clerk