

Pearisburg Town Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pearisburg Municipal Building Council Chambers. Present for the meeting was Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Williams, Harrell, Clark, Journell and Ballard; Town Attorney Hartley; Town Manager Meredith; Assistant Town Clerk Hazelwood; Police Chief Martin, Building Official Wilson and Town Engineer Tawney. Also present was Zach Guynn, Virginian Leader.

Harrell made a motion to approve and accept the Regular April 11, 2017 Council Minutes. Journell seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Williams, Harrell, Clark, Journell and Ballard. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Clark reported on the Public Safety Committee. The Committee had discussed adding signage to Bluff City to notify drivers of a bus stop. Tawney stated that he would look into it. Eaton asked if information has been given to the County for the fire grant. Meredith stated that he would gather more information.

Ballard reported on the Property and Recreation Committee. Recreation Director Martin was commended for all her hard work. Hartley asked if the Ozone Rules dealing with lightning strikes applied to Pearisburg Recreation Department or if it was an example. Ballard stated that the Recreation Department did adhere to those rules. Hartley stated that the policy should be updated to state it was for our Recreation Department and that it would require no council action to do so.

The Finance Committee had discussed Community Center improvements and referred that to full council. Wilson advised the Council with regards to putting carpet in Room 2 of the Community Center. He stated that if the tile was put down that it would not match. Wilson stated that the construction joint in the floor had done what it was supposed to do and that the separation was confined to one area. Eaton asked if the \$4,600 could be used more effectively on another area of the Community Center. Clark asked if repairing the floor would change the elevation. Wilson stated that it would. Meredith asked if the crack presented any foundation issues. Wilson stated that it did not and that a study had been done by Virginia Tech which showed no foundational issues. Eaton asked Wilson if he had looked at the concrete steps on the ball field side of the building. Wilson stated that he was waiting for better weather to apply non-shrink grout. He stated that doing so would just be a patch. He stated that to properly fix them that we would need to take the existing concrete steps out, pour and form new steps. He stated that we should look for a professional to do that work. Eaton stated that inmates had recently

done this type of work for the County and that we should see if they could provide assistance. Wilson also stated that a patch was needed on the sidewalk of the Community Center. He stated that he would check on pricing. Wilson stated that it was a little late in the season to begin work on electrical upgrades.. He stated that he would prefer to wait until after the Festival and the new fiscal year. He stated that the front lawn would be torn up while this work was going on. Eaton asked if using the \$4,600 for the steps and sidewalk would be a better use of the funds than using them to repair Room 2. Ballard stated that the steps were a safety concern and should be a priority. Eaton stated that the other side of the building was in better shape, but may need work in a few years.

The Committee recommended that council approve the use of inmates to help with projects identified by staff. Inmates will not be scheduled to work around children. . Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Williams, Harrell, Clark, Journell and Ballard. The recommendation carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Harrell reported on the Finance Committee. She stated that the committee had discussed a photocopy/fax fee for employees. The Committee recommended Council approve a \$1,000 contribution to the Pearisburg Festival out of the "General" expenditure line item. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Clark, Harrell, Ballard, Jason and Williams. The recommendation carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Eaton reported on the Public Works Committee. The water loss for March was 36.61%. The Committee discussed paving. Eaton reported that the paving had been completed and that paperwork had been submitted to VDOT for reimbursement of \$60,000. The committee discussed grease removal. It was reported 3,500 gallons of grease had been removed from two areas of the sewer system. Hartley asked if the grease was coming from restaurants. Tawney stated that it was coming from homes and businesses. Hartley asked if inspections were done and if violation resulted in fines. Tawney stated that inspections were done but the wording in the ordinance needed to be changed regarding fees for violation.

The Committee discussed an issue with water deposits. Staff has noticed that when water is cut off to a piece of rental property with multiple tenants, another resident will open a water account in their name without the outstanding balance being paid. Council discussed several options to resolve this issue. They felt that all past bills must be paid before water could be turned back on. It was asked if the landlord could be held responsible for past due bills when the tenants leave without a forwarding address. It was felt that a higher deposit for renters may be

needed and that the landlord would also have to sign the water deposit form. Hartley stated that the past due balance could follow the home and not the renter as do taxes. Tawney and Hartley will review this option and develop an ordinance.

The Committee discussed a request by Tawney to cut dead or dying trees in town. Tawney stated that some of the trees in town had been attacked by wood bores. He stated that the trees are not likely to recover. Eaton asked if the trees were dying. She stated that they had leaves on them. She felt they just needed to be better maintained. Tawney stated that he would give them another year of growth. Williams felt that removing them would be the best option. Ballard asked if planting trees back in the municipal parking lot would present a problem. Tawney stated that he would not know until the stumps had been removed. Williams stated that there was a tree at the library that needed to be looked at.

Williams made a motion that Tawney be given permission to remove trees at his discretion. Harrell seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Ballard, Clark, Journell and Williams. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Clark reported on the Farmers Market Sub-Committee. She stated that the opening day of the market would be May 18, 2017. She asked that councilmembers attend for opening remarks by the Mayor and Town Manager. She informed members that efforts were being well received and a calendar of events had been provided for their review.

Williams made a motion that Council approve a Parade Permit Applications for the Walk for Jesus event to be held on May 31, 2017. Eaton seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Clark, Harrell, Ballard, Journell and Williams. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Council discussed the Shentel easement. Hartley stated that it had moved back to the corner of the lot and would not cut into the parking area.

Ballard made a motion to accept the request from Shentel for an easement. Williams seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Harrell, Ballard, Clark, Journell and Williams. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Council discussed the Invoice Cloud Financial Software contract. Meredith discussed the associated fees. Ballard asked if we had looked at other options that would not have a cost to the consumers such as bank pay. Harrell stated that the online system that had been in place was not viable and was adding additional costs to the consumer. Meredith stated that it was a convenience fee and that people would be willing to pay it. Eaton agreed. Ballard expressed his

opposition to using a system that would add additional fees to the consumer. Hazelwood stated that there had never been more than 20 customers per month utilizing the online bill pay for utility payments. Hartley stated that other options should be researched that may be more cost effective for the town and the consumer. He stated that it was an automatic renewal on the contract and that to get out of it you would have to give a 90-day notice.

Harrell made a motion to table this until Meredith could research other options. Clark seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson, Council Members Eaton, Journell, Clark, Ballard, Harrell and Williams. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

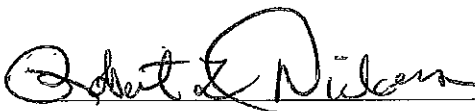
Meredith presented the engineering contract for Inflow & Infiltration. He stated that he, Tawney and Wilson had opened the sealed bids and reviewed them. He stated that they had ranked the firms and would start negotiating with the first choice. Hartley stated that council approval would be needed to move forward. Tawney stated that Hurt & Proffitt, formerly Anderson & Associates, has worked with the Town for many years and that we have a good working relationship with them. Meredith stated that prior experience with previous projects was one indicator that the firm can complete the work satisfactorily. Hartley stated that should have merit.

Ballard made a motion to proceed with Hurt & Proffitt. Williams seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson, Council Members Eaton, Journell, Clark, Ballard, Harrell and Williams. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Mayor Robert L. Dickerson



Lynne Hazelwood, Assistant Town Clerk