

February 10, 2020

The regular monthly meeting was held on Monday, February 10, 2020 in the Council Chambers on Dunne Ave. The meeting started at 7:00 pm.

Present: Mayor Wayne Marshall; Council: Dan Matthews, Sam Welch, Vince Savona, Julie Nash, Frank Russell; Public Works Director Danny Siegert; Police Chief Greer; and Clerk Letitia Greer. Absent: Councilman John Parks.

Visitors: Diann Bendix, Carl Thornton, Betty Farley, Richard Taylor, Donna Phillips, Karrie Phillips, Kim Smith, Scott Smith, Debbie Russell, Alan Russell, Jerry McCorkle, Connie Taylor, Marilyn Wohlrab, Ken Midgett, Corey Harte, Rebecca Hudson.

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting and Councilman Welch led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Marshall recognized the guests in attendance.

D Bendix asked if the meeting minutes could be posted on the town's website. Mayor Marshall stated it had been discussed. R Taylor stated that the Mayor had posted a document regarding the water tower on Facebook. Mayor Marshall stated that he had scanned that document to Facebook and would like the minutes posted to the town's website, not Facebook. Clerk Greer stated the office staff had not been trained on how to upload documents to the town's website. R Taylor stated that a 13 year old had helped with another website. Clerk Greer stated there is not a web designer on staff; the town had paid for training for the website, but had not received the training.

D Bendix stated that her trash can lids are bent and cracked because the public works staff puts the lids in the cans; that makes it hard to get the lid back down on the can. Public Works Director Siegert stated they put the lids inside the cans on windy days to keep them from blowing away.

D Bendix asked if K Greer is being paid cop's pay or maintenance pay when doing maintenance work. Chief Greer stated that he wasn't being paid cop's pay. Public Works Director Siegert stated he is being paid what was approved. D Bendix stated she has seen Chief Greer working in the maintenance department picking up trash. Public Works Director Siegert stated Chief Greer is being paid the amount approved for part-time help. D Bendix asked if they had hired Ben back. Public Works Director Siegert confirmed. D Bendix asked why public works needed four people. Public Works Director Siegert explained that he was approved to hire two part-time people, 24 hours each. D Bendix said that was for working on the cop's shift. Councilman Savona stated that the council approved two part time people for public works; Chief Greer is being paid at the public works rate when he is helping public works. Public Works Director Siegert stated it would give him four people one day each week. D Bendix stated that they only had three people before. Public Works Director Siegert stated they were full time; this probably saves money since the town doesn't have to pay benefits.

Mayor Marshall stated the part time public works employees are only being paid hourly wages, the town does not have to pay for benefits including health insurance, vacation, and retirement. C Thornton stated he is glad the town has a police chief willing to pick up trash. D Phillips and Councilman Savona agreed.

C Thornton provided Mayor Marshall with pictures of a residence near his property; the house is in disrepair and he would like it fixed immediately. C Thornton stated there are ordinances in place addressing all of the issues shown in the pictures; he would like Mayor Marshall to have it addressed immediately. C Thornton stated the condition of the house is not fair to the citizens of town or the residents of the property.

C Thornton asked about the procedure to have a house condemned. Public Works Director Siegert stated he was not sure, he had passed the information to the attorney and had not heard back.

Mayor Marshall stated the attorney is currently working on several things for the town; we should wait until those are resolved before changing attorneys.

C Thornton said the town spends money on the library, fairs, and activities in Parksley; the town needs to address properties in disrepair.

M Wohlrab asked if the town could send any new legal issues to a new attorney. Mayor Marshall agreed that we should probably do that.

Mayor Marshall stated that Attorney Dix is very familiar with the town and has helped the town with many things, including the recent refinancing of the sewage loan. He shared that he and Councilman Welch had met with Attorney Dix and discussed changing attorneys. Mayor Marshall would like to hire an attorney who would attend the monthly council meetings and be able to answer questions such as what the town needs to do to condemn a house. Councilman Welch stated he had reached out to a few attorneys, including those suggested by Attorney Dix, and was not able to find one willing to represent the town. Councilman Savona asked if the town needs to advertise that they are looking for an attorney. Councilman Matthews stated the council needs to find an attorney soon so that expense can be included in the new budget; this is the perfect time. Mayor Marshall agreed. Clerk Greer asked if the town attorney is appointed. Clerk Greer stated that it would depend on how the attorney was paid; if over \$6,000 then we would need to advertise; if we pay the attorney by task, we would not need to advertise.

Councilman Russell stated that Lynwood Lewis had offered his help to the town anytime we needed it; he helps Councilman Russell whenever he has asked. Councilman Russell stated that if something were critical, he was sure Lynwood Lewis would help.

K Midgett asked who would represent the town for a zoning ordinance violation; the Commonwealth Attorney should represent the town.

Mayor Marshall stated he would reach out to Attorney Dix for recommendations for a new attorney.

B Farley thanked Public Works Director Siegert and his employees for cleaning out the alley next to her house.

B Farley stated she would like for the meeting agenda and minutes posted. B Farley stated a resolution was voted on at the previous meeting and only people who knew it was going to happen had attended; many people in town opposed the resolution, but did not attend because they were not aware it was going to be discussed.

D Bendix stated that some people don't have computers.

B Farley stated things should be posted in a known public place, like the town office or post office.

Clerk Greer stated that the resolution was not on the agenda because no one let her know it was going to be discussed.

Councilman Russell stated that he was not aware the resolution was going to be discussed at January's meeting. B Farley stated that the council could've waited until the next meeting to vote on the proposed resolution.

D Bendix stated Chief Greer's raise was discussed and voted on at the same meeting as well. D Bendix stated that some in attendance knew that was going to be voted on and others didn't. Councilman Savona stated Chief Greer's raise is a personnel issue.

D Bendix stated that people attended that were backing Chief Greer up.

Mayor Marshall stated that the town would work on having the agendas posted on Facebook, the website, the town office, and the post office.

B Farley stated she would like for someone to make a motion to rescind the resolution, and for the town to start over and handled correctly. Mayor Marshall stated motions cannot be made until new business.

Clerk Greer stated the resolution had been prepared by someone ahead of time so there was time to have it added to the agenda; nobody notified her that it needed to be added to the agenda.

C Thornton stated that the council meeting is the second Monday of every month; not everything needs to be on the agenda.

K Lewis stated there are issues brought up for discussion at the meetings that could be tabled for a vote at the following meeting.

Councilman Matthews stated that several issues are brought up during discussion that the council can and should vote on immediately, such as making the alley one way. Councilman Matthews stated that the resolution in question was organized by someone outside of the council and it would've been difficult to discuss the merits of the resolution without it becoming a gun control debate. Councilman Matthews stated someone who is not on the council had posted on Facebook.

Mayor Marshall stated that someone had mentioned to him that he was bringing the resolution up, but had never confirmed it.

Councilman Savona stated that it probably should've been tabled until the following month; however, the council meets every month and citizens should attend if they want to know what is going on. Councilman Savona stated that the council can't not vote on an item because one person or one group is not in attendance; some things need to be voted on immediately.

Clerk Greer stated that this is an election year; citizens should get to know the candidates and vote accordingly. Clerk Greer stated that the election may be moved to November; if not, the deadline to register is March 3.

M Wohlrab would like the full list of candidates published on Facebook once the list is final.

Councilman Welch stated that he won his seat as a write-in.

Councilman Welch made the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilman Welch pointed out a spelling error; Clerk Greer stated she would correct it. Motion was 2nd by Councilwoman Savona. Ayes - Russell, Savona, Matthews, Welch, Nash. No - none. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Russell stated that he thought it was fantastic that the Christmas decorations only cost the town \$186.18; the rest was donated. Councilman Russell thanked Max and Diann, Dr. Nash, Karon Eichelberger, Aaron, Shirley, and Kay Lewis, Connie and many others, and Danny and his crew for doing a great job on the Christmas decorations; 90% of it was donated. Clerk Greer stated there were Christmas decorations on the bills for the last few months; Councilman Russell stated that was nickels and dimes. Councilman Russell stated the town could use the decorations again next year if the town wants to. Councilman Russell stated some lights were taken down as a result of miscommunication and they would be put back up. Public Works Director Siegert stated the lights would not hold up in the sun. Councilman Russell stated they would revisit that when it gets warm.

Councilman Russell made the motion to pay the bills as submitted. Motion was 2nd by Councilman Savona. Ayes - Russell, Matthews, Welch, Nash, Savona. No - none. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Code of Ethics - Mayor Marshall stated he is still waiting on the attorney.

Fire Hydrants - Mayor Marshall stated should begin in 3-4 weeks.

Drug Testing Policy - Clerk Greer stated that the personnel policy she emailed to everyone was not the town's personnel policy, the town doesn't actually have one; that personnel policy was a work in process and the two council members who had been working on it were no longer on the council. Councilman Savona stated he and Councilman Parks would review it and present the personnel policy as an entire package once they are done.

VDOT Sidewalk Grant - Clerk Greer stated there was some confusion on what part of the town's CDBG could be used as match; the sidewalk grant will be awarded sometime in June; at that time, the town may need to make adjustments to what can be used as matching funds.

Council Reports

Councilman Russell stated he had been made notice of the fact that the town's cell service was terrible and he didn't know what he could do; he had several people tell him, one was Tommy Clark from Chincoteague who had come to the DMV Select and then asked Councilman Russell what was wrong with the cell service in town. Councilman Russell asked for thoughts about this problem. Mayor Marshall stated he thought the town had sent a letter to Verizon; he has not had issues since he switched from Verizon to AT&T. Councilman Russell stated he would spread the word.

Councilman Russell stated that another organization he belonged to had just had a problem with this and he doesn't know if the town has this or not. Councilman Russell stated that a different organization he belonged to

just had one of their chief officers drop dead and he had every computer password they owned in his brain; if we don't have that for all of our computers, we probably need to put it in a book somewhere and put it in the safe. Mayor Marshall stated that was taken care of, the town had been through that with Mayor Eichelberger. Councilman Russell stated he remembered that, Brittany had tried for months to break into his file. Councilman Russell said the same thing with Jimmy Rowley.

Councilman Russell asked Public Works Director Siegert if he thought it would be wise to put a better fence around our tanks out there; currently, it is a pipe and chains. Councilman Russell stated that if a child or a dog or animal, it would be easy to get into the tanks and drown. Public Works Director Siegert stated the current design is OSHA-approved for safety. Public Works Director Siegert stated that the entire complex needs to be fenced in. Councilman Russell stated that he and Paul Muhly went out there and looked around. Councilman Russell asked Public Works Director Siegert to get together with the council; it is disturbing. Councilman Russell stated that putting a roof on the tanks may be helpful to our numbers; rainwater may be hurting the effluent.

Councilman Russell stated that a citizen asked him if the town keeps minutes from personnel committee meetings, like when they get together to hire someone. Councilman Russell asked if minutes were kept. Councilman Savona stated that it is personnel and we cannot keep minutes. Councilman Russell would like notes showing that the personnel committee met. Councilman Savona stated the committee had not been doing that, but he did not see an issue with it. Councilman Russell stated he thought the council wanted to start doing things properly. Clerk Greer asked if there was any reason the personnel meeting was targeted. Councilman Russell stated the committee wasn't being targeted, the citizen was just curious.

Councilman Russell stated he understood that the council was holding a meeting regarding parking in the front yard. Clerk Greer asked if there were other ordinances that needed to be included. Councilman Matthews stated to include the ordinance regarding boarded windows. Councilman Russell asked if the meeting would include the ordinance regarding vehicles without tags. Councilman Matthews stated the council needs to reword the ordinance to make it easier to enforce.

D Phillips asked for clarification on what the council is proposing regarding parking in front yards. Councilman Matthews stated that all residences have driveways so people don't need pull up to their front door. Councilman Matthews stated there are a few properties in town where the cars are being parked in the front yards instead of the driveways. Mayor Marshall stated that parking parallel to the road is allowed. D Phillips stated that this would cause problems for neighbors on both sides of her house because of drain field location and limited parking available there; she asked what constitutes a driveway. Councilman Savona stated the proposed ordinance defines driveways. D Phillips asked if that meant she would not be allowed to park her own cars in her front yard. D Phillips stated that the town parking lot should be repaired, we are trying to bring people to town. Councilman Russell stated he got a price to fix the parking lot six months ago. D Phillips stated the town needs to prioritize. D Bendix stated it was not on Donna, it was on down where she lives, you cannot see who is coming at the stop sign. D Phillips stated you cannot see with cars parked in front of Jaxon's. Councilman Matthews stated if the council cannot agree on the ordinance, then it would have to wait. Mayor Marshall stated the ordinance will not affect everyone.

Councilman Russell stated there is a house on Chadbourne where people park in the front yard when they have parking available in the back, he doesn't know why.

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Mayor Marshall stated that this was one of many issues that had been brought up by citizens. Councilman Savona stated that having cars not parked in an orderly fashion adds to the blight in town.

D Phillips stated the town needs to address properties with sewage in their yards instead of worrying about cars parked in front yards; the council needs to address current issues. Councilman Savona stated the new proposed zoning ordinances would address ordinances that are somewhat broken.

D Phillips asked what happens to council members who do not follow ordinances. D Phillips stated the council wants the residents, business owners, and visitors to follow the ordinances, but some council members do not always obey the ordinances; she would like to know what happens to them. Mayor Marshall stated that the council members should also follow the ordinances; he had received a picture that day of a council person parked the wrong way in the alley. Councilman Savona agreed; council members should be penalized the same as everyone else.

Mayor Marshall asked that the public hearing regarding the zoning ordinances be set at 6 pm before the next council meeting.

D Phillips stated this is another reason that the minutes need to be made available before the next council meeting; this would let people know what had been discussed and what would be discussed. D Phillips stated the minutes should be put on the town's website, not Facebook; the town paid money for the website and the office staff would be happy to be trained and keep it up to date. D Phillips stated that posting town business on Facebook allows for negative comments; she would like to see town business, including due dates, council meetings, special events, etc., on the town's website.

D Bendix stated the town business should be posted on the website or the post office because some people don't have the internet.

Mayor Marshall asked Clerk Greer to have copies of the proposed ordinances available at the town office in case anyone would like to see them before the public hearing.

Councilman Russell stated that he had spoken to the lady at Dollar General who is in charge of the state of Virginia; they currently have no district manager, they currently have no regional manager. Councilman Russell stated they have one lady who takes care of the state of Virginia. Councilman Russell asked Clerk Greer to confirm two letters had been sent to them. Clerk Greer stated one letter had been sent, Councilman Russell said he was going to get another letter together. Councilman Russell stated he was going to send the same one, but we can do that too. Councilman Russell stated he spoke with her briefly and she said she was going to try to find the letter the town had already sent; he has no hope that she will ever find it. Councilman Russell stated that he had given her his phone number, his name, told her what he wanted; he is trying to get them to enlarge the Dollar General to carry more groceries.

Councilman Welch had no updates.

Councilwoman Nash stated that S Johnson could not attend the meeting, but wanted her to share that they would have the program for the memorial on Memorial Day. Councilwoman Nash asked R Taylor if the town could use

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the fire department's tents for the service. R Taylor suggested she contact D Fussell. Public Works Director Siegert asked if she needed his department to help.

Councilman Russell stated he attended Paul Lewis's funeral the past Sunday; he was a past president of the fire company. Councilman Russell stated that the only person from the fire department attended the service, that was Henry Nicholson.

Councilman Matthews stated the town is now officially under contract for the grant. Councilman Matthews shared that the big kick off is Monday March 2; the architect and artist will be in town for a branding workshop at the Club Car at 5:30. The architect will work with the business owners on facade design and all interested parties on branding for the town. Councilman Matthews stated that the architect plans to have drawn up a good idea of what the downtown area will look like by the end of that week. Councilman Matthews stated there is a survey online and the architects will also be surveying the attendees during the one on one meetings; they want everyone's input on what is important. Councilman Matthews stated facade work will begin late fall or early winter at the earliest after a review of the plans by DHR. Councilman Matthews stated the architect will be meeting with Betty Farley of ESVA Master Gardeners that week as well since they will be maintaining the alleyways and other foliage. Councilman Matthews stated we have 24 months to complete the work, we will have a brand new downtown in 2023.

Councilman Russell stated he felt really good about the meeting, and what was accomplished there. Councilman Russell stated the people in charge in Richmond actually said they couldn't believe how far along we were and we are a month ahead of schedule.

Councilman Savona stated there were 80 EMS calls and 18 fire calls in January.

Councilman Savona stated that he researched raffles as a way of generating revenue for the town and, as a town, we are not allowed to hold raffles; he asked that the council keep that in mind when planning festivals. Councilman Savona stated that last year a gun was raffled and we need to make sure we are not associated. Councilman Russell stated we were not associated with it at all, the money was donated from an outside source. Clerk Greer stated that the town took in the revenue from the sale of the raffle tickets. Councilman Russell stated it was not the town selling the raffle tickets, it was not the town selling the raffle tickets, the gun was not supplied to the town, the town paid for the gun, but it was out of the money we had raffled off and the town's name was not used on it as far as saving money for the town. Councilman Russell stated it would be the Greater Parksley Association if it was done again this year; we can donate it to the town as has been done for years. Clerk Greer stated she deposited the money from the sale of the raffle tickets into the town's General Funds account. Councilman Russell stated that makes no difference, that makes no difference; what he is saying is the town can't print on the tickets "raffle for the town of Parksley". Councilman Savona stated he would be very careful of that. Councilman Russell stated the town can't do it. Councilman Savona stated the town probably needed to receive a check from the Greater Parksley Association. Councilman Russell stated that is what he was going to do anyway. Councilman Matthews stated that is something for the attorney. Councilman Russell stated he probably wouldn't do it this year. Councilman Savona stated we need to make sure we are doing it legally.

Councilman Savona stated he and Councilman Parks would be meeting regarding a personnel policy. Councilman Savona stated he would provide the minutes from the meeting as requested.

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Councilman Savona stated that Public Works Director Siegert had made great strides in improving the town's wastewater treatment facility.

Chief Greer asked D Bendix to clarify her statement that he had people at the previous meeting backing him up; he doesn't know what she meant. D Bendix stated he had people there for him to help him get the raise and stuff. Inaudible chatter. Mayor Marshall stated that the raise was done, it had been approved. Chief Greer stated he was trying to figure out what she meant, if he invited people, or what. Public Works Director Siegert stated someone was going to throw blows at Chief Greer as long as he works here; nobody likes the cops.

Public Works Director Siegert stated that a lot of the problems with the sewer were because the mixer was wired backwards when he had it rebuilt a while back; it is now operating correctly. Public Works Director Siegert stated he had the tank pumped out, brought in mixed liquor from elsewhere, and has ordered some chemicals to eliminate the sludge. Public Works Director Siegert stated this would still take time, but should get it back on track.

Councilman Russell told Public Works Director Siegert to give some thought to the covers because he knows in the plans they had covers on them. Public Works Director Siegert stated that was the way it was designed and it all used to be enclosed. Councilman Russell stated the numbers were so off in the winter it could be from getting so much stinking rain.

Clerk Greer stated the audit is complete and has been forwarded to ANPDC for the grant.

Public Works Director Siegert stated the backhoe is broken, he has been quoted \$7000-\$8000 for the repairs and it is not worth that; if there is a water main break, the town will have to call someone in to repair it. R Taylor asked how much was budgeted for that. Public Works Director Siegert stated the town needs a backhoe, a trash truck, a limb truck eventually, a bucket truck.

Councilman Russell stated that is why he was glad to hear Councilman Savona say he was thinking about trying to raise funds outside of the tax structure; that's why he brought this up last month. Councilman Russell stated the town needs to have some type of extracurricular income stream to help pay the bills for the town of Parksley besides taxes; the infrastructure is in terrible shape and it's going to cost a boatload of money to do any or all of it. Councilman Russell stated that, sooner or later, some council down the road is going to have to make super duper extremely hard decisions; that's why he is glad to see Councilman Savona trying to raise money outside of the tax stream and he has been looking into some things too.

D Phillips asked if the town had a committee anymore to work on getting new businesses into town; it would be extra people, extra revenue, extra foot traffic. Councilman Russell stated the members of that committee had either moved away or died. Councilman Russell stated that, at one time, almost all of the town's bills were paid for by the businesses, but that is not the case anymore. D Phillips stated losing Dollar General would cost the town a lot. Councilman Russell stated the town lost \$30,000/yr when it lost the liquor store, the bank on Main St cost \$40,000/yr, Shore Bank was another \$40,000/yr.

D Phillips asked for an update on the shirt factory, is the town in the process of condemning the building; is there an avenue for something to come there? Mayor Marshall stated he didn't think the owner had any intentions of doing anything with it. D Phillips asked if the building was included in the grant work; Councilman Russell stated

the building wasn't eligible. Mayor Marshall stated church services are held there. D Phillips suggested offering Dollar General something to move there. Councilman Russell stated that, years ago, he had spoken to a guy named Hurst, the district manager at the time. Councilman Russell had him convinced to move to where the library is now and put a Dollar General Plus there; Dollar General fired him so Councilman Russell had his replacement convinced and then the replacement quit.

R Taylor asked if he was correct in what he heard, that the town can't get any more business in town until the sewer system is fixed. Councilman Russell confirmed. Public Works Director Siegert stated that it depended on if they were already tied in and what the use is. Mayor Marshall stated that J Stauffer is having issues because of the type of materials he will have in his butcher shop. R Taylor stated it has been said in several prior meetings that there can't be anymore businesses in town. Public Works Director Siegert stated that is not entirely accurate; if the business doesn't need health department approval or a change in use, there isn't an issue. K Midgett asked if new businesses were required to have bathrooms. Public Works Director Siegert stated no. R Taylor stated he understood that the hold up on the hotel was the sewer problem, those people were ready to commit and come to Parksley. Clerk Greer stated they can use a private system. Public Works Director Siegert stated they are not tied into the town sewer system. Councilman Savona stated they did not come because they did not want to spend the money on a private system. Councilman Matthews stated the sewer problem is not related to the hotel at all.

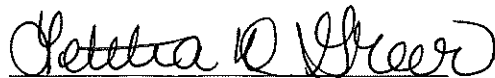
Councilman Russell stated broken windows would be addressed at the next meeting.

New Business

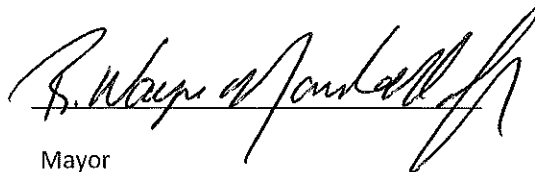
Councilman Russell stated there are several people who want to open businesses here; Richard Lewis would like to put three more apartments over his place. Councilman Russell stated this is another reason we need to make this sewage thing job one. D Phillips stated she thought the town had voted before that no apartments could be added over businesses. Councilman Russell stated you would need a special use permit. Public Works Director Siegert stated apartments are allowed as long as there is a business downstairs.

Councilman Savona made the motion to adjourn. Motion was 2nd by Councilman Russell. Ayes - Russell, Nash, Savona, Matthews, Welch. No - none. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.



Clerk



Mayor