

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2009, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE STRASBURG TOWN HALL.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation was given by Rev. Sonia Gierch, associate pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

ROLL Called with the following members present: Mayor Taylor, Council Members Baker, Le Vine, Mauck, Ritenour, Terndrup, and Vena. Absent: Council Member Redmon (surgery) and Vice Mayor Whittle (out-of-town on business).

Minutes of the October 13, 2009 Town Council meeting were approved as presented.

Mayor Taylor welcomed all in attendance and said all communications had been directed toward the appropriate committees.

Introduction & Recognition of Visitors and Guests

Cub Scout Master Guy Whiteside, Cub Scout Pack 61, said the group has used the Town Park to hold their rain gutter regatta. In appreciation for this, he presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mayor Taylor.

Mayor Taylor presented a Resolution of Appreciation to **Mrs. Carol Rutherford** for all she and her late husband, Gary, did for the Town as innkeepers of the Hotel Strasburg. The Hotel was recently sold.

Kevin Conner and Trevor Kinzie, of Gay and Neel, discussed the Downtown Enhancement Project and reviewed the first citizen input meeting held prior to the Council meeting. Citizens wanting to comment on the project can contact Planner Rex who will forward these to Gay and Neel; a survey can also be accessed through the Town's website: www.strasburgva.com. The next public meeting will be in January, 2010.

Planner Rex presented the new Town website. **Mayor Taylor** commended the Staff for the work done on the site and asked citizens to give Staff suggestions for it. **Council Member Mauck** said the website would be replacing the Town's newsletter.

Mayor Taylor reminded all of Veteran's Day and thanked all the veterans for the sacrifices made for our country; he asked all to keep in mind those serving in the military today, too.

Mayor Taylor congratulated **Chief Sutherly** on the birth of a son, Luke Daniel, on Wednesday, November 4, 2009.

Citizen Comments:

Non-action Items:

Nina Winkler, Massanutten Street, Strasburg, VA: Mrs. Winkler spoke about alleys and the ordinance that was on the agenda for vacations of right-of-ways. There is an alley that bisects her land and she would like to work with the Town to vacate this. She has been working on getting a petition signed by neighbors for the vacation of this alley, but is having some trouble as some people just don't like to sign petitions, etc. She had been told the only way to have this vacated was with 100% participation from neighbors and she hopes this new ordinance will address this. She would like the alley vacated because the only users are teenagers with beer cans. There is no practical reason to have this alley and she would be willing to pay the Town a price as long as the cost was reasonable. She would have no problem with the Town having an easement, but would like to close it off with a gate or fence. If the person adjoining the alley on the other side would not be willing to buy the land, she would also buy the other five feet.

Mayor Taylor said an ordinance on this was to be voted on tonight, but had been pulled from the agenda and would be discussed at the next Ordinance Committee meeting on November 23. He invited Mrs. Winkler to attend and give comments or suggestions.

Reports and Communications from Town Officers:

Town Attorney Neal: Reported he is still working with Attorney Amanda Wisely on the Judy issue, but is hoping to have a proposal to Council by the December meeting.

Town Manager Fauber: Stated that the first “progress meeting” on the construction of the Water Treatment Plant would be held on Thursday, November 12.

Under Public Works, said the sidewalk project on Queen Street continues, with the sidewalk being completed on the south side of the street and the concrete base on the north side being worked on. Paving will be taking place and curb and gutter estimates will be gotten. VDOT will be holding a Public Hearing on December 9 to receive comments regarding the east end of Queen Street; VDOT is planning to replace the bridge structure with a wider bridge. Leaf pick-up continues throughout November.

A Public Hearing will be held at the beginning of the Council Work Session on Monday, November 16 regarding the cable television franchise.

The Town has received the draft of the Performance Management and Evaluation System Manual from Springsted. Also, the draft audit report has been received and Director of Finance Mullins has been working on the Management Discussion Analysis.

Council Member Le Vine questioned the wording of an email included in the Council Packet from Chief Operator Ritenour which read: “Matt has asked Kevin to provide the county with a letter describing the job requirements since we are not addressing any handicap provisions in our facility.” Council Member Le Vine asked if this meant the facility would not be handicapped accessible. Town Manager Fauber said it would be accessible, but this email was referring to the kitchen area.

Council Member Le Vine asked Town Manager Fauber to give a paragraph summary or bullet points of the reports of what is most important or what is to be learned from them so attention can be focused on these. **Town Manager Fauber** said this would be easier to do once the progress meetings begin.

Council Member Terndrup asked about the VDOT Queen Street project and the cost to the Town. **Town Manager Fauber** said the Town will be responsible for 2% of the total project and the construction schedule is now set for 2015.

Council Member Mauck asked what the purpose was to widen the bridge and **Town Manager Fauber** said it was mainly to widen the street and address drainage issues. This would not address the drainage issues behind the Strasburg Theatre.

Director of Finance Mullins: Absent (vacation)

Town Clerk Keller: Announced the annual Holiday Dinner would be held on Friday, December 4; all were to RSVP to her.

Director of Public Utilities Tewalt: Water line on Royal Avenue has been completed and asphalt work should be finished this week. The line on Ram Drive was finished and capped off today. Conduits are all in and they are now waiting for Allegheny Power and Shentel to pull the power and telephone lines through. The entrance road will be started next so that trucks, etc. stay off of the parking lot. Overall, the project is progressing well.

Council Member Le Vine emphasized the importance of the Water Audit report that is to be done in January.

Director of Public Works Rhodes: Absent (out-of-town on emergency)

Chief of Police Sutherly: Absent (birth of son) In Chief Sutherly's absence, **Captain Wilkin** gave the police report saying the department received a total of 822 calls during the month of October, resulting in 24 adult criminal arrests and two juvenile criminal arrests; adult traffic violations numbered 52. The department had an uneventful Halloween.

Council Member Le Vine asked about the percentages shown on the new reports saying they did not add up to 100%. **Captain Wilkin** explained they are still working out the "bugs" in their new system and hope to have this remedied.

PUBLIC HEARING – Downtown Enhancement Project

Planner Rex explained the grant is being prepared and each year a Resolution of Support needs to be signed by the Mayor to attach with the application. Shenandoah County approved a similar resolution at their last meeting which will be included.

Mayor Taylor opened the Public Hearing and as there were no speakers, the hearing was closed.

Town Planner Rex: Work is continuing on the Community Plan and he is in hopes of having a draft plan to the Planning Commission by January, 2010. There was a surge of zoning permits in October and work is progressing at Homewood.

Council Member Le Vine moved to approve the resolution in support of the Town's 2009 Transportation Enhancement application with the wording as provided in the Council Packets; second by Council Member Baker.

Discussion:

Council Member Le Vine asked about the wording of "any facilities constructed" and Planner Rex said it would be sidewalks, street lights, etc., but no actual structures.

Council Member Mauck asked how much has been received to date and Planner Rex said the Town received ~\$150,000 from the first application and ~\$200,000 with the second; this time they are asking for as much as possible and the least amount the Town can receive is \$200,000. The project should be completed in 5 – 7 years with a total cost of \$2 - \$2.5 million.

The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Le Vine asked if there is a need to clarify the wording in the ordinance about availability fees and Town Attorney Neal said it would be a good idea to improve the wording of this ordinance. **Council Member Terndrup** said this will be worked on in the Ordinance Committee.

Reports & Communications from Standing Committees:

Infrastructure Committee: Council Member Baker said the minutes were submitted to Council in the Council Packets, are posted on the website, and in the Town Hall.

Council Member Le Vine discussed an issue within the minutes about the cost increasing due to the amount of rock on the Route 11 Sewer Study. He feels when Council is presented with estimated costs, it should be the total estimated cost. He continued by saying \$8 million is bad enough when he was expecting \$1.5 million, but how much higher will this go. Even if there are some "unknowns", Council should be aware of how much more the costs could actually be. In this project, \$8 million is actually the minimum cost of this project. He feels the amount given should be inclusive of all costs or the "best guess" and not have any hidden costs.

Council Member Terndrup asked if there has been any follow-up information received from Delegate Gilbert or Senator Obenshain on the credit issues discussed at the meeting held earlier in

the year with these men. Town Manager Fauber said all information has been sent in, but has not heard back, but will make contact with them again.

PUBLIC HEARING: Vacation of public right-of-ways

Mayor Taylor opened the Public Hearing and closed it as there were no speakers. He did say that Mrs. Winkler who had spoken earlier in the meeting was discussing this matter.

Ordinance Committee: Council Member Terndrup said the action item on the public right-of-ways would not be voted on until the December meeting.

Council Member Terndrup reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on October 27 (minutes were included in the Council Packet, are posted on the website, and at the Town Hall).

Council Member Mauck suggested the vacation of right-of-ways, alleys, or streets be discussed at the Work Session and maps be provided showing all of these within the Town.

Finance Committee: Council Le Vine summarized the meeting (minutes were included in the Council Packet, are posted on the website, and at the Town Hall). When reviewing the minutes pertaining to the Strasburg Rescue Squad, which is now running calls on weekends, **Council Member Le Vine** said the Town will follow the same plan as the County. The County will review the Squad in 90 days and if the review is satisfactory, they will give 1/3 of their donation, with the next 1/3 being paid 90 days after, and the final payment after another 90 days. The Town already has \$25, 000 allocated within this year's budget for the Rescue Squad. **Council Member Baker** said he thought the decision had been to follow the County's lead on the review, but to then pay in halves. **Council Member Le Vine** said he felt the consensus of the committee was to follow the "same words" as the County and he thinks Mr. Mowery agreed with this as he wants the Squad to be evaluated by performance. **Mayor Taylor** said this will be re-visited at the Finance Committee to verify some of the questions.

Council Member Ritenour thinks Council needs to meet with the Rescue Squad organization and he does not think the Finance Committee should decide on the release of the funds, but it should be done at a Work Session. **Council Member Le Vine** said he had talked to Mr. Mowery who would be representing the Rescue Squad and he would be invited to the January Finance Committee meeting.

Mayor Taylor will be contacting Mr. Mowery and Mr. Nixon on setting up a communication meeting or just meeting with them himself.

Council Member Mauck feels all of this should be discussed at the Work Session as it is a Public Safety matter. She added that how Council works with all entities in Town should be discussed at Work Sessions.

Council Member Terndrup said the Finance Committee only makes recommendations.

Town Council Work Session: Mayor Taylor said the major topics were the Homewood request, the Brill property, Mineral Street, and grant plan. (Minutes were included in the Council Packet, are posted on the website, and at the Town Hall).

Special Committee Reports:

Chamber of Commerce: no report

Hometown Strasburg: Council Member Ritenour said the group is continuing their work with the Downtown Enhancement Project. They are working with the Rescue Squad regarding a tract of land along Washington Street and are looking at landscape options along Queen Street. During the Adopt-a-Stream clean-up, 19 bags of trash were collected. The group is still looking into murals and questions can be forwarded to Mrs. Wallen concerning this. Welcome bags will be delivered to new residents on November 11.

Tourism Committee: Mayor Taylor said Strasburg is a Preserve America community and there are grants available to the Town through this program and the committee is looking into this.

Council Member Mauck asked about the Preserve America signage the Town received and Town Manager Fauber said it has been installed.

Cedar Creek/Belle Grove National Historical Park: **Council Member Mauck** said the group will be meeting in December.

Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission: **Council Member Terndrup** said the group will be meeting later in the month.

Strasburg Heritage Association: The Homes Tour is scheduled for December 12 with five houses being featured.

Strasburg Museum – Work on a new roof for the building has started.

Strasburg Community Library – The Library is trying to start a program for teens and one of the topics they would like to explore is interaction with government.

2-5-0 Project: **Council Member Mauck** said the committee is putting together a Calendar of Events. They would like to have some activity during every month of the year during 2011 and so more volunteers are needed to make this happen and to serve on the various committees. The next meeting of the group will be December 9 at 7 p.m.

Work Session Action Item:

Council Member Mauck gave the history of the Recreation Advisory Board. The Board was started in 1992 when the Town acquired the Park land from Strasburg, Inc. The Board was to help ensure the master plan of the Park was adhered to. The master plan was fulfilled with the completion of the Trail. There is a liaison who works with the County Parks and Recreation Department. Most of the work that takes place at the Park is done by Town Staff.

Council Member Mauck moved for the dissolution of the Recreation Advisory Board; second by Council Member Le Vine.

Discussion:

Council Member Baker asked about the bottom land, between the Walking Trail and the river, that he assumes will be devoted to recreation and so he wonders if the dissolution is premature due to this land.

Council Member Mauck said this is the type of project that various groups can come to the Town and work with Staff. **Mayor Taylor** said it had been discussed to have ad-hoc committees to work on projects such as this. **Council Member Mauck** said more work could also be done with Homeowner Associations to bring more recreation to those areas.

The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished or old business:

Mayor Taylor gave an update on the video project being worked on by students Strasburg High School. He said the teacher leading this is no longer employed fulltime with the school, but Mayor Taylor is still working on this.

New Business:

Committee Dates:

Work Session	Monday, November 16	7:00 p.m.
Infrastructure Committee	Monday, November 30	10:00 a.m.

Finance Committee	Monday, November 30	7:15 p.m.
Ordinance Committee	Monday, November 23	6:00 p.m.
Planning Commission	Monday, November 23	7:30 p.m.
ARB	Thursday, November 19	5:00 p.m.
2-5-0	Wednesday, December 9	7:00 p.m.
NSVRC	Thursday, November 19, 2009	
CC/BG Nat. Hist. Park	Thursday, December 10	
Council/Staff Holiday Dinner	Friday, December 4	6:30 p.m.
Town Holiday Celebration	Saturday, December 5	
Town Parade	Saturday, December 5	4:30 p.m.
Homes Tours	Saturday, December 12	

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Mayor

Town Clerk