

Council Minutes
Special Called Workshop Meeting
May 27, 2019 - 6:30 p.m. – 502 Front Street E, Coeburn, VA

Attendees:

Upon roll call, all members of Council were present: Jimmy Williams – Town Manager, Cathy Sharpe – Clerk/Treasurer and William Sturgill – Town Attorney were also present.

Call to Order:

Mayor Jeff Kiser called the meeting to order. Mr. Deventae Mooney gave the invocation. The group remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief Scott Brooks.

Public Expression:

Public expression was closed.

Public expression was opened back up when Mr. Buddy Couch of 613 Front St. E. stated that a property near him is abandoned and he wanted to know what needs to be done to get this property cleaned up. The property needs to be mowed. Mr. Mike Wright asked if the property is a foreclosure to which Mr. Jeff Kiser said he thinks it is just abandoned. Mr. Wright thinks it is listed as a foreclosure. Mr. Kiser advised that if it is a foreclosure the bank can be contacted. Mr. Kiser asked Mr. Williams to check into this situation; Mr. Williams stated that he has already sent out some letters telling them the grass needs to be cut. Mr. Kiser advised Mr. Couch that certified letters go out and if there is no response within a certain period of time then other actions such as going in and mowing it by the town and putting a lien on the property itself in order to reimburse the town.

Approval of the Agenda:

Jeff Kiser made a motion to add (e) under new business – Resolution 19-011 – opposition of closure of Flatwoods Job Corps. Deventae Mooney seconded the motion , which resulted in all Ayes.

Mr. Jeff Kiser made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mike Holbrook and Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Reports:

Town Manager

Town Manager, Jimmy Williams reported that the FY16 audit has been completed. He gave council copies of the completed audit.

Mr. Williams presented a copy of the waterworks construction permit for the Water System Improvements Project. The Lane Group will be giving a briefing on this at the June 10, 2019 regular council meeting.

Mr. Williams provided a copy of the Virginia Municipal League dues for 2019-2020. This was in the amount of \$905.00.

Mr. Williams reported that Brian Markham at the Water Treatment Plant advised that the battery at the plant is going bad. Boggs Municipal Services gave an estimate of \$3,913.00 to replace that battery. Sharon Still made a motion to authorize Jimmy Williams to buy the replacement battery. Deventae Mooney seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Ms. Sharon Still asked if Mr. Williams had heard anything from VDOT about the Sidewalk Project. Mr. Williams hadn't heard anything since the last meeting.

Public Works

Jeff Livingston, Public Works Superintendent reported that the swimming pool is almost ready to open. He advised that a fence needs repaired and that a pump for the kiddie pool may have to be replaced. Ms. Still said a new one could be purchased for around \$169.00. Mayor Jeff Kiser asked that Mr. Livingston and Mr. Jimmy Williams get together and decide the best option to correct the pump issue.

Mr. Livingston reported that sewer lines have been jetted on Central Street and Dickerson Street. He stated that a leak needs repaired at Brookside Drive Trailer Park.

He advised that a new flag has been put up at Flag Hill and the lights are back up at the Mini Park. Mr. Livingston stated that everything at Town Hall and at the Welcome Coeburn Signs has been trimmed and mulched.

Mr. Livingston reported that Boggs Municipal Services had to pull the pump station at Powerstown because it had grounded out. It is being repaired at this time.

Sharon Still asked if the bathrooms at the Rally Shack are left open at all times. Mr. Livingston advised that should only be open for events. Ms. Still reported that those bathrooms are currently open and have been used a lot. Mr. Livingston said he would lock them. Ms. Still suggested that those bathrooms be checked often to make sure they are locked to prevent problems.

Mr. Jeff Kiser asked Mr. Livingston to get Camp 18 to clear weeds at the section in front of the Depot toward the stage. Mr. Kiser also asked that the shrubbery down by the bridges be trimmed as well.

Mr. Deventae Mooney thanked Mr. Livingston and his crew and Jimmy Williams for all that has been done to get the pool ready to open. Mr. Mooney advised that he received a call about a sewer problem and asked what the solution is for this particular problem. Mr. Livingston stated

that when it rains the lines need to be jetted from the Post Office up to Grand Avenue. Ms. Sharon Still asked if customers should have a check valve installed to prevent these problems; Mr. Mooney advised that he would ask this particular customer if a check valve has been installed.

The Lane Group

There was no representative from The Lane Group present.

Treasurer

Cathy Sharpe, Clerk/Treasurer, reported a posted cash balance of \$164,515.64 as of May 23, 2019. She reported outstanding checks in the amount of \$9,783.69, accounts payable due in the amount of \$37,039.82 and interim accounts payable in the amount of \$22,088.64. After deducting the accounts payable due and outstanding checks, the reconciled cash balance was \$117,692.13.

Ms. Sharpe stated that May 11, 2019 special called budget meeting minutes and May 13, 2019 regular meeting minutes will be distributed with June 10, 2019 regular council packets.

Ms. Sharpe reported two additional deposits since reports had been presented for the meeting. These deposits totaled \$1,172.36 making the total cash availability \$118,864.49.

Ms. Sharon Still asked who does the town's web page as far as updating the minutes. She stated that it is years behind. Ms. Sharpe stated that the person who is responsible for these updates only does those as they are presented to her. She does not charge a monthly fee to do these changes. Ms. Sharpe advised that the minutes are behind because she, Ms. Sharpe hasn't given them to Ms. Skeen to get them put online. Ms. Sharpe said this is something that needs to be worked on to get caught up. Mayor Jeff Kiser asked Ms. Sharpe if Roberta takes care of Facebook to which Ms. Sharpe replied that yes, she does. Town Manager, Jimmy Williams said they would get with Ms. Skeen and try to get everything updated as soon as possible.

Jeff Kiser said he would like to compliment Ms. Sharpe and Mr. Williams on the audit that was received tonight. The audit was for FY16. He said he realized a whole lot of work has gone into getting this audit complete. He thanked them in advance for the next two audits that will be done by the end of the year; this will get a lot of additional things moving.

Police Department

Chief Scott Brooks reported that the police department is shorthanded at this time and he asked to go into closed session to meet with council about the shortage. No report was given.

Fire Department

There was no representative from the fire department present. No report was given.

Attorney Report

William Sturgill, Town Attorney, provided Resolution 19-011 to council. The Resolution was added to the agenda as item (e) under new business. Mr. Mike Wright asked if there has been a date set for the closing of Flatwoods Job Corps. Mr. Sturgill did not know but Jeff Kiser thought the date was in September. Mr. Sturgill said it is a federal agency that has been operated under USDA Department of Agriculture. It is switching to just under the Department of Labor to have independent contractors or some sort of partnership with the Department of Labor.

New Business:

- A. TOC Comprehensive Annual Financial Report FY16 – Mayor Jeff Kiser advised that this is the FY16 audit and it is a document that is necessary to move forward to receive grant funding. He advised that when the additional two reports are completed there will be more grant funding available to the town. Town Manager, Jimmy Williams stated that a minimum of FY17 has to be completed before more funding is available. He advised that Reba with PC Sturgill office is working on FY17 and once she is finished it will be turned over to Bostic/Tucker and hopefully this year will be completed by July. Mr. Williams reported that the auditor stated that everything went well with FY16.
- B. 2019-2020 Budget Review – Mr. Jeff Kiser asked if publications were in place to have a public hearing. Mr. Williams said all he needs is the date. Jeff Kiser made a motion to set the public hearing for the budget year 2019-2020 to be June 10, 2019 at 6:30 at the Depot. Deventae Mooney seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes. Mr. Kiser made a motion for a special called meeting for June 24, 2019 as opposed to a workshop. If all goes well the budget will be approved that night Deventae Mooney seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.
- C. VDH Waterworks Construction Permit – Mr. Williams advised that this opens up another avenue that The Lane Group needed to process the placing of bids and other requirements for Water Systems Improvement Project. This is for information only; there was no action from council needed.
- D. VML – Virginia Municipal League – This was for council information. If the town needs a safety presentation or anything pertaining to safety issues. Mr. Williams stated that VML supplies this either by VHS, online and seminars. Mr. Kiser advised that this needs to be kept in place and should be used. The fee is \$905.00 for the 2019-2020 member dues.
- E. Resolution 19-011 Opposition of Closure of Flatwoods Job Corps. – The Department of Labor announced that 9 Job Corps. Centers were proposed for closure and one of these closings would be Flatwoods Job Corp. Resolution 19-011 states that the Town of Coeburn strongly opposes the close of this facility and adopts this resolution for several reasons. It would be devastating to the Town of Coeburn as the Flatwoods Job Corps. Has been and continues to be a tremendous partner with the Town of Coeburn in order to better our town and our community. The training includes carpentry, cement masonry,

electrical, painting, plastering, plumbing and office administration. The center provides jobs for our community in an area of our state that desperately needs employment opportunities. The Job Corps has completed projects that helped beautify our community for our residents and visitors and it has been essential for the growth of our town as it is one of our larger employers and customers for our water and sewer usage. The Flatwoods Job Corps is a backbone of our community that deserves to remain open.

Ms. Sharon Still made a motion to adopt Resolution 19-011 opposition of closure of Flatwoods Job Corps. Deventae Mooney seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in all Ayes after the following discussion:

Mr. Jeff Kiser reported that the local paper reached out to him; he said this is devastating to the community of the Town of Coeburn. Not only does it provide jobs for the people in and around the Town of Coeburn it is a huge economic impact on our town. He stated that prior to this meeting he and Ms. Sharpe went over some of the billings for the Job Corps itself. Their monthly bill for the past year or so has been in the neighborhood of \$10,000.00 and \$14,000.00 per month. That is a loss of over \$130,000.00 in a one year period. Mr. Kiser finds it disturbing that Flatwoods Job Corps came to council through The Lane Group and asked to be part of the Sheffield Sewer Project which is the new sewer line that runs from the Job Corps center all the way to CNW plant and the ability to repay that loan portion of that project is hindered greatly by the impact that the closure of this center is going to have on the Town of Coeburn. Mr. Kiser thinks that anything that council can do to prevent this closure needs to be done. He feels like everyone in the community needs to reach out to their federal representatives and express their displeasure with the closure of this plant. He said in talking to the reporters for the Coalfield Progress he understood that they reached out to Morgan Griffin's office, Tim Kaine's office and Mark Warner's office as well. Those three offices have expressed their displeasure with this measure also and they are committed to do what they can do to prevent this from happening to the center.

Mr. Mike Holbrook said that it seemed like the last couple times the town has encountered situations with the federal government it has been after the fact. He said he is curious to know who was contacted and how they arrived to this decision. He said it was obvious that the Mayor nor the Town Manager were contacted. Mr. Holbrook asked Mr. Sturgill if any kind of legal recourse be done since they have backed out of being involved with the sewer project. Mr. Sturgill shook his head no. Mr. Jeff Kiser stated that the students at the Flatwoods Job Corps have done a tremendous amount of work in the park for that project. They are part of our community. Mr. Holbrook advised that the students are a part of St. Paul, Duffield, Lays Building and several different places they have worked. He said the Flatwoods Job Corps is a go to place for those who can't afford to go to college. It is a great opportunity for these students. Mr. Holbrook and Mr. Kiser stated that the town is always the last to know when something like this happens with the federal government and it isn't fair. Ms. Sharon Still said they have always been working for Wise in general on the Norton trails. Mr. Kiser stated that there are those who can't afford to go to college or do not have the desire to go to college and the trades are what

are taught at Flatwoods Job Corps. Mr. William Sturgill reported that in 2013 Flatwoods Job Corps was number one. No one understands why it is being closed.

Mr. Kiser asked Mr. Williams to let council know if he hears anything pertaining to this Resolution.

Old Business:

There was no old business to report.

Jeff Kiser made a motion to enter into closed session in accordance with Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A.1) to discuss performance of Town of Coeburn personnel specifically the police department. Mike Wright seconded the motion which resulted in all Ayes.

Closed Session:

Immediately following closed session, William Sturgill, Town Attorney, read the “Certification of Closed Meeting,” which is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof. A roll call vote certifying that only business matters that were identified in the motion convening were discussed or considered. The roll call vote resulted in all Ayes.

There was no action taken from closed session.

Council Comments and Concerns:

Mike Holbrook – Mr. Holbrook said he didn’t have any comments.

Deventae Mooney – Mr. Mooney thanked everyone who helped get the pool ready. He advised that the pool officially opens on Wednesday May 29, 2019 with a back to school party that the basketball team at the high school hosts. It will open to the public on Thursday May 30, 2019 at 12:00. He said hopefully it will be as successfully as last season or maybe even better.

Sharon Still – Ms. Still said she has nothing to say.

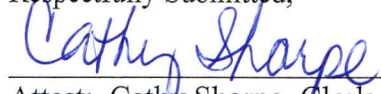
Mike Wright – Mr. Wright said he has no comments.

Jeff Kiser – Mr. Kiser stated that at 4:30 on May 28, 2019 at the Farmer’s Market area the Coeburn Improvement Association is meeting and is going to be planting flowers and sprucing up downtown. Feel free to come down and help.

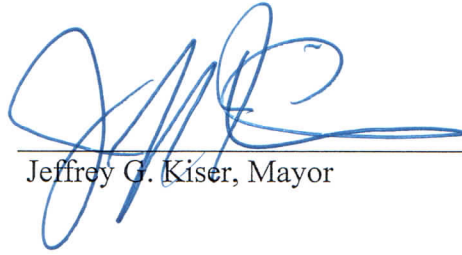
Adjournment:

Jeff Kiser made a motion to adjourn this meeting. Deventae Mooney and Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Attest: Cathy Sharpe, Clerk



Jeffrey G. Kiser, Mayor