

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia held in the Council Chambers located at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia, on Monday, March 16, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

Mayor: William D. Coleburn

Council Members: L. Benjamin Green, John W. Hill, Jr., C. Duncan Quicke, Barbara Thompson, J. A. Wilson, Jr., Constance T. Wynn

Town Attorney: Kennon C. Walden, Jr.

Town Staff: Jennifer H. Beck, Director of Transportation and Community Development; David Dunn, Nicholas C. Kuzmiak, Police Chief; David Ostrander, Director of Public Works; Assistant Town Manager; J. Larry Palmore, Town Manager, Charles C. Wells, Finance Director

Those Absent:

Council Member: Alfred V. Tucker

Town Staff: Joan R. Palmore, Town Clerk

Mayor Coleburn opened the meeting and led in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Coleburn led those in the Chambers in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Councilman Green made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as corrected the Minutes of the February 17, 2009, Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke and approved unanimously. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Councilman Wilson - Aye
Councilman Hill - Aye
Councilwoman Thompson - Aye

VISITORS:

1. John Tackett, 6121 Cox Road, Wilsons, addressed Council regarding a proposed 66 unit mobile home park that he wants to locate right outside of Blackstone Corporate Limits on Route 40. He wants approval from the Council to connect to Town water and sewage.

Manager Palmore explained that the property in question is the old dairy that is owned by William Paulette. He stated that all Mr. Tackett needs from us is a letter that he can take to the Health Department giving him permission to tie into the Town's water and sewer. He stated that we have ample room to allow these 66 units to tie into the Town's system. Manager Palmore added that Mr. Tackett's Conditional-Use Permit would need to come from Nottoway County because the property itself lies within Nottoway County, not the Town.

Mayor Coleburn asked about the exact location of the property.

Mr. Tackett answered that it is right near the Town Corporate Limit sign.

Mayor Coleburn asked Mr. Tackett if he owns the property.

Mr. Tackett answered that he does not own it yet but he does have a contract on it. He added that this will be an upscale mobile community. He wants to supply two mobile homes, one for the County and one for Blackstone, rent free.

Mayor Coleburn clarified that Mr. Tackett is asking for a letter to the Health Department stating that we have an ample supply for him to hookup to the Town's water and sewer system.

Councilman Green asked for clarification of the location of the property.

Mr. Tackett showed him a map giving the location of the property on Route 40.

Manager Palmore stated that this is the old Green Leaf Dairy, which is 13 acres.

Councilman Green made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter to the Health Department stating that we have the capacity to handle this. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson and approved unanimously. Vote:

Councilman Quicke - Aye
Councilwoman Wynn - Aye

Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

Mr. Tackett added that you won't even be able to see the mobile homes from the road and all the units will won't go in at once. It will take a period of several years to complete.

2. Richard Eaton, addressed Council, regarding an issue that came up several years ago. He asked Council and Manager Palmore to reconsider their past decision with regards to Main Street banners. He handed out a letter to Council and asked them to read the letter later so they could put thought and consideration into his request. He also asked that he be added to the list of guest speakers next month. He wants Council to give some consideration to the Bevell's Toy Train banner that has not flown in the past few years. He is uncomfortable with this and he wants Council to address this in a manner that is more favorable to the community.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Mr. Eaton for addressing Council tonight. He also recognized Clarence Simpson, Chairman of the Nottoway County Board of Supervisors and welcomed him to the meeting.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Tony Bradford as not present at this time.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:

Councilman Wilson made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$587,985.55. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke.

Discussion: Councilman Green and Councilman Hill asked several questions on the bills.

Councilman Hill asked when are the Town Tags due.

Finance Director Wells answered, December 15th, and it is listed on the tax bills as a vehicle license tax.

Councilman Hill asked several questions about the airport fuel.

Councilman Green asked when can we expect the Audit Report.

Manager Palmore answered, by the April Council Meeting.

Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No Committee reports.

DMA

Manager Palmore stated that as Council knows by now, our legislation did not pass. He added that he still can't understand how it passed the House and the Senate and somewhere along the line a Senator gets to pull it out. He has never heard of that happening before but that is what happened. He has been assured by several that this is not over. He still says that our battle has always been with the Federal funding.

Mayor Coleburn asked has the Town Manager been assured by any members of the General Assembly about the funding.

Manager Palmore answered that he is certain that there are no funds being put into this move.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Chairman Simpson for what the County has done

Chairman Simpson thanked the Town for its support and added that like Manager Palmore said, it's not over yet.

BOND ISSUE - MEDICAL CENTER

Mayor Coleburn stated that Council agreed in concept at the Special Meeting last Tuesday and we now need a motion from Council to authorize VML to proceed with the Bond.

Manager Palmore handed out copies of the Resolution that needs to be adopted. He pointed out that the rate listed on the second page is incorrect and the Finance Director is going to get the correct information right now.

Mayor Coleburn stated that the amount of the Bond is \$2,065,000.

Council discussed the interest rate.

Manager Palmore stated that we want to get the lowest possible rate but he added that Bon Secours is going to be paying the rate, not the Town.

Councilman Green asked the Town Manager what does he want from Council tonight.

Manager Palmore answered to adopt the Resolution.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to adopt the attached Resolution on the Medical Center Bond Issue. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hill. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

Manager Palmore stated that we are going to have to come back to Council for the final documents.

MEDICAL CENTER

Manager Palmore stated that things are going great on the Medical Center. He added that the Blackstone Family Practice Center Committee that Mayor Coleburn appointed met for the first time regarding the dedication ceremony, and they are meeting again tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. He stated that this is a great group, very active and knowledgeable.

Mayor Coleburn asked is there any projection on the month that the dedication will be held.

Manager Palmore hopes that by June they can move into the building. He added that we are still in negotiations with Brother's Pizza and VDOT and things are moving forward.

Mayor Coleburn asked will the Committee set the date for the dedication ceremony.

Manager Palmore answered that the last week in May or the first week in June were the dates discussed.

Council discussed who should be invited to the dedication ceremony.

ON GOING PROJECTS:

Downtown Revitalization - Manager Palmore stated that the contractor is battling the weather but they are getting more done each day. Lafayette is also doing a good job.

Castles Trailer Park - Manager Palmore reported that two residents have moved in and we have two more houses complete with another one started this past Saturday morning.

SOAP BOX DERBY - APRIL 4TH

Mayor Coleburn informed Council that the Police Department proposes a change in the Soap Box Derby. They want to hold it on Saturday, April 4th this year and they also want to change the location to Barco Road. (In years past they have held the Soap Box Derby during the Arts and Crafts Festival in September). He asked if any members of Council have questions for the Police Chief.

Councilman Hill commented that this is a busy weekend and he questioned the use of Barco Road and he asked the Police Chief if it will be closed entirely from both directions.

Police Chief Kuzmiak answered that is true and added that he is flexible. He felt that the size of the road would be more efficient for them. He stated that if Council has a problem with it they can still use Schwartz Tavern.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he was concerned with the parking at North American Reiss because of the dangerous intersection right there.

Police Chief Kuzmiak stated that he has spoken to David Ostrander, Director of Public Works and they plan to put up signage and do whatever they can to make it as safe as possible.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to close Barco Road for the Soap Box Derby on April 4th. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved unanimously. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

Fire Chief Bradford arrived and presented the Report for the Fire Department for February. He apologized for being late and stated that he had to attend a budget committee meeting with Nottoway County. He felt that the meeting was very positive and he is happy and excited about the outcome. One of the positives that came from the meeting is the County is planning to make this a quarterly meeting with all the fire departments in the County.

Mayor Coleburn stated that tomorrow is Tornado Preparedness Day. He asked the Fire Chief if he knew of anything going on.

Fire Chief Bradford answered that they are encouraging citizens to tune to A.M. Station 1610 anytime and especially during a weather event to find out important local information.

Council discussed the recent snow storm.

Fire Chief Bradford informed Council that he is still working on getting bids on the equipment they plan to purchase with the money they received from the FEMA grant. He hopes they will have more information for Council at the April meeting.

TRANSFER \$2,000 TO RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Manager Palmore stated that as usual, we received \$2,000 from Nottoway County. He asked for a motion from Council to transfer the money to the Blackstone Recreation Association.

On motion by Councilman Hill, seconded by Councilman Wilson, the Council voted unanimously to transfer \$2,000 to the Blackstone Recreation Association. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Mayor Coleburn stated that we had a joint public hearing on Mr. Coffey's request last month and he is concerned about having the Planning Commission meetings joint with the Town Council Meetings. He did not like the fact that several members of the public were given the

opportunity in the Council Meeting to speak but they chose not to and then went to the Planning Commission meeting and voiced their opinion. He feels it should have all been done in public. Mayor Coleburn stated that he likes the way Nottoway County handles these meetings. The Planning Commission has their hearing on a separate night from the Council.

Manager Palmore agreed with Mayor Coleburn.

Council discussed this issue.

Town Attorney Walden stated that he talked to John Prosize at the County about they way they handle this issue and the County has two separate meetings but they have one advertisement.

Council agreed by Common Consent to have separate public hearings for the Planning Commission and for Town Staff to work that out with the Planning Commission.

POLICE REPORT

There were no questions on the Police Report.

CITIZEN'S COMMENT

There were no citizen comments.

Councilman Green asked where are we on the Armory lease.

Manager Palmore answered that we are still waiting on Janette Baranishyn and her attorney.

Councilman Green asked what are we doing on the Memorial Center.

Manager Palmore answered that Council directed him to delay the sale of the Memorial Center until better economic times.

Councilman Green asked about the stop lights Downtown.

Manager Palmore answered that we will be getting to them soon.

Councilman Green asked about the line of credit.

Manager Palmore answered it was at 2.75%.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

_____ APPROVED AND ADOPTED

TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA