

FLOYD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
W. SKIP BISHOP JR., TOWN HALL
March 3, 2016
6:30 P.M.
MINUTES

MEETING CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Griffin called the March 3, 2016 meeting of the Floyd Town Council to order.

ROLL CALL – Councilman LeMay, Councilwoman Bingham, Mayor Griffin, Town Manager Cox, and Town Clerk Mandzak were present. Vice-Mayor Turner arrived late. Councilman Patton and Town Attorney Shortt were absent.

CITIZENS COMMENT PERIOD-

Jack Wall, Chairman for the organization STOMP (Standing Together to Overcome the Meth Problem), states that STOMP is a coalition that has been in Floyd for around for about six years. Mr. Wall states that as a coalition they get a lot of help from the public school systems, the Sheriff's Department, and from the community. Mr. Wall states that they are primarily an education group and that their priority is to prevent people from getting into the habit of taking highly addictive drugs and that Meth is a big problem in Floyd. Mr. Wall states that the Sheriff department will say that the vast majority of enforcement dealings that they have in Floyd are related to the drug use or due to people stealing things to get more for drugs. Mr. Wall states that this year STOMP is to work with the kids and that they have a really powerful program that they are doing at the high school that Kevin Harris has really been behind and that they are doing a major assembly on March 24th to try and reach the kids with a powerful message, some of it from the young adults who have been through methadone drug use and have had treatment. Mr. Wall states that STOMP is also holding a community discussion program, Kevin Harris will be presenting about the youth risk survey that was done last year, which has some really interesting information concerning the high school student attitude about drugs. Mr. Wall states that STOMP would like to get the leaders of the community and some parents to come out and really discuss more about what they are doing in Floyd and what they need to get the community support and that the reason that STOMP is successful in Floyd is because they are working together as a community. Mr. Wall states that he would like to invite the Town Council to come to a discussion on Tuesday, March 29th from 6:30-8:30 pm in the cafeteria at the high school, and that there will be representatives from the school, the Sheriff's department, New River Valley Community Services and coalition members. Mr. Wall states that they will be inviting parents to come out to discuss what they can be doing in Floyd and will be presenting other interesting ideas and that Floyd has become a leader in this area with some really good things going on but could always use more community involvement.

Vice-Mayor Turner enters.

CONSENT CALENDAR-

A. February 4th, February 18th and February 29th minutes.

Councilwoman Bingham makes a motion, seconded by Councilman LeMay, to approve the February 4th, February 18th and February 29th minutes as presented.

Councilman Patton-absent

Vice-Mayor Turner-aye

Councilman LeMay-aye
Councilwoman Bingham-aye
Mayor Griffin-aye

PRESENTATIONS-

- A. Montgomery/Floyd Regional Library-Ms. Paula Alston-**Ms. Alston thanks the Council for their annual donation to the library. Ms. Alston reminds the Council how important the public library is because they are an important element in our democracy and in the education lives of our citizens and that it all starts with early childhood literacy. Ms. Alston states that children who are exposed to books early and often and have books in their homes are better adjusted as adults, they stay in school, stay out of trouble and they turn into information literate adults who want to continue their education and they are the ones who help us govern our communities as they get older and that it all starts with a picture book. Ms. Alston states that they have put together things that they call "Books for Babies", it is a bag that is given to DSS and CHIP to be handed out to new mothers. Ms. Alston states that the bags contain a book, a sippy cup, and a coupon for their first library card. Ms. Alston states that last year they introduced the first library cards have been very popular with the kids. Ms. Alston states that they give approximately 100 of the bags to DSS and to CHIP. Ms. Alston states that they also have a program called 1,000 books before kindergarten, in this program they challenge parents to read 1,000 books to their kids before they go to kindergarten and that they have had several families complete this goal. Ms. Alston states that the library pays attention to what their patrons want and that they take in about 80 to 100 suggestions from adults every month and 12 to 20 suggestions from their little patrons every month and that most of the items that people are asking for we buy with their collection so the donation to the book budget that the Council gives to the Jessie Peterman library is very important. Ms. Alston states that the Jessie Peterman remains an active library, year to date in this fiscal year people have checked out over 80,000 items and have a door count of over 50,000 meaning that there are approximately 19 people in the building for every hour that they are open. Ms. Alston states that they have added a new service to their website called MFR Academy which are short YouTube like videos that show patrons how to download books to their kindle's or to their phone or iPad. Ms. Alston states that the service has gotten much easier and that when they started the service in 2008 it was a cumbersome task to download a book from their website. Ms. Alston states that another service that they have added is called Book a Librarian which is a 15 to 20 minute slot that you can book with a library staff member to help people with any computer type need whether it be to help figure out how to download a book to your particular phone or with a piece of software or how to use Word or how to make a resume or apply for an online job. Ms. Alston states that this is a very popular service and that the Floyd library averages 3 to 5 appointments per week. Ms. Alston states that another new service that they have is the library is now a Passport Acceptance Agency, this program was started December first at three of their locations, Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Floyd. Ms. Alston states that since there is nowhere in Floyd to get your passport photo taken that the library staff will take your photo too. Ms. Alston states that since the service started they have processed over 220 passport applications in only three months and in February alone they processed over 100. Ms. Alston states that they are in the process of training nine people system wide with three at Jessie Peterman so that anytime the library is open you should be able to come in with an appointment and get a passport. Ms. Alston states that they are expecting a slight increase to their budget from their state aid and

that the library community has put together a package asking for 1 million dollars in additional state aid for state libraries. Ms. Alston states that if they receive the requested amount it would mean that the Montgomery Floyd system would receive approximately 30,000-40,000 a year in their state aid. Ms. Alston states that Floyd County continues to be supportive of the library system and that they did ask for a \$3,400 increase to offset an increase to regional salaries. Ms. Alston invites the Town Council to their annual reception which will be held on March 16th at 7:30pm at the Christiansburg Library. Ms. Alston states that the event is an opportunity for the library board to thank the members of the Town Council and the Board of Supervisors for all the work that they do and for their support to the library system. Ms. Ginny Gardner thanks the Town Council for their continued support.

- B. Partnership for Floyd-Ms. Jane Cundiff-** Ms. Jane Cundiff from Partnership for Floyd reviews the handout provided in regards to the estimated costs for the proposed projects at Warren G. Lineberry Park (please see attached). Ms. Cundiff states that she has numerous volunteers to help with the projects in the park. Ms. Cundiff asks the Council to give her dates of when they could meet with her and some of the other volunteers about the projects. Ms. Cundiff asks Council about the request submitted by Karen Grosshands to hold an Earth Day event in the park on April 30th with a rain date of May 1st. Ms. Cundiff states that they are still working on the specifics of the event. Vice-mayor Turner thanks Ms. Cundiff for all of her hard work on the park projects. Mayor Griffin also thanks Ms. Cundiff for her work.
- C. Mr. Dylan Locke-**Mr. Locke states that he is at the meeting to talk to the Council about the Floyd Town Jubilee. Mr. Locke states that he wants to seek advice and discuss the possible events in the park for this year. Mr. Locke states that his partner Heather Krantz has been in charge of the jubilee for the past few years and that he has spent the last 13 years working for a non-profit organization, Jefferson Center, and has recently made the choice to be in Floyd more to be with his family more. Mr. Locke states that he thinks there are some opportunities in the park to bring in some entertainment and bring a lot of people into Floyd. Mr. Locke states that he believes that have music and family events are a great way to celebrate parks and to bring people into the town. Mr. Locke states that he doesn't have a proposal ready to present but that he can come back and present one at a later date but that he needs guidance from the Council about what direction they want to go in concerning the events in the park. Mr. Locke asks Council if they would like to hold the same type of events that they have in the past or if they would like to try and partner up with other businesses in Town. Vice-Mayor Turner asks Mr. Locke if he could come back with a proposal for both scenarios; Mr. Locke states that it wouldn't be difficult at all and that he can do that for them. Councilman LeMay asks if he will need advanced notice to book bands for this year; Mr. Locke states that he thinks there is still time to get some interesting acts booked and there is still time to work with other organizations in Town and non-profit organizations. Mayor Griffin states that in the past the Council has designated \$15,000 for the events and that he would like Mr. Locke to use that amount as a base for his proposals. Mr. Locke states that he thinks that consistency about when events are held will help with getting more people to come. Mayor Griffin asks Mr. Locke to come back on March 17th with his proposals.
- D. Virginia Department of Transportation-Mr. Paul Brown-**Mr. Brown states that several departments of VDOT met with Town Manager Cox February 25th; Town Manager Cox provides Council with a handout of a synopsis of that meeting. Mr. Brown states that when he was at the meeting in October the Council had mentioned wanting to pursue having a permanent post mounted display sign and that he has had discussions with traffic engineering and when you go

permanent post mounted the process is a little longer and that the funding will be through the Town. Mr. Brown states that when you go with the permanent display sign it requires the Regional Traffic Engineer to sign off on it. Mr. Brown states that generally the intent is to have a trial run with a portable display sign to see if the sign has some affect in providing the awareness and potentially slowing the traffic down. Mr. Brown states that traffic engineering and others are looking in to see if another locality has a portable display sign that could potentially be borrowed or if there is a company that you could rent one. Mr. Brown states that they will start informing landowners, by letter, who are in violation of the right-of-way walk through that was done in October. Mr. Brown states that he will share a draft letter of each category with Town Manager Cox before they are sent out. Mr. Brown states that there is a paving project planned for Route 8 this summer but that he doesn't have an exact start date. Mr. Brown states that there is a potential, if they can coordinate in enough advance time, as part of this paving project to put back the double yellow line down the center and to establish what's called an edge line to truly define a lane so that outside of that line is not a travel lane which would make some areas no parking and some areas would be parking spaces. Mr. Brown states that the Council might want to consider that because they have found that one way to effectively assist in the speed is to control the lane width, this would give some flexibility to the Town so that after a later point in time and a little bit more planning true parking spaces could be accommodated. Mr. Brown refers to the google image of the proposed striping provided by Town Manager Cox (please see attached). Mr. Brown states that this option would be cost effective and long lasting. Mr. Brown states that he would like to have a plan in place by May to accommodate the contract for the paving. Mr. Brown states that this striping of the road would help define the traffic lane and assist in the traffic control. Mr. Brown states that in regard to the traffic issues on Friday night they have discussed different options such as cones, barrels and they would require a land use permit that would be written as a yearly permit. Mr. Brown states that he is aware that there are drawbacks to temporary traffic control and that they have discussed more permanent options such as extending the sidewalks out to establish more uniform areas. Mr. Brown states that he would like to return at the next meeting so that they can further discuss the options presented and to potentially come back to a third meeting in April to discuss some fine tuning and decision making and if a fourth meeting is needed he can come back. Mr. Brown states that VDOT is always there to assist the Town in any way they can. Mr. Brown states that the sidewalk project working on the ADA ramps should be completed next week. Mr. Brown states that he is still working on the "No Through Truck" sign on Oxford St. Mr. Brown states that he believes that everyone has the same end goal in mind and that is to keep everyone safe and for everyone to have a good time. Town Manager Cox states that one of the barricades that VDOT would approve would be to use the barrels and that they could be purchased or rented. Town Manager Cox states that she has included other options in the handout provided. Town Manager Cox states that Sheriff Craig said that either through the trustee program or one of the deputies would be available to set out whatever the Council chooses on Friday nights.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Warren G. Lineberry Park Requests-**Town Manager Cox informs Council that she has received three Warren G. Lineberry Park requests. The first request is from the Volunteer Fire Department to hold a concert on May 14th. The second request is from the Partnership for Floyd for an Earth Day celebration on April 30th with

a rain date of May 1st. The third request is from the Girl Scouts to be able to sell cookies on March 11th. Town Manager Cox states that the proceeds from the cookie sale would support scouts who are planning a trip to Savannah Georgia to visit the birth place of Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon Low.

Council discusses the requests.

Vice-Mayor Turner makes a motion, seconded by Councilman LeMay to accept all three Warren G. Lineberry Park requests presented by Town Manager Cox.

Councilman Patton-absent

Vice-Mayor Turner-aye

Councilman LeMay-aye

Councilwoman Bingham-aye

Mayor Griffin-aye

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Cox asks Council to continue to think about projects that they can get assistance from the New River Valley Regional Commission on. Mayor Griffin states that the Commission would be a tremendous asset on guiding them through the joint meetings with the County. Town Manager Cox states that one project she thought about would be to get assistance on updating the Comprehensive Plan.

Town Manager Cox states that she met with Mike Maslaney concerning the trail rules and wanted to know if they were ready to move forward and approve the draft that she had emailed them; Council discusses the draft with Mr. Maslaney. Mr. Maslaney states that he wants to make sure that the sign has the list of people that helped contribute to the trail. Mayor Griffin states that if they refer to the park than the sign needs to say "Warren G. Lineberry Park".

OTHER

Town Manager Cox hands out preliminary budgets for Council to review so that they will be ready to start discussing the budget at the next meeting. Council reviews the handouts provided. Town Manager Cox explains to the Council that she has pulled general scales from neighboring localities concerning salaries. Mayor Griffin and Vice-Mayor Turner state that they will need to look at the donation aspect of the budget.

Town Manager Cox informs Council that the contractor for the roof repair did not give her a definite date of when the work would be done but that it should be within the next few months.

Town Manager Cox informs Council that the paving at the Town parking lot should be done by the end of March.

Town Manager Cox states that some of the trees in the planters in Town will be replaced in the next month. Town Manager Cox states that with the help of Beegle Landscaping they have chosen trees that are slow growing so that they don't damage the brick.

Councilwoman Bingham asks Town Manager Cox about the re-staining that needs to be done at the Town restrooms; Town Manager Cox states that she has spoken to the gentlemen that is going to do the work and that he will be working on it this month. Town Manager Cox states that once they have the third employee the public works crew will be able to re-stain the wall by the parking lot.

Vice-Mayor Turner states that he would like to hold some of the loan money out so that if something comes up in the Town they would have funds available. Mayor Griffin states that Town Manager Cox should go ahead and start putting some of that money aside. Town Manager Cox asks Council if they would like for her to start another savings account or put the funds in the current savings account; Mayor Griffin states that she should start a new savings account for these funds.

Councilwoman Bingham asks when the spring flags will be put up; Town Manager Cox states that they are usually put up when the season changes.

Mayor Griffin states that he has requested that Town Manager Cox speak with Kevin Byrd at the Regional Commission about possibly helping the Town with a boundary adjustment, just to see what is involved and what costs the Town may incur.

Mayor Griffin states that Monday night's joint meeting exceeded his expectations and that if this committee forms that one of the things he would like to push is each board adopting a resolution that mandates that they will get together twice a year and that once a committee forms that the committee will meet at least once a quarter, that way future boards don't really have the choice about whether or not they meet. Councilman LeMay states that they should meet more than twice a year. Vice-Mayor Turner states that they shouldn't have too many meetings. Mayor Griffin states that he would like to see the meeting in May to be the first committee meeting.

Town Manager Cox reminds the Council that they had wanted to recognize a group or an individual quarterly and requests that the Council come back with thoughts on that so that she can start working on it in April. Vice-Mayor Turner suggests recognizing some of the kids at the high school. Mayor Griffin states that there are numerous kids that would qualify. Mayor Griffin states that he would like to recognize the ladies at the Baptist Preschool along with Ms. Pauley.

Councilman LeMay states that he like the idea of a portable speed sign as opposed to a pole mounted sign. Paul Brown states that just putting a portable unit out on Friday's would fall under a permit. Mayor Griffin and Councilman LeMay state that they like the idea of the proposed striping. Councilman LeMay states that he has spoken to other musicians in Town and that he and the other musicians will start playing in the park on Friday nights to try and get more people down in the park. Mayor Griffin states that the one band that has caused issues should get a business license because they are selling CDs; Vice-Mayor Turner states that he thinks this would have an adverse effect. Vice-Mayor Turner states that they should try and get the band to play down in the park instead of on the sidewalk.

Council discusses other options for keeping people out of the street. Mr. Brown states that one of the options they have discussed is extending the pop out for the sidewalk with some type of temporary marker to expand the standing area so that they are truly delineated. Town Manager Cox states that they also discussed turning the alcove around.

Councilwoman Bingham asks Council if they would like to take action on the proposed park projects and states that they don't want to put so much in the park that the space can't be used for events. Council discusses the proposed park projects. Town Manager Cox states that the New River Valley Regional Commission helps develop park plans and that may be helpful long term. Mayor Griffin asks Town Manager Cox to talk to Beegle Landscaping about possibly terracing the area in front of the stage.

Councilman LeMay makes a motion, seconded by Vice-Mayor Turner, and unanimously carried, to adjourn to March 17, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Floyd Town Hall.

William R. Griffin, Mayor

Chrissy Mandzak, Clerk