

FLOYD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
W. SKIP BISHOP JR., TOWN HALL
January 19, 2017
6:30 P.M.
MINUTES

MEETING CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Griffin called the January 19, 2017 meeting of the Floyd Town Council to order.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS-

None.

PRESENTATIONS-

A. New River Valley Regional Commission-Mr. Kevin Byrd- Mr. Byrd reviews the handout provided (please see attached). Topics discussed are as follows:

- The Ridership and Station Analysis the Commission was asked to do a study on extending passenger rail service from Roanoke. Mr. Byrd explains that the Commission was asked to figure out where a station location could be as well as whether or not they had the ridership numbers for the additional service. The Commission found that working with the communities that Christiansburg would be the best site for the location. Mr. Byrd informs the Council that there are about 40,000 riders per year which is based on a survey response and the Commission checked that against the traffic counts going north bound on Interstate 81. There are over 1 million trips a year going north bound on I81 that are generated from the New River Valley every day going back and forth to Roanoke. If one out of every 25 trips people choose to take the train north bound then they would get 40,000 riders per year. The next step with this project is rail traffic control modeling site, it's how to put a passenger on a busy freight corridor. The next step is currently scheduled for FY2019 and is funded by the State.
- NRV Tourism-This past year the Commission has worked on the Building Collaborative Communities Grant on regional tourism. For the first time all four counties and the city has someone on their staff that is dedicated in whole or in part to promoting their communities. The Commission has been supporting those meetings for the past several years in an informal way by helping them work on marketing projects and the Regional Tourism website called Explore New River Valley and by simply helping them work together. This effort is looking at different ways to collaborate in the future, the pros, cons, and costs of the different models. As part of that effort the Commission was tasked with a demonstration project and in April they will hold the Southwest Virginia Outdoor Expo at Bisset Park in Radford. The Expo will be a chance for anyone in our local communities to set up a table and talk about what they have to offer. The Commission is expecting 4,000 people to come through Bisset Park that day and they currently have around 50 vendors scheduled to be there.
- This past year the Commission worked on the ReNew the New Expansion river cleanup project. In Giles county, for 14 years, has been doing a cleanup of their 37 miles of river.

The Commission asked if they could take their model and help with expanding that out to the region and for about 8 months the Commission spoke to local governments about how they could get the Public Service Authority to staff members there and how they could coordinate all the volunteers. In August they had an event where they had 450 volunteers come out and go from the I81 Bridge in Radford down to the Peppersferry Bridge on 114 and in 4 hours the volunteers removed 4 tons of trash. The Public Service Authorities picked all this up and inmates where there to help as well. The New River Valley Regional Resource Authority took all of that 4 tons at no cost. Next year the Commission is trying to figure out to decentralize that type of activity because 450 volunteers was a lot. The Commission is working on having centralized registration and when they identify what locality they are from they can work with the host communities to put those volunteers to work so that they can get some cleanups across the region.

- Go Virginia was enabled last year by the General Assembly in two parts, the first part was to create larger geographies that would work together on econ development projects. The geography of the New River Valley, Roanoke Valley, and Lynchburg are working on identifying the development projects and those areas will get per capita, amounts of money to invest in projects in their region. In late December it was announced that the Regional Council Members is going to be chaired by Ray Smoot.
- Convening is a major aspect of the Commission each year. The Mayor and Chairs group meet, informally, twice a year to have discussions about what is going on in their communities. The Local Government Managers meet on a quarterly basis.
- The Commission also assisted the Town of Floyd with their Warren G. Lineberry Park planning project. Mr. Byrd has assisted Town Manager Cox with land use advisement. Town Manager Cox informs the Council that she has reached out to Mr. Byrd concerning the update on the Comprehensive Plan.

B. Partnership for Floyd-Mr. Michael Maslaney- Mr. Maslaney informs the Council that the Partnership for Floyd is working on a new trail in the County. Mr. Maslaney explains that the idea for this trail has been bounced around for about 10 years at the Floyd County Recreation Department. The trail is a loop trail about a mile long and part of it goes along Dodd Creek. In the past there has been a hang-up between the County and the Rec Department staff but now that there has been a turnover in the staff and with that turnover they have some new thinking and would like to see the trail completed. Mr. Maslaney states that Dennis Anderson has already taken his bulldozer and made the initial cleanup of the pathway. There will be some ongoing help needed with maintenance and there are some areas where they will need to put in some rock and some culverts for drainage. The left hand side of the trail shares a border with David Larsen and Mr. Larsen is willing to entertain an easement for the trail. Mr. Maslaney states that they have already ordered a survey to be done by John Lewis. Mr. Maslaney asks the Council if they would be willing to allow Town Attorney Shortt to prepare an easement and if the Town would be willing to cover the cost of the easement preparation. Town Attorney Shortt asks if the County is going to be willing to hold the easement; Mr. Maslaney states that from what he understands that the County is willing to hold the easement. Mr. Jack Wall states that the Rec Authority has been very supportive of the trail but they don't want to take on the whole burden of the responsibility because they are limited in their resources so the Partnership for Floyd is helping them and if the Town and the County could help out too that would be what makes it all work. Councilman Patton asks what the cost of the easement

preparation may be; Town Attorney Shortt states that if all parties are in agreement then it should cost approximately between \$500 and \$700.

Councilman Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Bingham to allow Town Attorney Shortt to prepare an easement for the trail at the Floyd County Rec Park with the cost to be paid for as a donation from the Town.

Councilman Patton-aye
Councilman Turner-aye
Vice-Mayor LeMay-aye
Councilwoman Bingham-aye
Mayor Griffin-aye

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION-

A. Financials- Council reviews the financials provided by Town Manager Cox.

Councilman Patton makes a motion, seconded by Vice-Mayor LeMay to approve the November and December financials as presented.

Councilman Patton-aye
Councilman Turner-aye
Vice-Mayor LeMay-aye
Councilwoman Bingham-aye
Mayor Griffin-aye

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT-

A. Recognition Program- Councilman Patton explains to the Council that he would like to recommend Lydeana Martin and Angie Covey for their work on the ACCE program. The Access to Community College Education program provides tuition assistance to any senior that qualifies, to attend New River Community College. Councilman Patton informs the Council that Ms. Martin and Ms. Covey were instrumental in obtaining the grant money from the Virginia Tobacco Commission to fund the program for Floyd County. After discussion, the Town Council decides by acclamation to honor Mr. Martin and Ms. Covey for their work on the ACCE program.

B. Special request for Trash Pick-up- Town Manager Cox informs the Council that the Rec Board made a request for Trash Pick-up. Councilman Patton explains to the Council that the Rec Board is asking that the Town public works crew come to the rec park and empty the trash for them. Councilman Patton states that Jon Beegle is going to run the concession during the upcoming season and that he feels like they will be generating more trash. Councilman Patton explains to the Council that he feels like the Town is contributing to the Rec Board in many different ways. Town Manager Cox informs the Council that the public works crew used to empty the trash for previous management at the Rec Authority because they didn't have the equipment that Mr. Hollandsworth has to assist in trash pick-up. Town Manager Cox states that there is a County dumpster on site that is being picked up and serviced by the County at no charge to the Rec Authority. Town Manager Cox explains that the reason the public works crew stopped picking up the trash was because there was an agreement with prior management and now the ability and the equipment has changed. Town Manager Cox also states that the public works crew has expressed some of their concerns are: the time that it takes to go into each dugout to collect the trash and the wear and tear on the trash truck. Mayor Griffin states that it doesn't really

make sense for the Town to pick up the trash if the Rec Authority has the ability and the equipment to do so. Councilman Patton informs the Council that he will voice the concerns of the Council to the Rec Board and report back.

OTHER-

Town Manager Cox informs the Council that she sent out allocation request letters to all organizations who have requested allocations previously. In the letters Town Manager Cox asked that they come and give a presentation to the Council at one of the Council meetings in February.

Town Manager Cox explains to the Council she received the bill from AEP for the Christmas lights and with the new LED bulbs there was a savings of over \$2,000. The 2016 bill was just over \$2,600 and this year's bill was right at \$600.

Town Manager Cox states that she received a VML call for action in regard to the SB 836 License Taxes that went through the Senate Finance Committee. Town Manager Cox informs the Council that she contacted the Senate Finance Committee on behalf of the Town Council to let them know that the Council would oppose the bill if it was passed because of how it would affect our small town and possibly reduce our revenue. Mayor Griffin explains that the bill would take it from a tax based on revenue to a tax based on profitability.

Councilman Patton updates the Council on the annual dinner. The Council discusses date options for the annual dinner and comes to a consensus to hold the dinner on January 30th or January 31st depending on which date works best for the restaurant. Councilman Patton will firm up the plans and let the Council and Town staff know when the dinner will be.

Vice-Mayor LeMay makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Patton, and unanimously carried, to adjourn until February 2, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the Floyd Town Hall.

William R. Griffin, Mayor

Chrissy Mandzak, Town Clerk