FLOYD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
W. SKIP BISHOP JR., TOWN HALL
March 2, 2017
6:30 P.M.
MINUTES

MEETING CALL TO ORDER – Vice-Mayor LeMay called the March 2, 2017 meeting of the Floyd Town Council to order.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS:
None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:
A. February 2nd and February 16th- Council reviews the minutes provided.

Councilman Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Bingham, to approve the February 2nd and February 16th minutes as presented.
Councilman Patton-aye
Councilman Turner-aye
Vice-Mayor LeMay-aye
Councilwoman Bingham-aye
Mayor Griffin-absent

PRESENTATIONS:
A. Montgomery/Floyd Regional Library- Ms. Paula Alston and Ms. Cathy Whitten- Ms. Alston thanks the Council for their past donations. Ms. Alston introduces Board Member Megan McKewan and thanks her for her years of active service. Ms. Cathy Whitten thanks the Council for their past support and states that they think of the library as more of a community center. Ms. Whitten states that they wish to reach every segment of the community with their many different types of programs. Ms. Whitten highlights some of the permanent programs at the library such as their art gallery, Club M.O.M., Floyd Moves It!, movies, Talking About Books, bingo, board games for homeschoolers, Writers Jam, Scrabble, puzzles for adults and crafts for children. Ms. Whitten informs the Council that the library is also a collection site for Plenty! and they average 75+ pounds of food a month collected. Among the previously stated programs they also have specialty programs such as Talking to Spirits, various STEM programs, visits from authors, blood drives, DMV connect every three months, Agency on Aging, Math origami, The Wild Gardeners, kids pirate parties, and training sessions to help make people aware of their on-line offerings.
Ms. Alston updates the Council on some of the fiscal year statistics such as year to date the Jessie Peterman Library has checked out 65,000 items and have had door counts of over 35,000 people. The public computers have over 700 users every month and more than 50 groups use the community room each month. Ms. Alston informs the Council of other items available for
check out are; nature backpacks which include a pass to the National Parks; museum passes for museums in Blacksburg and Roanoke; science experiments; backpacks for reading that include activities; kindles; and IPads. Ms. Alston states that they have completed over 1,100 passport applications. Ms. Alston explains that for FY18 there will be a slight decrease of almost $7,000.00 in state aid for Montgomery and Floyd libraries. Ms. Alston states that libraries are not just a good thing for communities to have they are important, they are important to our democracy, important to early literacy for preschoolers and for continuing education for adults. Ms. Alston thanks the Council for their time and informs them that she will be retiring May 1st and that she has enjoyed the time that she has had with the library and with the Council.

Councilman Patton asks who is handling the arts program at the library; Ms. Whitten states that Cheryl Mackian takes care of the arts program. Councilman Patton states that the Council will miss Ms. Alston and thanks her for her years of service. Councilwoman Bingham asks if the library has requested funds from the County; Ms. Alston states that they have requested funds from the Town and County. Councilman Turner thanks Ms. Alston for her support to Floyd and Montgomery counties and wishes her well in her retirement.

B. Floyd County Chamber of Commerce- Mr. John McEnhill thanks the Council for their past contributions to the Chamber and the Visitor’s Center. Mr. McEnhill informs the Council that the Chamber obtained a grant that helped pay for three laptops for the Visitor’s Center along with a dedicated printer and phone system. Mr. McEnhill is working towards obtaining funds from other sources to purchase display fixtures that hold materials for local business for off-site promotions in places like Visitor Centers on the interstate and Floyd Fest. The Chamber’s donation allocation request for the upcoming fiscal year is for level funding. The Chamber’s biggest increase in expenses was due to phone calls made to out of state locations and the Chamber plans to absorb the increase. Mr. McEnhill states that the Chamber and the Visitor’s Center continue to have a strong working relationship and a commitment in continuing that relationship along with a common goal of serving the business community. In addition to the Town support the Chamber has requested funding from the County. Mr. McEnhill states that he feels that the Chamber and the Visitor’s Center are very valued and supported by the Town, collectively and individually. Mr. McEnhill informs the Council that last year he worked with some of the local women’s apparel businesses to promote shopping in the Town of Floyd the project resulted in a feature article in the Roanoke Times Sunday edition. The Chamber supported the reactivation of the Junior Achievement Program in Floyd. Mr. McEnhill states that he worked with Wanda Combs from the Floyd Press on a multi part series promoting entrepreneurship and services provided by businesses in Floyd. The Chamber offers ongoing education for business owners and scholarships to local high school seniors. Mr. McEnhill informs the Council that they are currently working on a new updated Floyd County Visitor’s Guide and are increasing the production to 75,000 due to the increase in demand.

C. Plenty!- Ms. Kim O’Donnell and Ms. Rachel Theo-Maurelli. Ms. O’Donnell thanks the Council for their support. Ms. O’Donnell informs the Council that Plenty! has volunteer services worth around $100,000 and that they couldn’t exist without the help of their volunteers. Ms. O’Donnell states that they only have three employees and only one of them is a fulltime position. Ms. O’Donnell states they are asking for assistance from the County as well as the Town. Ms. O’Donnell informs the Council that Plenty! services are only available to residents of
Floyd County. Plenty! programs are mostly food based but they just recently received a grant to offer cooking classes to people in the community and will be working along with Tri-Area Community Health, Virginia Cooperative Extension, NRV Cares, NRV Head start, and Radford University on the project. The object of the program is not only to teach people how to cook but get them to cook more and to cook healthy meals. Ms. O’Donnell informs the Council they have students from Radford University and Virginia Tech that come and volunteer their time, the students are usually looking to learn about sustainability and are also helping them evaluate their cooking class program. Ms. O’Donnell also states that Plenty! is a hub for collecting excess food from all over the County and is working with Food Lion to help eliminate food waste by collecting out dated and unsold food for every single day except for Christmas. Volunteers pick up the food in coolers and taking it to Plenty! and redistributed what can be used and use the rest for compost. In the first month they recycled over 3,000 pounds of food. Ms. O’Donnell informs the Council that the money they received from the Town last year last helped provide essentials for their pantry and also helped fix their walk-in coolers. This year, if they receive funds, they are hoping to supply more food for their pantry and make some much needed repairs on their driveway.

Ms. Theo-Maurelli thanks the Council for their past support. Ms. Theo-Maurelli states that Plenty! had a 13% increase in foodbank services last year and they are currently servicing approximately 75 families per week. Ms. Theo-Maurelli states that they help the elderly, the disabled, families who have lost their jobs and also working families who don’t have enough money to buy food. Ms. Theo-Maurelli informs the Council that Plenty! holds community lunches on a regular basis and they also deliver food to Pine Ridge Apartments in Town. Plenty! also has a portable produce program where they deliver produce to people who can’t make it to the food bank. Ms. Theo-Maurelli states that last year they cultivated about an acre which produced 6,500 pounds of food for the food bank are hoping to expand the area by 50%. Plenty! is planning on planting garlic and herbs to try and generate revenue for the organization.

Councilman Patton asks how they determine eligibility for Plenty! services; Ms. Theo-Maurelli states that the only requirement is that you are a Floyd County resident. Ms. O’Donnell states that their organization has always operated that way and when it started it was a very small organization and their model has always been based on helping each other because it’s the right thing to do. Ms. O’Donnell states that they don’t want to stigmatize hunger so they don’t require people to prove that they need help. Ms. O’Donnell states that there may be a couple of people who take advantage of the program but for the most part the people who need and appreciate the help. Ms. Theo-Maurelli states that they feel that Plenty! is filling a gap that is much needed in the community.

Councilman Patton asks how the stewards of the Town can justify giving money to a wonderful cause that gives help to many people when there is nothing to keep those couple of people from ballooning into a couple hundred because many people that have a need will work hard to try and get out of a rut. Ms. O’Donnell states that they are aware of the issue and it’s something that they have discussed but even if there are a few people that are taking advantage of the program it’s not worth it to stigmatize the majority of the people that truly need the help. Ms. O’Donnell states that they feel a profound responsibility as stewards of the money that is given to them and to use it wisely and to make sure that the people who are
getting food really need it. Ms. O’Donnell states that anyone is welcome to the recycled food and the community lunches that they hold. Councilman Patton asks how often they hold their community lunches; Ms. O’Donnell states that during the Winter they have lunch once a month on the last Wednesday of the month and in the Summer (June, July and August) they have lunch every week. Councilman Patton asks where the lunches are held; Ms. O’Donnell informs the Council the community lunches are held at the Plenty! location on Elephant Curve Road in Floyd.

D. Floyd County Historical Preservation Trust- Mr. Micky Hatcher thanks the Council for their financial assistance in the past which has helped keep buildings open and provide a home for the Historical Society. Mr. Hatcher informs the Council that the Preservation Trust identifies historical properties, purchases them and tries to get them back into public use. The Preservation Trust currently has two properties located within the Town of Floyd, the property where the museum is located and the Oxford Academy. Mr. Hatcher states that their major thrust in fundraising is trying to raise enough money to pay off the building that the museum is in. Mr. Hatcher informs the Council that the project they are working on right now is the renovation of the inside of the Oxford Academy. The Oxford Academy building has been rewired and their goal for the space is to get it opened as a public meeting space. The additional renovations in the academy are going to cost approximately $40,000 therefore it will take some time before it will be open to the public. Mr. Hatcher states that the Preservation Trust also takes care of all repairs needed in the museum building.

Councilman Patton asks if their fundraising for the current year is higher than last year; Mr. Hatcher states that there funding is about the same as last. Mr. Hatcher explains to the Council that the Trust has a core group of people that give allocate money to them every year and they donate about the same amount every year with the exception of a chance donation that they might receive.

Councilwoman Bingham asks if the trust has members; Mr. Hatcher states that they don’t have members. Councilwoman Bingham also asks if the trust still has the Phlegar house; Mr. Hatcher states that they still have the Phlegar house and they have painted it and repaired the roof and it currently has a front porch that needs to be replaced. Mr. Hatcher informs the Council that the windows at the Phlegar house are boarded up right now because it had become a place for people to gather at night but the house is now secure.

E. Floyd County Historical Society- Ms. Rebecca Weeks thanks the Council for their past interest and support. Ms. Weeks informs the Council that this past year the museum had an exhibit of the 75th anniversary of the Radford Arsenal and also a tribute to Maggie Phillips. Ms. Weeks states that the museum had an exhibit focusing on the educational growth at the schools in Floyd County. The Society identified over 100 one-room schools, placed them on a map and in the year that the map has been up they have identified even more schools in the county. Ms. Weeks states that Alice Slusher has been instrumental on helping them identify and get information on all of the county’s one-room schools. Ms. Weeks informs the Council that their records show that they have had 2,200 visitors to the museum which includes all of the 6th graders from all four schools within the county. Ms. Weeks explains to the Council that if they receive a donation allocation from the Town it will be used for typical maintenance of the
building such as electric and other monthly expenses. Ms. Weeks states that the society will hold two events within the month. Gino Williams will be the speaker at the first event that is being held on March 11th at 11:00 am at the Floyd County Center for the Arts, he will be speaking on the history of sports in Floyd County. The second event will be a dedication of their civil war sign at the museum on April 1st at 2:00 pm and at this event they will have speaker Chris Hartley. Ms. Weeks informs the Council that the Historical Society does receive support from the County. Ms. Weeks thanks the Council for their time and for their past support.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION-
A. GiveBigNRV Giving Day Proclamation- Town Manager Cox reviews the GiveBigNRV Giving Day Proclamation provided. Town Manager Cox explains that the proclamation request came from the Community Foundation for the New River Valley and that the County also received the same request. Town Manager Cox states that the program is to help raise awareness for non-profit organizations in Floyd. Ms. Slusher explains that the program is in its 3rd year and the program is a national program that the New River Valley in a part of and the other groups that spoke tonight have already been participating in the program. Councilman Patton states that if they are asking the Council simply to proclaim this day that there is no reason not to do it because the Community Foundation is a great organization that helps Floyd as well as other localities in the area.

Councilman Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Turner to approve the GiveBigNRV Giving Day Proclamation as presented.
   Councilman Patton-aye
   Councilman Turner-aye
   Vice-Mayor LeMay-aye
   Councilwoman Bingham-aye
   Mayor Griffin-absent

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT-
Town Manager Cox provided the Council with a draft proclamation for appreciation for their review and asks them to report back with any questions or changes they may have.

CLOSED SESSION-
Councilman Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Bingham, to go into closed session for Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.7, consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. For the purposes of this subdivision, “probable litigation” that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

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

Councilman Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Bingham, and unanimously carried, it was resolved to come out of closed session.

CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION
WHEREAS, this Council convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting to consult with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. For the purposes of this subdivision, “probable litigation” that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter pursuant to Section 2.2-3711, Paragraph A.7 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;
WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting to which this certification applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

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

This Certification Resolution was adopted.

OTHER-
Councilman Patton asks Town Manager Cox to review the ordinances that might deal with hedges or trees that overhang the sidewalk and report back.

Councilwoman Bingham asks what the status of the easement needed on West Oxford; Town Manager Cox reports that the easement has been signed and is at the bank for their approval.

Councilman Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Bingham, and unanimously carried, to adjourn until March 16, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the W. Skip Bishop Town Hall.

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Paul LeMay, Vice-Mayor                          Chrissy Mandzak, Town Clerk