

**FLOYD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
W. SKIP BISHOP JR., TOWN HALL**

**May 16, 2019**

**6:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Griffin called the May 16, 2019 meeting of the Floyd Town Council to order.

**ROLL CALL** – Vice Mayor Patton, Councilman Turner, Councilman LeMay, Councilman Bond, Mayor Griffin, Town Attorney Shortt, Town Manager Cox (entered the meeting during budget discussion) and Town Clerk Holfield were present.

Mayor Griffin asked for a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Sam Moore and Mr. Roger Shortt, Town Attorney Shortt's dad; both men passed away this week. Mr. Shortt was a World War II veteran and Mr. Moore helped the Town with the TEA-21 projects and various things through the years

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-**

Vice Mayor Patton led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Griffin thanked Ms. Wanda Combs for her dedication to the Floyd Press. Ms. Combs will be retiring at the end of the month.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS-**

Mr. David Whitaker stated that Springhouse School is a private independent school that is strictly voluntary. If the school is lacking funds it should be reaching out to private individuals and doing fund raising events. The school should not be asking that public tax funds fund their school. I would ask that Town Council not use the citizens public tax funds to fund a private school.

**PRESENTATION-**

**A. Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley**

Ms. Linda Jilk noted that the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley helps a large number of Floyd County residents with only two part time staff members and no federal funding. Last fiscal year the organization helped 167 individuals and this year to-date they have already helped 223.

Several of the programs they offer include the Skill Up NRV program and Skill Up Family program. The Skill Up NRV program helps older individual with their computer skills as well as their reading and writing skills. Ms. Jilk stated that they have worked with a Floyd Resident named James, who is a Veteran, improve his reading and writing skill so he can get a job.

The Skill Up Family program helps parents learn the skills they need to help their children with their homework. This program is offered at the Floyd Jessie Peterman Library. The Literacy Volunteers will teach the parents, while staff at the library provide activities for the children.

The Literacy Volunteers also offer a program at the Montgomery Regional Jail that help inmates receive their GED. Ms. Jilk stated that she is aware of at least one inmate from Floyd who is in the program at this time.

It was noted that only 20% of the total Literacy Volunteers budget is contributed by government organizations and the organization is only requesting \$300 from the Town of Floyd. The County of Floyd contributes \$500. Vice Mayor Patton asked where the organization meets to hold the programs. Ms. Jilk stated that they meet at the local library.

## **B. Springhouse Community School**

Ms. Ginny Finn and Ms. Sarah Merfeld with Springhouse Community School summarized their donation requested.

Ms. Finn stated that Springhouse Community School is 501c3 non-profit with a mission to reimagine the purpose and practice of education by fostering holistic development in youth, young adults and adults. Currently around 16 students in grades 7 through 12 attend Springhouse School. These students come from homeschool programs and public schools and are looking for more experienced based learning. This past year students at Springhouse School built a sailboat and took it to the Chesapeake Bay to sail. Springhouse works toward a 1 on 1 mentor-based learning and currently has 5 full time staff. The intent is to keep Springhouse small, a maximum of around 50 students.

Springhouse works with four core practices in mind, learning by doing, mentoring, community collaborations and embodied living (taking care of one's self). Springhouse has worked with numerous local businesses to create a community internship program. Citizens Telephone, St. Pierre Woodworking, Floyd County EMS, the Floyd Press and the National Parks Service are just a few of the organizations that have hosted an intern through the program. Students in grades 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> intern one day a week and students in grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> intern two days a week. Through the internship programs students created instruments, wooden stools, published articles in the Floyd Press and gained skills that would be instrumental in the career fields they plan to pursue upon graduation from Springhouse. The \$5,000 request for funding by Springhouse would go to help fund the community internship program, the Community Life Coordinator's salary and help with transportation.

Some of the challenges that Springhouse faces include being a private school in a rural location, tuition discounts of about 70% of the students and new paradigm for education. Local donors, GiveBig Day (Springhouse raised around \$26,000) and other grants and fundraising help with about 95% of the tuition relief.

Springhouse was created to be another resource for students to struggle to find their balance in a homeschooling program or at a public school. The school tries to feel the skill gap between school and the workforce with the community internship program by building community awareness and having clear communication with students so they can experience the real life feel of being in the workforce.

The hope would be for Springhouse to be an accredited school by the end of this year. Springhouse has had about 6 graduates thus far, some of these graduates have continued to college or begun working. Ms. Finn noted that Springhouse has a private funder willing to help fund a permanent location for the school. Currently, Springhouse is using space at Floyd Center of the Arts.

Mr. Griffin stated that it is important to understand that the Town would be donating the taxpayers money not there personal money. Council will need to discuss to need and benefit of the program for the Town. Ms. Finn stated that the donated funds will help pay Ms. Merfeld's salary which is extremely low. Council thanked Ms. Finn and Ms. Merfeld for coming and sharing the information about Springhouse.

#### **C. Floyd County Historical Preservation Trust**

Ms. Beth Burgess, board member, with the Floyd County Historical Preservation Trust stated that the organization raised \$6,700 on top of the Town's \$2,400 donation last year. The trust continues to provide the location for the Floyd County Historical Society rent free. The house will need some minor upgrades to the porch this coming year. Upgrades will also be needed at the Old Oxford Academy.

There will be continued work on the Phelgar House in the Commerce Park this coming year. Mr. Bill St. Pierre has been and continues to be a great resource with this progress. There are also plans to reconstruct one of the old Hatcher cabins on the Phelgar House property. The cabin is being in a local barn in pieces. Ms. Burgess has reached out to Radford University so do an archaeological dig on at the Phelgar site this coming Spring. The Trust, along with the Floyd County Economic Development Authority are working to create a walking trail around the Commerce Center and the Phelgar properties.

Council thanked Ms. Burgess for her time and the update from the Preservation Trust.

#### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION-**

##### **Lotline Revision Plat Review-Conduff Property**

Council members reviewed the lotline revision plat of the Conduff property on Baker Street. Mr. Matt Gallimore, Realtor for the purchaser, was present to answer any questions regarding the plat.

Mayor Griffin stated the part of the property lays in the Town of Floyd and part lays in the County. Town Manager Cox has been working the Debby at Mr. LJ Quesenberry's office (the surveyor) to ensure that the plat meets the Town Code. Town Manager Cox has spoken with Debby several times about Section 18-904.04 of the Town code that states; "If the existing streets are not fifty (50) feet in width, the subdivider shall make provisions in the deeds to the lots for all buildings to be constructed as to permit the widening by dedication of said roads or streets to a width of fifty (50) feet." Baker Street is listed 40 feet in width therefore 10 feet of the parcel of land should be shown to be dedicated for public use.

Mayor Griffin stated that the plats before Council do not indicate the dedication correctly and would be corrected before they would be signed off on by the Town. Vice Mayor Patton asked why Town Council is reviewing the plats instead of the Planning Commission. Mayor Griffin noted that Town Code states that lotline revisions be reviewed by Town Council not the Planning Commission. It was noted that the planned development for the lots will include multiple housing units which will have to reviewed by the Town Planning Commission.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond approve the Lotline revision on the Conduff property contingent to the wording on the plat meeting the requirements of the Town of Floyd Code.

Vice Mayor Patton-aye  
Councilman Turner-aye  
Councilman LeMay-aye  
Councilman Bond-aye  
Mayor Griffin-aye

#### **A. Cycle Floyd-Bike Racks**

Council members reviewed Ms. Pat Sharkey's email regarding changing the bike racks from the hoop style to the music note. Members had stated in a prior meeting that the music note would look to much like a piece of artwork and not a bike rack.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman LeMay, to approve the musical note designed bike racks for the public restroom and kiosk locations.

Vice Mayor Patton-aye  
Councilman Turner-aye  
Councilman LeMay-aye  
Councilman Bond-aye  
Mayor Griffin-aye

Councilman Turner recommended that signage be added so the tourist can clearly identify the musical note as a bike rack. Clerk Holfield stated that each musical note will have a plate on the bottom with the Cycle Floyd logo.

**B. Floyd Small Town Summer Event Agreement**

Council members reviewed the draft Floyd Small Town Summer Event Agreement provided in their packets from Mr. Dylan Locke. Council member discussed the budget amount and compensation of Mr. Locke for his services. It was stated that Mr. Locke has continued to do an extraordinary job with the events each year.

Councilman Bond makes a motion, seconded by Councilman LeMay, to approve the Floyd Small Town Summer Event Agreement under the following terms; the budget for the Floyd Small Town Summer will be a minimum of \$45,000 a year from 2020 through the 2022 season, DLP Concerts Inc. will manage the budget each year and will be allowed to be compensated not more than \$7,500 for services rendered subtracted from the budget amount.

Vice Mayor Patton-aye  
Councilman Turner-aye  
Councilman LeMay-aye  
Councilman Bond-aye  
Mayor Griffin-aye

**C. Financials**

Council members took a moment to review the month financials.

Mayor Griffin asked that Town Manager Cox check the penalty associated with withdrawing funds for CD7223 and CD6423 and reinvesting the funds in new CDs that are drawing more interest since the rates have increased considerable. The goal would be to maximize the Towns return. Town Manager Cox will provide members with a report at the next meeting.

Clerk Holfield provided members with an overview of quotes on benches, cameras for the public restroom area at the park and kiosk/information station. Members were asked if they would like to reallocate funds that had been set aside for repairs to the well house. The quotes Town Manager Cox received for the well house had come in \$10,000 to \$15,000 over the allocated funds.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman LeMay, to approve the reallocation of \$15,550 for well house repairs to Town benches (playground, public restroom site and along the Heritage Trail), security cameras at the public restrooms and wayfinding kiosk/information station a shown in tonight's proposal.

Vice Mayor Patton-aye  
Councilman Turner-aye  
Councilman LeMay-aye  
Councilman Bond-abstain  
Mayor Griffin-aye

Councilman Turner suggested that Clerk Holfield check into personalization of the benches with the Town logo or Town of Floyd.

**D. FY2019-2020 Budget**

Mayor Griffin stated that the Public Hearing on the FY2019-2020 budget is set for June 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm and all organizations that wanted to present a presentation to Council were complete at tonight’s meeting. Since it had been a couple of meetings since members reviewed the donation request list, council opted to rereview and discuss the list.

Council members stated that Springhouse is private community school that has been active in the community and a very worthwhile organization with a broad outreach in the community. However, five thousand dollars is a rather large ask of the Town budget given that it would go to fund the salary of their staff. Vice Mayor Patton stated that he doesn’t agree with using public funds to help fund a private school. After continued discussion, council members opted not to include Springhouse Community School in the list of donations but would encourage them to come back again next year and stress the importance of their community involvement. Councilman Turner stated that there may be some other way that Town Council can help support Springhouse other then donating funds.

It was consensus of council members to include a \$300 donation to the Literacy Volunteers of the New River Valley on the draft donation list.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman LeMay, to approve the proposed draft donations list as well as the public hearing advertisement of the draft FY2019-2020 budget as amended.

Vice Mayor Patton-aye  
Councilman Turner-aye  
Councilman LeMay-aye  
Councilman Bond-aye  
Mayor Griffin-aye

**TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT-**

Town Manager Cox reminded Council members of the Tour De Floyd bike ride that will be held this Saturday, May 18, 2019 and will begin at Chantilly Farm.

Town Manager Cox stated that she received an email from Ms. Cheryl Becker at VDOT regarding the sidewalk project. Ms. Becker noted that she has requested federal authorization to award the contract buy has not received approval to date. She will contact, Town Manager Cox as soon as the authorization is received.

Town Manager Cox noted that Mr. David Clark, Resident Engineer with VDOT plans to attend the Town Council Meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

It was noted that Public Works week is May 19<sup>th</sup> through May 26<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Griffin plans have the public works guys over to his house for lunch on Wednesday. Council members plan to help Mayor Griffin with the luncheon.

Town Manager Cox updated members on the lighting brackets for the stage in Lineberry Park. After speaking with Mr. Dylan Locke further about the lighting brackets for the stage, he felt that it wasn't necessary at this time to purchase them. It's not an immediate need.

Town Manager Cox stated that the lighting along the trail is all in working order. The broken ballasts have been replaced and all the lighting in the park is in working order. Town Manager Cox along with one of the public works staff created a lighting plan to help with light maintenance.

**OTHER BUSINESS-**

Mayor Griffin noted the we would like to recognize Ms. Amanda Hollandsworth at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in June. Ms. Hollandsworth has qualified for the US Golf Open this weekend and was the 1<sup>st</sup> golfer recruited for the Virginia Tech Golf Team.

Councilman LeMay asked if there was any plan to have the wildlife company come back to trap skunks again. He noted that there are several skunks living around Tise Street and Sumpter Circle. Town Manager Cox stated that at any time we can call and opt into another contract with the company on a monthly or per animal bases.

It was noted that Ms. Wanda Combs retirement reception will be from noon to 2pm on Friday at Skyline Bank Community Room.

**CLOSED SESSION-**

None

**ADJOURNMENT-**

Councilman LeMay makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, and unanimously carried, to adjourn until June 6, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Floyd Town Hall.

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**William R. Griffin, Mayor**

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**Katie Holfield, Town Clerk**