

**FLOYD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
W. SKIP BISHOP JR., TOWN HALL  
June 20, 2019  
5:30 P.M.  
MINUTES**

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Griffin called the June 20, 2019 meeting of the Floyd Town Council to order.

**ROLL CALL** – Vice Mayor Patton (entered the meeting during the VA Dept. of Transportation presentation), Councilman Turner, Councilman Bond, Mayor Griffin, Town Manager Cox and Town Clerk Holfield were present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-**

Councilman Bond led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS-**

Ms. Tracy Costello thanked Council for their service and their continued support of the Floyd-Floyd County Parks and Recreation Authority. Ms. Costello, who has 11 years of experience on the authority, spoke in favor of the dissolution of the authority stating that change is inevitable, and the authority has seen a large decrease in registration the last few years due to travel teams. I ask that you make a motion to dissolve the Floyd-Floyd County Parks and Recreation Authority. There is a reason that other groups no longer exist as authority and that is largely due to a lack of funding. She said that the Board of Supervisors and the Town Council came together to create the authority and purchase the recreation park land for the children and families of the community. The monetary gift that each board contributed was never meant to be reimbursed. Now it is time for these groups to come together for the children and the citizens of the County.

Ms. Kendra Edgell, chairman of the Floyd-Floyd County Parks and Recreation Authority as well as one of the Town appointed members, spoke against the dissolution of the authority. She stated that the authority underwent a lot of great changes while Mr. Andy Made was director (Mr. Made resigned from the position on May 31<sup>st</sup>). The authority has also received letter of resignation from Mr. Michael Wade, effective June 20<sup>th</sup>, and Ms. Tracy Costello, effective June 30<sup>th</sup>. On June 17<sup>th</sup> a special meeting to discuss the future of the authority was held. Ms. Edgell stated that she would like to see the Park and Recreation continue as an authority. She noted that with some help and active working members the authority could do great things.

Since the motion to dissolve the authority was taken, Ms. Edgell has voiced her concerns about the lack of sound decision that was made. The motion to dissolve was not made in the best interest of the Town and County citizens. Ms. Edgell stated she knows in her role she is faced with an uphill battle, but she is willing to continue as an authority.

## **PRESENTATION-**

### **A. Virginia Department of Transportation—Mr. David Clarke**

Mr. David Clarke, Resident Engineer, with the Virginia Department of Transportation shared a display of the downtown pedestrian project with Council. He briefly summarized the project stating that walk, don't walk signals (22 second stop of all traffic) will be installed at the stop light, flashing pedestrian signals will be placed at the crosswalk in front of Blue Ridge Restaurant on East Main Street and on S. Locust Street at Angels in the Attic. All improvements will include ADA ramps upgrades. Mr. Clarke is also working to try and include flashing pedestrian lights at the crosswalk on S. Locust Street at the entrance to the Heritage Trail.

Bids for the project will be advertised in July, due back in August and will be awarded in September. The plan would be for the work to be complete by June of 2020. All work will be complete at night after 7:00pm, Monday through Thursday. Work will affect access to the sidewalk and VDOT will work with the contractor to affect local businesses as little as possible. This has been a complicated construction plan to design and will also be complicated to build.

Mr. Clarke stated that funding for the pedestrian project came from the secondary road fund and unused non-paved road funds which was approved by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Clarke explained the different pots of money and grants that are available through VDOT and noted that applying for safety grants would not have been best in this case since there is an immediate need for a fix. Safety grants are not a guarantee for money. He noted that the Board of Supervisors had to approve the use of funds because all VDOT maintained roads within the Town are under the jurisdiction of the County.

Vice Mayor Patton entered that meeting.

Mayor Griffin asked if the crosswalk lines could be reestablished at the stop light until construction of the project begins. Right now, there are no lines. Mr. Clarke stated that he will file a maintenance request to have the lines fixed. He noted that he is not in charge of the maintenance crew and all he can do is submit the request. The crew works in 12 counties.

Vice Mayor Patton stated that he understands that Mr. Clarke is not in charge of the maintenance crew however all counties, including Floyd, continue to get the run around, it is about time that we (the council and community) start getting answers. It's not good business.

Mayor Griffin stated that the Town recently awarded its contract on the sidewalk project that will run along West Oxford Street. The shoulder of the road along Oxford is bad and the shoulder drops off in several spots. It would be great to have a decent road when the new sidewalks are complete. Is there any plan to repave East Oxford Street? Mr. Clarke stated that that would need to come from maintenance money and need to be included in the 6-year plan. We will have to do an estimate. Mr. Clarke will follow back with Council on the matter.

Councilman Turner voiced concerns about the speed limit in Town. People are either going too fast or too slow which makes it difficult to get out onto the roads for side streets. Is there any chance that the VDOT would consider lowering the speed in all sections of Town to 25mph? Mr. Clark noted that that would be a question for the professional engineers and speed studies would need to be conducted. It all falls under the guidelines of the Federal Highway Patrol guidelines.

Mayor Griffin stated that Milestones Childcare operates on both sides of South Locust Street. There has been talk about a crosswalk there from some time and studies are supposed to be happening, what is the update? Mr. Clarke stated that there are several traffic engineering obstacles. Several divisions (Mr. Paul Brown and Resident Engineers) of VDOT are working on a solution. Mayor Griffin noted that once a solution has been found he would like the information to be sent to the Town so they can relay the information to the business owner.

Mayor Griffin asked if there was any plan for paving through Town along Route 8 and Route 221. Mr. Clarke stated that is on the list for next year, springtime he believes.

Vice Mayor Patton asked if VDOT could help with a solution to the gully that runs along the street behind the CVS Pharmacy. We are told that is a private road, any suggestions? Mr. Clarke stated he could see if there are any drainage things that could help fix it, he will speak with Mr. Paul Brown.

Ms. Linda DeVito, member of the Board of Supervisors, asked if anyone at VDOT has talked about repaving the section of road along 221 in Town that was damaged by the water main break. Mr. Clarke stated that he will have Mr. Ronald Sowers, local maintenance representative, look into the matter. Ms. DeVito also voiced concerns about speeds entering the Town. It is really dangerous at the Post Office along 221 and at Milestones along Route 8. It is worth VDOT looking into another speed study. Mayor Griffin recommended that addition of rumble strips just above the Milestones location to help warn traffic to slow down. Mr. Clarke stated that it seems like a good fix, also increasing the size of the speed limit signs. He will look into that.

Mr. William Esterhuizen from Indian Valley stated the pedestrian crosswalks at the stoplight will continue to be an issue until the new signals are installed. It is a main safety issue.

#### **B. Floyd Americana Festival—Mr. Alan Graf**

Mr. Alan Graf thanked Council members for approving the Floyd Americana Festival in September. Mr. Graf asked that Town Council reconsider vendor sells for artisans in the park. Mr. Graf would like Council to come up with an exception at their discretion so local artisans can sell their product at the event. He understands that Town Council does not want commercial vending to take over the park however he would like his event to feature music and artist of Floyd, he feels that it would attract more tourist having a combination of the two. It would be a win, win situation.

Mr. Graf has spoken with Mr. Jeff Liverman at Floyd Center of the Arts, Mr. Liverman has offered to oversee and supervise the artisan vendor to ensure that only products from Floyd would be sold at the event. Floyd Center of the Arts is a non-profit and would collect at \$25 booth fee to help cover the expense of advertising for the event and band covers. This would be a trail run to an event that he hopes to host annually.

Mr. Graf stressed that fact that Floyd Center of Arts is a nonprofit and would only allow artisans with products from Floyd. He stated that if Council narrows the exemption then it would not open the flood gate for vending in the park in the future.

Vice Mayor Patton noted that the rule was placed because Council did not want the park to become a commercial place. He continued by stating that he thinks Mr. Graft has created a great festival, but it could be funded with the help of sponsors not vendors.

Mayor Griffin stated that Council has not revisited the original policy since it was created. He recommended that at the next Town Council meeting council members review the current policy and discuss any changes.

Mr. Graf noted that he would need some notice if Council opts to allow vendors for the event. Mayor Griffin suggested that Mr. Graf follow up with Town Manager Cox after the next council meeting.

#### **Floyd-Floyd County Parks and Recreation Authority**

Mayor Griffin and Ms. Kendra Edgell summarized that last week of events regarding the Floyd-Floyd County Parks and Recreation Authority.

- During Public Comment period Ms. Tracy Costello asked that the Town Council vote to dissolve the Floyd-Floyd County Parks and Recreation Authority. While, Ms. Edgell asked for more time. She felt that the motion by the authority to dissolve was made with lack of sound discussion.
- Letter of resignation to the authority were received from Mr. Michael Wade (effective June 20<sup>th</sup>) and Ms. Tracy Costello (effective June 30<sup>th</sup>).
- Ms. Costello, Chairman of the Authority, called a special meeting of the authority on Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at the Recreation office with one item of discussion, Future of the Authority. The notice of the special meeting and agenda was emailed to members the Thursday or Friday before the meeting.
- Members present at the meeting included, Ms. Tracy Costello, Ms. Kendra Edgell, Ms. Jonie Brennan, Mr. Richie Leonard, Mr. Michael Wade and Ms. Linda DeVito.
- Members went into closed session under Code Section 2.2-3711.A.1; Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

- No action was taken on the matters discussed in Closed Session.
- After closed session Ms. Edgell noted that there were several executive seats on the authority that remained unfilled. The authority voted to elect the following positions:
  - Chairman: Ms. Kendra Edgell
  - Secretary: Ms. Jonie Brennan
  - Treasurer: Ms. Beth Burgess (According to the Bylaws of the authority, the secretary and treasurer positions do not have to be filled by an appointed authority members)
  - Vice Chairman: members did not vote on this position in Mr. Richie Clinger's absence since he currently holds the position.

Vice Mayor Patton commended Ms. Edgell and Ms. Brennan on all their hard work for the authority. The authority has always been a working board, it's not just a meeting each month that can be attended. Mr. Patton asked Ms. Edgell and Ms. Brennan if they planned to continue and serve on the authority. Both women stated that at this time they plan to stick with it. Ms. Edgell noted that during this whole process Ms. Brennan has been a huge help and that she hoped Ms. Brennan would continue to serve.

Vice Mayor Patton asked both authority members if they have felt like they have the support of the Town Council. Ms. Brennan stated that all members of the Town Council and Town staff have been quick to get her answers when she has had any. Ms. Edgell felt the same.

Vice Mayor Patton stated that when the Board of Supervisors meet with Town Council several months ago to discuss the dissolution of the authority the Town made it clear that they do not have the staff or the funding to take on the responsibility of a recreation department however with that being said we did not say that we wanted to do away with the authority. There were still too many unanswered questions which Town Council later asked the Board of Supervisors for clarification on and did not receive a response.

Vice Mayor Patton asked if Ms. Edgell thought the authority was salvageable. Ms. Edgell, Ms. Brennan and Ms. Beth Burgess all feel that the authority can be salvaged. It will take some work and it needs to be an all hands-on deck authority that works along side the director. The director cannot do it all, we have seen that firsthand. The authority needs to be a working board.

Councilman Bond stated that the dissolution of the authority was made without any consideration for what would come next and what the next steps would need to be. I would need to see a plan for what is next before making any decision to the dissolution of the authority. We have three people here who are willing to work towards a solution without dissolving the authority and I think we need to give them that opportunity. Let them get a plan together.

Councilman Turner stated that he feels like there needs to be more conversations between all the boards (Board of Supervisors, Town Council and the Parks and Recreation Authority). Councilman Turner was concerned that actions may be made out of spite. There are still too many unanswered questions, the main thing is the kids of our community, not what other counties are doing. The decision the authority made to dissolve was made to quickly.

Mayor Griffin stated that the communication between that Town and County has not been good during this process. He has spoken with Mr. Lauren Yoder, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and they made a pledge to improve the communication. There is something stirring up this negativity and they perception that Town and County can't work together is not true. Any notion of this tension between the two boards is not true. This is something that we all need to work together on, and we need to grant Ms. Edgell that courtesy of time to work through the obstacles that the authority is faced with.

Vice Mayor Patton stated that the County left the first meeting with the impression that Town Council would be open to anything they desired to do and communication after that meeting did not exist. We need to work on the communication to help solve the problem.

Ms. Edgell noted that when she was selected for the position on the authority she was not trained on her responsibilities in the position. The authority members would like to put together a packet of information for all new member. We feel that with the right people working together we can create a lot of success.

Ms. Linda DeVito, Board of Supervisors member and appointee to the Floyd-Floyd County Parks and Recreation Authority, stated that the Board of Supervisors are aware of the vacant positions on the authority and will discuss that at their next meeting. There may possibly be another vacancy, Mr. Richie Clinger was an accident and needs to put his personal health first. Ms. DeVito has reached out to him to see if he is willing to continue to serve. The Board of Supervisors will discuss the Recreation Authority at their meeting on Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION-**

### **A. Warren G. Lineberry Park Usage Application**

Council members reviewed the park application/usage permit submitted by Ms. Beth Burgess for the Arch in the Park event to be held on Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Ms. Burgess stated that the event would be to educate people on archaeology and to celebrate Virginia Archaeology Month as well as feature many historians, archaeologists and local professionals. She will partner with local businesses in Town such as Red Rooster Coffee to give a presentation on coffee origin and she also plans to partner with the local universities for support. The event will be set up so everyone can learn together. Ms. Burgess briefly discussed the need for food vendors and local vendors for the event. Council members stated that they will be reviewing the park usage regulations at the next Town Council meeting. Ms. Burgess

should follow back up with Town Manager Cox after the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Town Council meeting for clarification on park vending.

Councilman Bond makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Turner, to approve the park usage application for Buried Horizons Archaeological Consulting Arch in the Park event to be held on Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

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

**B. Participation Agreement-Floyd County Section 125 Cafeteria Plan**

Town Manager Cox explained the Supplemental Participation Agreement for the Section 125 Cafeteria Plan. This agreement was revised due to changes in the health care plans that were offered to employees under the County of Floyd plans.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, to approve the Supplemental Participation Agreement for the Section 125 Cafeteria Plan as presented.

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

**C. Financials**

Council members took a moment to review the month financials. There were no questions.

**a. Certificate of Deposit Maturity**

Town Manager Cox stated that one of the Certificate of Deposits will mature on June 28, 2019. Council members were in consensus to cash out the CD on June 28, 2019 and use the funds for TEA-21 project cash flow.

Councilman Bond makes a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Patton, to withdraw Certificate of Deposit 6326 (\$41,258.04) from Atlantic Union Bank upon maturity and use the funds as cash flow for the TEA-21 sidewalk project.

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

**TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT-**

Town Manager Cox stated that the pre-construction meeting for the TEA-21 sidewalk project has been set for Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at 9:00am in Town Hall. VDOT members, the contractor, Citizen’s Telephone as well as members of Town Council and Town staff will be present at the meeting. The project is moving along according to schedule, contracts are being signed and Town Manager Cox is working with Mr. Paul Brown from VDOT on the Land Use permit.

Town Manager Cox stated the appointments to the Joint Sub-Committee have expired and two members of Council need to be appointed.

Councilman Turner makes a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Patton, to appoint Councilman Bond to the Joint Sub-Committee with a term ending on March 31, 2021.

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

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, to appoint Mayor Griffin to the Joint Sub-Committee with a term ending on March 31, 2020.

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

Town Manager Cox stated that she has researched several grant writing trainings that are cheaper than the training in Roanoke. She will follow back up with Council once she selects a training. Town Manager Cox also shared a flyer on the Floyd Amateur Radio event that will be at Chantilly Farm on June 22 and June 23.

Town Manager Cox provided council members with a handout showing a 24-plate plaque that could be used for the Community Recognition Program. The plaque with 9 personalized plates when purchased would be \$188 and each personalized plate after purchase would be \$7 to personalize.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, approved the purchase of the Community Recognition Plaque not to exceed \$200.

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

Member discussed the July 4<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Turner, to move the July 4, 2019 Town Council Meeting to Wednesday, July 3, 2019 at 6:30pm due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

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

**OTHER BUSINESS-**

Councilman Turner thanked all those who came together to help on Tuesday with the water main break. The PSA is waiting on the water sample results from today, once it comes back clean the boil notice can be lifted. Everyone who helped did an outstanding job, it was a learning experience for all of us and we will be more prepared when it happens again.

Vice Mayor Patton commended Councilman Turner on the use of the notification system. Everyone has been very please and well informed. Councilman Turner stated Board of Supervisors member, Linda DeVito worked with Emergency Management Coordinator, Kevin Sowers to get those notifications sent out. Thank you, Linda for all your help. Ms. DeVito thanked the Town of Floyd staff for all their help on Tuesday.

Mayor Griffin turned the meeting over to Vice Mayor Patton to lead the rest of the meeting.

Mayor Griffin asked if council members would like to contribute to the Floyd VFW in honor of Roger Shortt, Town Attorney Shortt's dad that passed away last month. Mayor Griffin recommended a \$500 contribution to help pay for the American Flag and holders that get placed through out Town by the VFW.

Mayor Griffin makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Turner, contribute \$500 to the Floyd VFW in honor of Mr. Roger Shortt.

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

Mayor Griffin stated that Mr. Sam Moore was an instrumental part in the planning and construction process of the Floyd Heritage Trail and the fence around the Old Jacksonville Cemetery. Mayor Griffin suggested that a bronze plaque be placed along the trail in in honor of Mr. Moore. Councilman Turner stated that the plaque would be a fitting show of honor and respect for all the time Mr. Moore contributed during creation of the trail.

Mayor Griffin makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, to install a bronze plaque along the Floyd Heritage Trail in honor of Mr. Samuel Moore.

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

**CLOSED SESSION-**

None

**ADJOURNMENT-**

Mayor Griffin makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, and unanimously carried, to adjourn until July 3, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Floyd Town Hall.

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**William R. Griffin, Mayor**

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**Katie Holfield, Town Clerk**