

FLOYD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
W. SKIP BISHOP JR., TOWN HALL
September 19, 2019
6:30 P.M.
MINUTES

MEETING CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Griffin called the September 19, 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 and Town Clerk Holfield were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS-

Mr. David Whitaker commended members on the progress with the sidewalk project. This is project that will benefit all the citizens in Floyd and tourist who visit Floyd. This is a great project for those who used the old sidewalks, this is for them. I'm happy to see it being completed. He continued by voice concerns in regard to \$3000 in funding that was allocated to the Farmer's Market from FY19-20. He referred to the funds as a bail out because the market was showing financials in the red. He said Council talked about how great the market is for the community and how it is a great place to gather and see neighbors and friends on a Saturday morning, but in for the last 10 weeks he has been visiting the market he has not seen one council member. I haven't seen any of you (councilmembers) walking through and buying. People I have talked to in Town says it's too expensive to buy at the market and if they are going to buy organic local produce they go to Slaughters' Supermarket. He thinks Council should rethink donating any funding to the market for next year.

Mr. Ron Campbell, owner of the Maggie Gallery, spoke in regard to a conversation he had with Town Manager Cox about the lack of foot traffic past the traffic light along N. Locust Street. Tourist tend to gather around food vendors and since Oddfellows has closed there has been a lot less foot traffic along N. Locust Street. Some tourist who look past the traffic light only see it as an industrial area. He stated that he would like to see downtown signage to direct people past the stop light and the Courthouse. It would be an easy way to let people know that there are things going on past the stop light. Town Manager Cox had stated that directional signage, due to the cost, would take a grant and a long line of approval steps from VDOT. I don't think it should be so complicated, all it should take is a sign on the existing telephone pole that is already there. Not sure why there would be so much red tape. Can Council address this and help out there?

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION-

A. Parade Permit-Floyd PFLAG

Council members reviewed the Floyd PFLAG parade permit included in their packets. Town Manager Cox stated that this would be the 3rd or 4th annual parade. The parade would be held on Saturday September 28th and the route would be the same as last year and run from the Floyd Post Office through Town, stopping at the Farmer’s Market Pavilion. Mr. Best, organizer of the parade has submitted the plan to VDOT but has not received final approval from them.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, to approve the Floyd PFLAG parade permit for Saturday, September 28th pending final approval from the Virginia Department of Transportation.

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

B. Financials

Council members took a moment to review the monthly financials. Town Manager Cox noted that there was a mistake on the loan pool summary sheet. All loans are current. The one loan marked incorrectly is working with bank to set up direct deposit. That will help with any delinquency going forward. She continued by stating that based on the budget the Town is right on target.

Town Manager Cox plans to add a section to the balance sheet to help track the accounting of grant reimbursement for the sidewalk contract. She stated that the 2nd reimbursement request for the project has been sent to VDOT. The 1st request took less than 30 days to receive reimbursement.

C. Warren G. Lineberry Park Use Policy

Town Manager Cox asked Council members if they had any new thoughts regarding changes to park use policy. Would Council members like to continue to discuss and gather information and then start making changes to the policy?

Mayor Griffin suggested that a timeline and goals be set for changes to the policy. Council should begin reviewing the first draft of change by the end of October and the final draft should be ready for review by the end of February. He suggested that Town Manager Cox take the lead on the project.

Vice Mayor Patton asked when Council members plan to discuss the policies that Town Manager Cox gave members from other localities/ Mayor Griffin stated that will be part of the timeline and goals.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT-

Included in Council packets was a copy of the VML Annual Conference information that will be held on October 6th through the 8th at Hotel Roanoke. Would any Council members like to attend? Due to conflicting schedules, Council members are not able to attend. It was consensus of Council members that Town Manager Cox attend the VML Annual Conference.

Included in Council packets was a copy of new Virginia regulations on motorized skateboards and scooters (2019 General Assembly session HB 2752 bill). If a locality would like to regulate the use of motorized skateboard and scooters, those regulations must be adopted by January 1, 2020. Town Manager Cox has spoken with staff at the New River Valley Planning District Commission about the new regulations. They stated that several other localities plan to implement a policy or ordinance that will ban the use of motorized skateboards and scooters. Town Manager Cox will try and get a copy of those draft copies to review. Town Attorney Shortt stated that if the Town doesn’t implement an ordinance or policy regulating motorized skateboards and scooters then they can be ridden on the sidewalk and can go up to 20 miles per hour. Town Council members also questioned if the Virginia regulations regulated use of helmet while riding them. Town Manager Cox will create a timeline for adopting a policy and work to get a copy of other localities drafts. Later into the meeting, Town Attorney Short circled back to this conversation, stating that motorized bicycles should also be included in any regulations that are adopted by the Town. Councilman Turner questioned who would enforce this ordinance once it is adopted. If it is not a law then the Sheriff’s office may not enforce it.

Town Manager Cox summarized the Crooked Road Community Sign Project that was included in Council packets. She stated that she spoke with Kerry Beck, the Executive Director with the Crooked Road regarding the letter. Since the Town makes contributions to the Crooked Road, the Crooked Road will provide the locality with up to two signs at no cost. The signs are normal installed along side other historical markers or entry way signs. At this time the town already has two Crooked Roads signs, one at the entrance of the Heritage Trail at the public parking area and one at the stoplight near the Courthouse. Town Manager Cox is unsure where the existing signage will be relocated once the pedestrian project begins and is complete. A representative with the Crooked Road can visit Floyd to help find the best placement for the two free signs. If the Town would like more than two signs, they can be purchased for an additional fee. Currently that fee is unclear.

Town Manager Cox presented Council members with a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the School Board and Town Council for the use of school buses for the Arts and Crafts Festival on October 5th and 6th. Town Attorney Shortt and the School Board’s attorney have both reviewed the document. It was noted that Town would only be a pass-through entity for the Women’s Club and the club will be reimbursing the Town of the use of the buses.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman LeMay, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the School Board and the Town of Floyd for the use of school buses for the Arts and Crafts Festival as presented.

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

Town Manager Cox updated members on the 221S entry way sign that had been removed. At the advice of Town Attorney Shortt a deed of correct was send to the property owner for the new placement of the sign since it would no longer be located on the milk house. Town Manager Cox stated that she should have the signed copy of document back in a few days. Town Manager Cox has spoken with several contractors regarding the new sign placement and received two quotes for the repair work. The quotes were received from McMillian Welding for \$3200 and Benchmark Building and Construction for \$2788. Town Manager Cox stated that Benchmark Building and Construction is ran by her husband. Vice Mayor Patton suggested getting a quote from John Paul Thomas with Thomas Welding and Fabrication. Mayor Griffin suggested approving the work and set amount under the conditions that quote from Mr. Thomas is received. The work would then be complete by the lowest bidder.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman LeMay, to approve up to \$2800 for the entry way sign base repairs under the condition that a bid is received from Thomas Welding and Fabrication and the bid would be awarded to the lowest bidder.

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

Town Manager Cox presented Council members and Town Attorney Shortt with a draft electronic meeting policy that she created. She asked that everyone review it and the item will be put on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

Town Manager Cox updated Council on the sidewalk project. She stated that the project is moving along very well, and they will be moving along to the next section the week of 9/27 through 10/04. The next section will be the section along East Oxford Street from East Main Street to Newtown Road. This will be done in two sections, the first along the west side of the road at the Presbyterian Church and the Bishop's house and the second along the east of the road at Floyd Baptist Church. The west side of Oxford Street construction will close the west lane of traffic. Construction along the east side of the road will be completed with the construction easement and along the shoulder of the road. Town Manager Cox has spoken with the construction representative and they plan to have the ADA ramps complete along E. Oxford Street before Halloween.

OTHER BUSINESS-

Vice Mayor Patton asked that Mr. Paul Lacoste be the next person recognized as part of the recognition program. Since starting the TourDeFloyd program, Mr. Lacoste has raised over \$40,000 and has given it all back to the community and the Fire Department.

Vice Mayor Patton referred to an article in the Floyd Press today about the Virginia Housing Development Authority and Housing Connections opening of the Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List for low income families. He stated that the article noted that all applications must be completed online and suggested that the Town set up a location for applicants to come and fill out the application. Town Manager Cox voiced concerns about not having a computer secure computer to fill out the applications on. The Town only has 2 computers in the office, and both have access to confidential town information and personnel records. Vice Mayor Patton stated that Town Staff could fill out the information for the applicants. Since staff has not been formal trained on the software and staff would need access to the applicant's information, Town Manager Cox would not feel comfortable offering the service to applicants. She stated that she will reach out a representative at the Virginia Housing Development Authority to get some more information on the program and what the application process entails.

Council members discussion the recent article in the Floyd Press and the Roanoke Time about the problems with the Facebook fiber company that is laying fiber along 221N. The company has cut Citizens fiber lines on multiple occasions while installing the Facebook fiber. Councilman Bond stated that when a Citizens fiber line is cut it takes 12% to 15% of Citizens workforce to fix it. Vice Mayor Patton suggested that a letter be sent to the Virginia Department of Transportation expressing disappoinment in their lack monitoring the situation and allowing this problem to occur. He noted that project is affecting both Town and County residents, we don't need this project coming through Town and affecting the Town. Where would VDOT allow them to run these lines in Town and is there any advantages to the Facebook fiber lines?

Town Attorney Shortt stated that to his knowledge the lines are private transmission lines for Facebook and that no services will be offered to residents, therefore a franchise agreement is not needed with Facebook. He continued by stating that the Town will not have a say if VDOT approves that the line can be installed in within the VDOT right of way. The Town can lobby VDOT and the State representatives to apply political pressure, but the Town cannot legally stop the installation of the lines. Town Manager Cox stated that she is meeting with Mr. David Clarke, Resident Engineer with VDOT tomorrow to get an update on other projects. She will add this to her list of items to talk about and follow back up with Council members with Mr. Clarke's suggestion.

Council members discussed Mr. Ron Campbell's concerns about the lack of foot traffic along N. Locust Street. Town Manager Cox stated that she hopes that the next phase of the Town Mapping project would lead to wayfinding signage. She has reviewed the packet of information from VDOT and it is very detailed because the signs would be installed in the VDOT right of way. At this time the Virginia Tourism Corporation does not have any grants that will pay for the cost of signage. Council members

suggested talking to staff at the Town of Christiansburg and the City of Radford about their wayfinding projects. Both localities recently completed similar projects. During Mr. Campbell's comments, he stated that signage should be easy, just install the signs on the existing light poles. Town Manager Cox stated that signs on AEP poles is prohibited and that wayfinding signage could not be installed on these poles. Council members discussed the different ways that the wayfinding signage could be addressed. Generic signs indicating retail, lodging, dining, etc. could be added or signage could be offered to each individual business at a cost to the business owner. Placement of the wayfinding signage was also discussed, should these signs be posted at each intersection or just at the main intersections. Should businesses only be included that are not along the 221 or Rt 8 corridor? There was no clear consensus among members on the best placement of wayfinding signage and the type (generic vs. individual business) of wayfinding signage.

Council members addressed Mr. David Whitaker's comments regarding the Farmer's Market. Members noted that they don't feel the cost of the items are extreme. The market is a great staple for the community and brings lots of people to town on a Saturday morning. Local business have seen an increase in business during the market. It has incentivized some business to open earlier on Saturdays.

CLOSED SESSION-

None

ADJOURNMENT-

Councilman LeMay makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, and unanimously carried, to adjourn until October 3, 2019 at the Floyd Town Hall.

William R. Griffin, Mayor

Katie Holfield, Town Clerk