

**FLOYD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
W. SKIP BISHOP JR., TOWN HALL
November 7, 2019
6:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Griffin called the November 7, 2019 meeting of the Floyd Town Council to order.

ROLL CALL – Vice Mayor Patton, Councilman Turner, Councilman LeMay, Councilman Bond, Mayor Griffin, Town Manager Cox and Town Clerk Holfield were present.

Mayor Griffin requested a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Otis Howell, who passed away this week. Mr. Howell was one of the longest serving Town Council members and served as the Town of Floyd Cop for many years. Mr. Howell was also a member of the Public Service Authority.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS-

None

CONSENT CALENDAR-

- A. October 3rd and October 17th minutes-** Council reviewed the minutes provided.
Councilman Bond makes a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Patton, to approve the October 3, 2019 and October 17, 2019 minutes
- Vice Mayor Patton-aye
 - Councilman Turner-aye
 - Councilman LeMay-aye
 - Councilman Bond-aye
 - Mayor Griffin-aye

PRESENTATION-

A. Wingate Appraisal Services-Mr. Don Thomas

Mr. Don Thomas with Wingate Appraisal Services came before Council to discuss the current assessment for the County and Town of Floyd. He noted that the reassessment process is mandated by the Code of Virginia which states that localities must complete a reassessment once every six years. The County and Town of Floyd are on a five years reassessment cycle.

The reassessment process for Floyd began back the fall of 2018 and takes about a year to complete. Wingate Appraisal Services reassessment team visits each individual property within the whole county. The goal is to have reassessment notices mailed within the next few weeks.

The purpose of the reassessment process is to equalize the tax burden on property owners and is completed using property sell market data for Floyd County. He stated that "it is just a process, an analyzation of data with an estimated property value."

Mr. Thomas stated that the challenging part of the process is having accurate information. The assessors use data provided to them from the Commissioner of Revenue's office. When the assessors visit each property for an evaluation, it is based on the assumption, that the interior conditions of the property is consistent on the exterior. Floyd does not have a huge new house market and the chances are pretty good that property owners have completed renovations on the interior of homes.

All property owners are given the chance to come in and meet with the assessment team regarding the new assessment of their property. If the assessment team sees a need after talking with the property owner, they may make another visit to the property for a second look. Mr. Thomas stated that each property is situational and based on market value in the area and some properties can increase more than others, "it is a process."

He continued by discussing changes that he has noticed in the Town based on market changes and sell of properties. The reassessment operation is dependent on sell data for the area. Five to ten years ago when the past reassessments were completed there was a slight to modest increase in property sells in Town. Since the last reassessment, there has been a significant increase in Town sales and there is more data to work with, therefore this reassessment will follow with the market increase. He noted that "it is a process" and if property owners gets a notice that they feel is unreasonable they will have the chance to talk with the reassessment team and it may warrant another visit to reevaluate the property.

Council members asked Mr. Thomas about mixed uses buildings, with residential and commercial uses, how are the assessments of these properties figured? Mr. Thomas noted that the reassessment team will determine the best use for the property going forward based on the market data. Supply and demand of the property based on what the market participant would be willing to pay for the property may also be considered. It is a very tricky part of the job. The reassessment team will also evaluate who the market participants may be in the future, who would potentially be looking to purchase the property, and would they be developers or someone purchasing the property as an investment.

Questions arose about rental property in Town. Mr. Thomas stated that rental property reassessment is based on the possible rental income and the market value of the property. A survey was sent out to the rental property owner and renters to gauge the rental values in Floyd. In a market like Floyd, the sellers, buyers and renters dictate the market rent based on what they are willing to pay, known as the market rent.

Mr. Thomas stated that is fair to say that most of the assessments across the County will see a slight increase. Some may increase more than other based on market sells in current areas of the County.

Mayor Griffin noted that once the reassessment process is complete Town Council will review the reassessment data. If there is more than a 1% increase in reassessment, the Town may have to hold a public hearing and discuss decreasing the tax rate to accommodate the increase. Vice Mayor Patton stated that almost always in the past the Town has accommodated the reassessment increase with a tax decrease as to not burden property owners with an increased tax billed.

Mr. Thomas stated the reassessment would be mailed out with in the next week or so. The notice will include the hearing times if any citizens would like to speak with the assessment team. He hopes to have the complete reassessment complete by December 31st. Town Manager Cox noted that the reassessment hearing information can be added to the Town's website.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION-

A. Motorized Scooters and Scooters Draft Ordinance Review

Vice Mayor Patton noted that motorized scooters have been the subject of headlines in the news and the press in the New River Valley. He hopes that people in the Town and County will take notice of the public hearing ad regarding motorized scooters and come out to share their thoughts with Town Council. If citizens are unable to attend the public hearing, they are welcome to share their thoughts or concerns with Town Staff or Town Council members before the public hearing. Their thoughts and concerns can then be shared during the public hearing.

Councilman Turner shared a Roanoke Times article on motorized scooters in the Town of Blacksburg with Town Manager Cox. He noted that Blacksburg brought up several issues that Council has not thought about.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman LeMay to resolved to set a Public Hearing on an ordinance amending Chapter 15 of the Code of the Town of Floyd, Virginia to prohibit the use of certain devices on Town sidewalks, crosswalks and shared-use paths and an ordinance amending Chapter 17 of the Code of the Town of Floyd, Virginia concerning vehicles for hire.

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

B. RFP for Architectural & Engineering Services Draft Review

Included in Council members packets was a draft request for proposals for Architectural and Engineering Services. Funding for the services was included in the FY19-20 budget and would consist of the creation of a master plan of Town facilities for renovation and remedy of need water runoff repairs.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Turner to authorize Town Manager Cox to advertise the request for proposal for Architectural and Engineering Services.

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

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT-

Town Manager Cox stated that a progress meeting on the sidewalk project was held on Wednesday. The project is moving along well, and the contractor plans to move to the next phase (Phase 3 and 4) of East Oxford Street the week of November 19th. With colder weather coming the construction crew will be limited in pouring concrete but will be able to work on the two retaining walls along East Oxford Street.

Mayor Griffin addressed Mr. Whitaker and stated that the project manager with the construction crew plans to meet with property owners along phase 3 and 4 of East Oxford Street over the next few weeks to discuss the construction of the retaining walls.

Town Manager Cox reminded Council members of the separate easement agreement that was made with International Marketing Organization for the construction of sidewalk along their property on the corner of Fox Street and West Oxford Street. The original easement agreement included an extension of sidewalk along the property as well as a privacy fence to keep users of the sidewalk off the International Marketing property. After speaking with owners of the property last week about the easement agreement, they have asked that Council reconsider the agreement, they no longer see the need for the additional work. Therefore, they would like Council to consider offsetting their past due taxes for not having to complete the additional work. Mayor Griffin stated that the outstanding taxes are around \$2,100 and additional work requested in the easement agreement would cost the Town around \$15,000. It was consensus of Council members to have Town Attorney Shortt draft a revised agreement with International Marketing Organization that will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Town Manager Cox received the Christmas Parade permit yesterday. The parade is set to be held on Sunday, December 1st at 3:00pm with a rain date of Sunday, December 8th.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond to approve the Parade Permit for the Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 1st at 3:00pm with a rain date of Sunday, December 8th.

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

It was consensus of Council members to participate in the Christmas Parade.

Mr. Paul Lacoste will be honored as part of the recognition program at the next Town Council meeting. He was unable to attend tonight.

Town Manager Cox stated that a representative with VDOT will be coming to Floyd next Tuesday to discuss wayfinding signage.

Town Manager Cox shared the new Heritage Pathway sign that was created in memory of Mr. Sam Moore. Town Staff are working to find a post so the sign can be installed.

OTHER BUSINESS-

Vice Mayor Patton received a call yesterday from a citizen concerned about people blowing leaves into the street and the hazard it may cause for motorcyclist. After brief discussion it was noted that the sheriff's office would need to be called by the citizen to address the problem.

Mayor Griffin took a moment to recognize the results of this week's elections, the reappointment of Mr. Mike Patton, the appointment of Mr. David Whitaker and the appointment of Mr. Chris Bond.

Councilman Patton stated that he had spoken with Mrs. Amy Ingram in the Voter Registrar's office to see if there would be a need for a recount. Mrs. Ingram noted that if there is a recount the Town will be responsible for paying for it. In state code a recount can be requested if the votes are within a certain percentage of each other and it is the right of the candidate to request a recanvass. Vice Mayor Patton stated that the recount would reassure all of us to the integrity of the vote. He hopes that Councilman LeMay will request a recount. It has nothing to do with who wins or losses, it's about how good they (electrical board and processors) handle our elections and the integrity of the process. During the conversation Mr. Patton addressed Mr. Whitaker and asked if he was aware of the process. Mr. Whitaker stated that he understands the recount process.

Mayor Griffin stated that he and Councilman Turner sat in on the canvassing on Wednesday. He continued by stating that regardless of the recount he looks forward to working with Mr. Whitaker or continuing to work with Councilman Lemay.

Councilman Lemay noted that it has been more than a pleasure working with everyone on Town Council and that he will be requesting a recount.

CLOSED SESSION-

None

ADJOURNMENT-

Councilman Turner makes a motion, seconded by Councilman LeMay, and unanimously carried, to adjourn until November 21, 2019 at the Floyd Town Hall.

William R. Griffin, Mayor

Katie Holfield, Town Clerk