

**FLOYD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
W. SKIP BISHOP JR., TOWN HALL  
February 4, 2021  
5:30 P.M.  
MINUTES**

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Griffin called the February 4, 2021 meeting of the Floyd Town Council to order.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-**

Councilman Whitaker led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS-**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR-**

- A. January 7<sup>th</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup> minutes-** Council reviewed the minutes provided in their packets. Councilman Whitaker makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, to approve the January 7, 2021 and January 21, 2021 minutes.

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

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION-**

**A. Conditional Use Permit Application-Threefold Arts**

**a. Recommendation from Town of Floyd Planning Commission**

Councilman Whitaker stated that he has several reservations about the conditional use permit. The current sign ordinance seems to be a bit murky when it talks about murals. The proposed ordinance changes even seem to be a bit complicated. He then asked if the mural was considered an advertisement since it includes the Virginia is for Lovers logo? He went on to state that the mural will be located in a parking lot and the last few times that he has went by the location several cars have been parked there. You are not going to be able to see the whole mural because of the cars. He then asked if the artwork was relevant to the Town of Floyd. It does not have anything to do with our Town. Also, he stated that he did not want to set a precedence for future conditional use applications on murals. If Council allows this mural will we have any say if the next mural contains something that is controversial.

Councilman Turner asked if any additional feedback had been received on the mural. Town Manager Cox stated that she had received several additional letters and emails in support of the mural both from Town residents, County residents and business owners.

Mayor Griffin noted that at one time the County Cupboard was located in the building where the mural is to be placed. When the business closed down, the business owner shared with Mayor Griffin that they received little to no foot traffic at the location. The addition of the mural may help make the location more visible to patrons.

Councilman Whitaker noted that mural is part of a bigger tourism initiative that is funded by a Virginia Tourism grant. The tourism corporation that approved the grant funds has mandated what can be done and are pressuring us to approve the mural. This initiative is coming from Virginia down to us.

Councilman Turner stated that the mural is not a permanent fixture, it is a conditional use permit and conditions for the property owner will be added to the permit. Murals are a large part of the artwork in town's throughout Virginia and they add additional character to a town. He continued by stating that he had receive comments from one person (a County resident) that was not in favor of the mural because they did not like the content and didn't feel that it fit the context of the Town. However, most of the feedback he has received about the mural has been positive.

Councilman Whitaker stated that the artwork does not contain any element of the Town of Floyd and does not say anything about our Town. Mayor Griffin disagreed stating that the artwork does include Buffalo Mountain. Councilman Bond stated the Planning Commission included conditions in the conditional use permit approval to ensure that there are measures in place for the maintenance and upkeep of the mural and that those responsibilities are to fall with property owner.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Turner, to adopt the recommendation from the Town of Floyd Planning Commission to allow a mural on the property located at 110 West Main Street (tax parcel 55-A1- 1- E-12) with the following conditions:

1. The Town will receive a signed statement from the property owner stating they understand they are responsible for the installation, maintenance, removal, and any other issues regarding the mural.
2. The Town will receive an acceptable agreement between the applicant and the building owner which covers the installation, maintenance, and removal of the mural.
3. The mural shall be completed within 6 months from the approval by the Town Council.

Councilman Turner-aye

Councilman Whitaker-nay

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

Vice Mayor Patton asked if the applicant should be named in condition number 2 of the conditional use permit. Town Manager Cox stated that the applicant and the property owner have had to sign the conditional use permit application.

**B. Memorandum of Understanding SECEP Operating Agreement**

Town Manager Cox noted that Vice Mayor Patton came to her yesterday with several questions about the SECEP Operating Agreement. She had emailed those questions to Town Attorney Shortt however, he has not had a chance review them. Town Manager Cox stated that she spoke with Mr. John McEnhill, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday and he stated that he was unable to meet with potential SECEP applicants this week. She stated that if it is the will of the Council, it may be best to give Town Attorney Shortt a chance to review Vice Mayor Patton's questions. Mayor Griffin suggested that council discuss the agreement at the next meeting.

**C. Scheduling Public Hearing Date for Zoning Ordinance**

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, to hold the public hearing on the zoning ordinance revisions on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 6:00pm in W. Skip Bishop Town Hall.

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

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT-**

Town Manager Cox noted that the on-sight investigation meeting with Thompson and Lytton on the Town Hall building is scheduled for Thursday, February 18 at 10:30pm. Vice Mayor Patton suggested opening the meeting up for all council members to attend. Town Attorney Shortt stated that if three or more members of council attend that will constitute an open meeting.

Town Manager Cox stated that she has mailed out budget allocation requested letters. They are due back by the end of February. She suggested taking a look at those requests at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in March.

**OTHER BUSINESS-**

Councilman Whitaker voiced his appreciation to Town Manager Cox and Clerk Holfield for getting business license renewals mailed in a timely manner.

Councilman Bond stated that he had done some research regarding attacks on Zoom meetings since the last Town Council meeting. He noted that hackers run scripts to pull out zoom links that are open

for anyone to attend. He suggested that the password to Town Council Zoom links not be shared with the public. Those who want to attend must call the Town office to get the password. Town Clerk Holfield stated that a waiting room has been added to the Zoom meetings link. Participants can not join the meeting without being allowed to enter by the Town staff.

Mayor Griffin stated that several months ago council had chosen to recognize Ms. Daisy Penn. He suggested having Ms. Penn attend the next council meeting so she can be presented with her recognition. This is the perfect time to present Ms. Penn with her recognition since it is Black History month and Ms. Penn was the first African American to attend Floyd County High School. Councilman Turner stated that due to her declining health, Ms. Penn would not be able to attend a meeting. Mayor Griffin suggested presenting the recognition to her son, Steve, in her honor.

Councilman Whitaker made the following motion after reviewing Town Attorney Shortt's opinion regarding Prayer at local meetings.

Councilman Whitaker makes a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Patton, to begin each Town Council meeting with a Moment of Silent Prayer.

Councilman Turner-aye

Councilman Whitaker-aye

Councilman Bond-aye

Vice Mayor Patton-aye

Mayor Griffin-aye

Town Attorney Shortt stated that this addition of a Moment of Silent Prayer can be added to the next Town Council agenda and does not have to wait to begin at the next reorganization meeting.

**CLOSED SESSION-**

None

**ADJOURNMENT-**

Councilman Bond makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Whitaker, and unanimously carried, to adjourn to a special meeting on February 18, 2021 at 10:30 am at the Floyd Town Hall.

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**William R. Griffin, Mayor**

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**Katie Holfield, Town Clerk**