

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

MEETING CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Griffin called the March 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, and Town Manager Cox were present. Member of the Town of Floyd Planning Commissioner present were Michael Maslaney and, via zoom, Michele Morris. Ms. Aphi Fancon and Nicole Hersch with the New River Valley Regional Commission.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER-

Mayor Griffin called for a moment of silent prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS-

None

CONSENT CALENDAR-

- A. February 4th minutes-** Council reviewed the minutes provided in their packets. Vice-Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Whitaker, to approve the February 4, 2021 minutes.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION-

- A. Memorandum of Understanding SCSEP Operating Agreement**

Vice-Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Whitaker, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding SCSEP Operating Agreement as presented.

Vice-Mayor Patton offered his appreciation to Town Manager Cox and Town Attorney Shortt and his staff for doing a great job getting this document in good order.

Councilman Turner—aye
Councilman Whitaker—aye
Councilman Bond—aye

Vice-Mayor Patton—aye
Mayor Griffin—aye

B. Small Town Summer 2021

Town Manager Cox stated that she had met with Dylan Locke, producer of the Small Town Summer Events for the town. Mr. Locke was preparing to move forward with the 2021 season but wanted to receive Council’s approval.

Councilman Whitaker expressed that at the events he has attended in the past, people seemed to enjoy themselves and the crowds were not large enough that he felt we couldn’t have the events. Councilman Whitaker stated he hoped we wouldn’t face mandatory masking requirements. He thought if there was hesitancy to have the events, we could consider pushing the start back to July instead of June.

Council discussed the current restrictions of social distancing. Mayor Griffin stated there seemed to be some momentum to relax regulations by the Governor of Virginia. Council agreed that all restrictions set forth should be followed. Council asked that Town Manager Cox reach out to Dr. Noelle Bissell, New River Valley Health District Director to ensure we would be allowed to have the concert series this year.

Councilman Turner felt that in order to give Mr. Locke some guidance, we should plan for music and possibly add in the extras later in the season.

Councilman Whitaker suggested Town Manager Cox also reach out to the Town of Hillsville, Galax and Wytheville to see what they are planning this year in the way of festivals, car shows, etc.

Mayor Griffin stated the consensus of the Council was to have the events this year if we are allowed under the restrictions of the Governor’s Office and the Health Department. Councilman Whitaker and Mayor Griffin both expressed the benefits of having the events for the community.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT-

Town Manager Cox presented a request from the Floyd County Board of Supervisors to build an office and equipment storage facility at the Recreation Park. Town Manager Cox reminded Council of their restriction in the deed that the property must be used for recreational purposes.

Councilman Bond makes a motion, seconded by Vice-Mayor Patton, to consent to Floyd County building a Recreation Office and Recreation Equipment Storage facility at the Recreation Park.

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

Town Manager Cox shared a memorandum from the New River Valley Regional Commission for their annual call for projects. Town Manager Cox suggested requesting assistance in revising the current Subdivision Ordinances and perhaps, if the Council is ready, we could consider a master plan for Phase II of the Warren G. Lineberry Park. Town Manager Cox presented a request from a Floyd County resident to create a dog park in town.

Councilman Whitaker asked about potentially asking for assistance in adding signage infrastructure in correlation with the Floyd County Historical Society walking trail. Town Manager Cox explained the services of the Regional Commission were for planning of such a project and would not be able to assist in paying for any infrastructure.

The consensus of Council was to ask the Regional Commission to provide a task order for consideration at upcoming budget discussions to aid in rewriting the current Subdivision Ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. Town of Floyd Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map

Mayor Griffin called the Public Hearing to order and read the public notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Floyd Town Council will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 4, 2021 beginning at 6:00 p.m. which will be held at the W. Skip Bishop Town Hall, 134 Wilson Street, Floyd, VA., to consider the update of the entire Town of Floyd Zoning Ordinance and some minor updates to the Zoning Map. The Floyd Town Council proposes to hear the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FLOYD,VA, AMENDING CHAPTER 18-1 "LAND USE REGULATIONS" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCE, AMENDING ARTICLE 18-1,18-2 AND 18-3, DELETING ARTICLE 18-4 TO ARTICLE 18-8 AND ADDING 'APPENDIX A' ENTITLED ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 1 "AUTHORITY AND ENACTMENT," ARTICLE 2 "PURPOSES OF THE REGULATIONS," ARTICLE 3 "DEFINITIONS OF TERMS," ARTICLE 4 "ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICTS," ARTICLE 5 "APPLICATION OF ZONING REGULATIONS," ARTICLE 6 "ZONING DISTRICT," ARTICLE 7 "SIGNS," ARTICLE 8 "WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES," ARTICLE 9 "OFF-STREET PARKING," ARTICLE 10 "NON-CONFORMING LOTS,BUILDING AND USES," ARTICLE 11 "GENERAL PROVISIONS," ARTICLE 12 "ADMINISTRATION" AND ARTICLE 13 "ZONING MAP."

The public hearing notice is pursuant to §15.2-2204 and §15.2-2285, Code of Virginia (1950, as amended). A copy of the complete Zoning Ordinance update and zoning map may be viewed on the Town's website at www.townoffloyd.org and the hard copy is available for review in the Town of Floyd Office, 138 Wilson Street, Floyd, VA 24091, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Due to the regulations set forth by the COVID-19 disaster and in an effort to follow current guidance on social distancing and public gatherings, meetings may occur via electronic means, or, if by physical attendance, the in-person gathering size may be limited. Any resident desiring to speak regarding the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning map may do so via email to kayla@townoffloyd.org or request to speak via phone

at 540-745-2565 or via mail at 138 Wilson Street, Floyd, VA 24091 by March 3, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Comments received prior to the public hearing shall be forwarded to the Planning Commission. All interested persons shall have the opportunity to be heard at said public hearing.

For disabled individuals who may require special auxiliary aids or services, reasonable accommodations will be made by the Town upon request. Please contact the Town's Clerk at katie@townoffloyd.org or 540-745-2565 prior to the above meeting date to arrange these accommodations.

Mayor Griffin asked if anyone present wished to make comment. Seeing none, he closed to comment portion of the public hearing.

Vice-Mayor Patton expressed tremendous thanks and gratitude to the Planning Commission and Regional Commission staff for their work on the Zoning Ordinance document. Councilman Bond agreed and added we wouldn't have been able to complete it this quickly without Aphi (Ms. Fancon) to keep us on point and all the work she has done on the front end of this project.

Councilman Whitaker stated he had a couple of questions. He mentions there are several mentions of duplex, triplex, quadraplex, townhouses and condos, where are we going to put all of them? Will the neighbors have any input before something like this happens? Ms. Fancon explains that those are uses allowed in a R-3 or R-5 district. Ms. Fancon stated there is the potential for combining of lots and a few current vacant lots that are big enough to allow for these types of developments. Any developer would have to spell out what their plans are and follow the process of how they are going to meet the ordinance. Mr. Maslaney stated the process is more clearly defined now, no more napkin sketches will be accepted.

Councilman Whitaker stated he felt this gave the developer impetus and we were trying to accommodate developers. Town Manager Cox stated there is a current need and demand for housing in Floyd County. Mayor Griffin's opinion was the new ordinance was developer friendly because it spells out what they are required to do. Vice-Mayor Patton stated it created a checks and balances for zoning.

Councilman Whitaker stated in districts B1 and B2, microbreweries, brewpubs, and micro wineries have been added; if I want something to drink, I don't have to go far, we already have 8 places in town. Councilman Whitaker asked if we were trying to make Floyd more of a tourist destination than we already are? Vice-Mayor Patton remarked that microbreweries are the new rage and are definitely a tourist draw in certain places. Vice-Mayor Patton continued that just because we haven't had a microbrewery and it may not be in our own personal morals, this document is her to try to create progress for the future. Councilman Bond stated the intent of the Zoning update was to make the uses all encompassing. Mayor Griffin expressed that we can't look at the current makeup of the town, but we have to look at what we can do in the future. Ms. Fancon stated that restaurants are selling local beer or brewing their own beer in combination with food, we would be expanding the allowable uses, not encouraging any particular use. Mr. Maslaney conveyed that restaurants already operate on a small margin and they make a lot off of alcohol sales; we need restaurants, and some people desire

alcohol at those restaurants, it is a help all the way around. Councilman Whitaker stated he didn't want Floyd to become a Radford or Blacksburg.

Ms. Fancon reviewed the changes that had been made to the Zoning Ordinance. We added the sign sections to our review in December, which allowed us to add more language to clarify the public art, wayfinding signage sections, and also added a homestay section. She also explained that we had a few minor changes that needed to be made based on the Town Attorney's staff suggestions and we inadvertently missed adding Mobile Vendors to an accessory use of the B1 District. Fancon thanked the Town Council and the Planning Commission for the opportunity to work on this project.

Councilman Bond makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Whitaker to close the Public Hearing for the Zoning Ordinand and Zoning Map.

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

Councilman Turner makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond to adopt the Zoning Ordinance with additional changes made tonight and the addition of mobile vendors to the accessory use of the B1 district.

- Councilman Turner—aye
- Councilman Whitaker—no
- Councilman Bond—aye
- Vice-Mayor Patton—aye
- Mayor Griffin—aye

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT-Continued

Town Manager Cox requested clarity on the request to create a dog park in town. The consensus of the Council was their current capital projects list was full with the renovations to the Town Hall building.

Town Manager Cox and Mayor Will Griffin provided an update from the meeting with Thompson & Litton pursuant to the Town Hall renovations. Mayor Griffin explained the purpose of the meeting was for Thompson & Litton staff to understand what the Town wanted to accomplish in the building renovations. Mayor Griffin listed functionality and ADA compliance as the top priorities. He also stated he felt it was important to the Council to not overspend on the project, but not underspend either that would having us coming back to the building in years to come. We want to leave it better than we found it.

Mayor Griffin asked of the Council to consider a budgetary figure of what the Council was willing to spend on the renovations of the property. We would not be held to the budgetary figure provided, but it would allow Thompson & Litton to have a starting point. Councilman Bond asked what would

\$100,000 to \$150,000 get us? Councilman Turner asked what vision was shared with Thompson & Litton? Mayor Griffin explained connecting the buildings, maximizing spaces, creating a closed sessions space, ADA compliance, maximizing storage space, improving the upstairs space, addressing the water issues in the basement and adding or connecting to a restroom were all items discussed at the meeting. Councilman Bond inquired if we were asked to prioritize these items. Mayor Griffin stated yes, and our top priorities were ADA compliance and maximizing the spaces functionality.

Mayor Griffin asked if Council would consider providing Thompson & Litton parameters of \$200,000 to \$225,000. Councilman Turner commented that he would like the Council to consider the project over a couple of years, with Phase I for major renovations. Councilman Turner said once we have the final report, we will understand how much money is needed. Mayor Griffin agreed and stated we will have estimated construction costs at that time.

OTHER BUSINESS-

Councilman Turner asked for an update on the Loan Pool program. Town Manager Cox explained that all of the outstanding loans were in good standing and no current applications for funds have been submitted.

Councilman Whitaker asked when the Council would be considering any donation requests. Town Manager Cox stated she had received the requests from organizations and would be presenting those at the budget discussion on March 18th.

Mayor Griffin mentioned we have a couple of employees with service anniversaries this year. He and Town Manager Cox had discussed starting a program recognizing those employees. Council was in agreement that we should recognize service anniversaries with a small gift card and a card from the Council.

PRESENTATION

A. Recognition of Ms. Daisy Penn-

Mr. Winfred Beale was present to accept the recognition of Ms. Daisy Penn. Mayor Griffin read the proclamation from the Town Council. Mr. Beale thanked the Council for the special recognition on behalf of Ms. Penn and her family. Beale stated Ms. Penn is a special person in this community and in my life. Her legacy will live on and have a positive impact on her church and community.

ADJOURNMENT-

Councilman Bond makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Whitaker, and unanimously carried, to adjourn until March 18, 2021 at 5:30 am at the Floyd Town Hall.

William R. Griffin, Mayor

Kayla W. Cox, Town Manager