

**FLOYD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
W. SKIP BISHOP JR., TOWN HALL
April 1, 2021
5:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Griffin called the April 1, 2021 meeting of the Floyd Town Council to order.

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

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.

CONSENT CALENDAR-

- A. March 4th and March 18th minutes-** Council reviewed the minutes provided in their packets. Councilman Whitaker makes a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Patton, to approve the March 4, 2021 and March 18, 2021 minutes.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS-

None

PRESENTATIONS

- A. Americana Festival-Mr. Alan Graf**

Mr. Alan Graf stated that Abington has a 2-day music and artisans festival. There are artisans in the streets and music at various locations. He noted that a similar festival in Floyd would bring commerce and creativity to town. This is something that the Town could build up to slowly. He noted that several years ago he held a music festival in Warren G. Lineberry Community Park. He paid for the event personal and through local sponsorship. He would like to see the festival be 2 days and have 3 or 4 music stages throughout Town. This year he knows that is not feasible, but it is something that the Town can plan towards.

Mr. Graf proposed that this year be a one-day event and run from 12:00 noon to 6:00pm on the main stage in Warren G. Lineberry Community Park. Mr. Graf stated that he would provide his service for free and take care of coordinating all the musical acts as well as food vendors and local artisans. He stated that he has produced a number of events in the past. After speaking with Tourism Director, Ms. Pat Sharkey, Mr. Graf felt it best, because of other yearly events, to hold the event on September 17th or 18th and asked Council if they would prefer the event to be held on a Saturday or Sunday. He would like to start planning the event soon to get musicians and artisans lined up for the event.

Councilman Whitaker asked if Mr. Graf had completed the Park Use Application. Mr. Graf stated he plans to fill out the application but wanted to make sure Council was receptive to the idea of the event before proceeding. Councilman Whitaker stated that procedure is to fill out the application to make a formal request to use the park. Councilman Bond asked when the event was held last. Mr. Graf stated that it was last held in September of 2019, and he believes it was on a Sunday. Councilman Whitaker asked if Mr. Graf was asking Council for \$7,500 to hold the event. Mr. Graf noted that since it would be a single day event with only one stage the budget would be around \$5000. That would include paying for advertisement and band fees. A small amount could be recouped through the artisan vendor fee.

Mayor Griffin stated that it is a pretty big ask coming out the year the Town has faced and the uncertainty of the year to come. Council was very conservative with last years budget and plans to continue through the next budget year. At this time Council has committed to the Floyd Small Town Summer Events for the coming year.

Mr. Graf stated that the event would be an investment in the Town. The vision would be for the event to grow into something larger and bring major commerce to the Town and County. Floyd is a mecca for art, and this would be chance to offer something besides music and attract a more diverse group of people. The event would grow to eventually pay its self-back. Mr. Graf will work on the park use application and submit it to Council for consideration.

B. Sustain Floyd/Floyd Farmer's Market

Mr. Woody Crenshaw representative of the SustainFloyd Foundation presented council members with the 2021 Floyd Farmer's Market Update. He stated that the Floyd Farmer's Market has been confined to the market pavilion for many years and this year they have had enough interest to expand. The SustainFloyd Foundation continues to be the root of the Farmer's Market and will help the market with expansion of its future goals. The plan is to expand the market to the Village Green and use the grass area between the two locations for additional vendor space. This will attract interest from Main Street and additional foot traffic to the businesses at the Village Green. They plan to also add another market day during the week, 4:00pm to 8:00pm on Thursdays, to allow people who can't come out on a Saturday or allow people to come after work. SustainFloyd has also received grant funds from VDAX to set up an online Farmer's Market. The vendors will be able to list their products online, customer can

place an order and pick up the orders Thursday between 4:00pm and 8:00pm at the market space.

Mr. Crenshaw stated that last year the Farmer's market faced many challenges because of the pandemic. Mandates from Richmond changed two or three times before solid guidance was received in August. He continued by briefly reviewing the financial documents provided in council packets. Income was down about 10% for last year and expense were down about 20% since the market was ran with volunteers about 10% of the year. All the numbers correspond with growth in supply and demand and the number of volunteers from last year.

Councilman Whitaker asked about the increase to 4% on commission sales and the occupancy expense list on the profit and loss statement. Mr. Crenshaw stated that it is just a 1% increase from the past year and will increase the farmer's market income by about \$1000. Councilman Whitaker ask if Mr. Crenshaw was partner in property where the farmer's market pavilion is located. Mr. Crenshaw indicated that is correct. Councilman Whitaker continued by asking if the booth fees could be increased to make the market sustain itself. Mr. Crenshaw that every dollar SustainFloyd makes the farmer pay is a regressive fee. Farmers are the least paid citizens in our county. Additional funds for SustainFloyd are raised through donations to keep the farmer's market fee low. Sustainability is not going to come by charging the farmers. He continued by stating that he doesn't know of a farmer's market in other localities that isn't running by local government or where the staff isn't paid by the locality. The Town of Blacksburg paid more the \$900,000 for their farmer's market facility and has paid staff provided by the locality.

Council thanked Mr. Crenshaw for his time.

C. Jessie Peterman Library

Mr. Karim Khan, Library Director stated that the Jessies Peterman Library in Floyd had been closed to the public throughout most to the pandemic and they plan to reopen the library next Thursday. The library was able to offer curbside pickup during most of the closure. They were also to offer the summer reading program, take and make craft kits, additional e-magazines, and e-books. Program such as the Rambling Readers and community conversation were added to the list of programs over the past year.

Mr. Khan noted that the Floyd Press has donated their historical archive of presses since their move to a smaller location. He continued by stating that a picnic table has been added outside the library so some programs can be held outside and there are plans to use Warren G. Lineberry Community for several summer programs. During 2020, the library welcomed new branch manager Joann Verostko after the retirement of Lori Kaluzska and then welcomed Lisa Thompson as the new Assistant Branch Manager. This spring, Ms. Thompson will attend the leadership institute of librarians. She will be one of two people attending from the state and one of thirty nationwide.

Councilman Whitaker stated that he appreciated the curb side service offered by the library. He stated that his daughter is a librarian in Carroll County. Mr. Khan was pleased that Councilman Whitaker appreciated the service and went on to stated that funds contributed by the Town would be used as part of the materials budget. He continued by stating that the hope is for the curb side option to stay. Council thanked Mr. Khan for coming.

D. Floyd County Historical Preservation Trust

Mr. Robert Shelor, representative of the Floyd County Historical Preservation Trust stated that the trust has recently acquired Pine Creek Church and Cemetery however no town funds would be used on the property. He stated that funds received from the Town have been used to pay the mortgage on the Ridgemont property currently being used for the Historical Society museum. Last year, due to limited funding, members of the Historical Preservation Trust personally paid the mortgage on the property. He noted that this year improvements to the side porch will be needed at the Ridgemont property. Council thanked Mr. Shelor for taking time to speak with them.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION-

A. Appointments

a. Zoning Board of Appeals

Town Manager Cox stated that there are multiple seats open on the zoning board of appeals. She stated that she reached out to Mr. Skip Bishop and Mr. Rick Lewis to see if they were interested in serving an additional term. Mr. Bishop was not interested in continuing to serve on the zoning board of appeals.

Councilman Turner makes a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Patton, to reappoint Mr. Rick Lewis to the Zoning Board of Appeals to serve a 4-year term ending April 30, 2025.

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

b. Town of Floyd Planning Commission

Town Manager Cox stated she received a resignation from Mr. Paul LeMay. The appointment was advertised in the Floyd Press and one letter of interest was received from Ms. Barbara Gillespie.

Councilman Turner makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, to appoint Ms. Barbara Gillespie to Town of Floyd Planning Commission to fill an unexpired term to ending December 31, 2022.

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

Town Manager Cox noted that Councilman Bond's term on the Joint Subcommittee has expired.

Councilman Turner makes a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Patton, to reappoint Councilman Chris Bond to the Joint Subcommittee to serve a 2-year term ending March 31, 2023.

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

B. FY2022 Local Choice Health Benefits Program

Council members reviewed the FY2022 Local Choice Health Benefits options provided in their packets. Town Manager Cox stated that the Board of Supervisors approved the 85% option shown in the chart.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, to approve the 85% of the employee cost for the FY2022 Local Choice Health Benefit Program.

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

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT-

Town Manager Cox stated that she received a parade permit for the senior gradation parade. Approval would not be needed from the Virginia Department of Transportation because traffic would not be stopped, and Sheriff Craig stated that the Sheriff's office would treat the parade as a poker run.

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, to approve Senior Graduation parade permit for Saturday, May 22, 2021 proceeding the graduation ceremony.

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

Town Manager Cox provided council members with an update on the Small Town Summer events. She stated that she spoke with a representative from the Virginia Health Department. They instructed her that Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for Amusements would need to be followed for the events. The current guidelines would allow for a maximum of 1000 patrons. Small Town Summer events in the past have never been close to that capacity. Town Manager Cox went on to stated that additional CDC guidance poster would need to be placed in the park but that could all be done easily by office staff. Town Manager Cox plans to meet with Mr. Dylan Locke, Small Town Summer Event promotor, tomorrow to discuss next steps to planning the events.

Town Manager Cox stated that changes are being made to the State legislature and affective July 1, 2021 the County will now be able to charge a tax on cigarettes. She stated that towns have already been able to charge this tax. Since the Town of Floyd does not currently implement a tax on cigarettes if the County opts to charge a tax; and the Town does not, the Town will not be able to profit from the cigarette tax for businesses within the Town limits. She states the New River Valley Regional Commission is working a regional initiative for counties and towns that implement the cigarette tax after July 1, 2021. The Regional Commission would have a staff member that runs the program regionally however a fee would be charged to the locality for administering the program and collect the tax for the localities. Town Manager Cox went on to state that the implantation and collection of the tax could also be handled in house by current office staff. Would Council members like to implement the cigarette tax and if so, would the tax be collected in house or would council like to opt into the regional initiative. Council members discussed implementing the cigarette tax. Members were not in consensus and where undecided on implementing the new tax. They questioned how the tax would impact lower income residents. Members requested that Town Manager Cox talk with the County Administrator for insight on how the Board of Supervisors plan to proceed once they are able to implement the cigarette tax.

Thompson and Lytton will attend the next Town Council meeting to present their report on Town Hall improvements. Town Manager Cox and Mayor Griffin received a draft copy of the report and provided feedback to Thompson and Lytton representatives. They requested that the concepts in the draft document be broken up into phases to include immediate needs in phase one and hopes for the building structure in phase two. Town Manager Cox reminded council members that construction costs have increase greatly over the last 6 months, some material cost has increased as much as 20%. Mayor Griffin added that it is important to remember that there are some costs that are not as visible in the construction as other, i.e. grading, storm water management, and engineering cost.

OTHER BUSINESS-

Councilman Turner stated that he has been asked several times about the burnt house on East Main Street. Town Manager Cox stated that State code allows the homeowner 2 years to make repairs or tear the home down. The home burnt in December of 2019 therefor the homeowner has until December of 2021. Town Manager Cox noted that the homeowner has been working to get quotes from local contractors to understand her best options. The homeowner continues to be very responsive and calls every few months to update Town Manager Cox on her progress.

CLOSED SESSION-

None

ADJOURNMENT-

Councilman Whitaker makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, and unanimously carried, to adjourn to April 15, 2021 at 5:30pm at the Floyd Town Hall.

William R. Griffin, Mayor

Katie Holfield, Town Clerk