

**FLOYD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
W. SKIP BISHOP JR., TOWN HALL
April 15, 2021
5:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Griffin called the April 15, 2021 meeting of the Floyd Town Council to order.

ROLL CALL –Vice Mayor Patton, Councilman Turner (entered the meeting before citizens comments), Councilman Whitaker, Councilman Bond, Mayor Griffin, Town Attorney Shortt, Town Manager Cox and Town Clerk Holfield were present.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER-

Mayor Griffin called for a moment of silent prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-

Councilman Bond led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Turner entered the meeting.

CITIZENS COMMENTS-

Town Manager Cox read the following public comment that had been submitted via email.

April 7, 2021

Mayor Will Griffin and Town Council
134 Wilson Street
Floyd, VA 24091

Dear Mayor Griffin,

We are excited to hear that our town will be holding its Small Town Summer program this year. Many of our members have enjoyed it in the past and missed not being able to attend it last summer as it offers our community a chance to attend free concerts and draws visitors to our town.

We are hoping that this year’s acts will include more culturally and racially diverse musicians. This may inspire more members of our community, who might otherwise overlook the program, to experience this event. In the past, Small Town Summer has had the odd Black musician or a band that does not focus on bluegrass. We know it would be too much to ask for at least half of the acts to be diverse but maybe we could try to approach a third? At the very least, we’d like to see more than one or two this year.

We understand that our town has a very small diverse population but it would be nice to consider our Black and Latinx communities when considering the selection of acts for this year's event. It would go a long way in helping those marginalized communities feel welcome in Floyd.

Thanks for your consideration!

FloydCARE Co-Leaders

Dave Werner

Michele Morris

Liza Dobson

Wendy Wrenn

Steffany Yamada

FloydCARE Members

Tammy Cericola

Dominick Cericola

Lora Giessler

cc: Dylan Locke

PRESENTATION

A. Thompson and Lytton-Town Hall Improvements

Mr. Barry Collier and Ms. Erika Sunshine presented council members with four town hall improvement options. They stated that they looked at different options for improving ADA requirements to the building and adding ADA parking at the rear of the building, fixing the water infiltration into the basement, and adding ADA toilets to the Town Hall building.

The following 4 options were presented:

Option 1: Minimal ADA Compliance Renovations \$246,200

Two ADA restrooms would be added in Town Hall, all site work, grading and storm water management would be completed. Entry would be through the rear of the building and the front steps would remain.

Option 2: ADA Compliance Renovation \$333,300

All the items in option 1 plus interior renovations, a canopy over the rear entry, replace the stairs in the front of the building, and rework the basement stairs.

Option 3: Building Connection \$606,800

Includes all the items from option 1 and 2 plus a lobby area between the two buildings. Town hall and the town office could be accessed by a wheelchair ramp. Exterior access would be added to the basement of Town Hall. This option could easily be split in phases.

Phase 1: \$397,997

Phase 2: \$228,863

Option 4: Minimal Building Connection \$364,200

Includes the same entry as option 3, the front of the buildings would have a general lobby area and the stairs would be reworked between the buildings.

Chairman Whitaker asked for clarification between the options pertaining to the interior renovations in town hall. Options 2-4 all include interior renovations to the building. Councilman Bond asked if Mr. Collier had any way to predict the increase in material if council had begun the improvement 9 months ago. Mr. Collier stated that there has been a significant increase in building materials over the past year. The figures presented to council members at tonight's meeting include predicted escalation in price of materials.

Town Manager Cox stated that Mr. Mark Bolt, Building Official, has given the Town six months to begin the ADA improvements however if he can see that the Town making an effort to begin the improvements then it should not be a problem. Mayor Griffin stated that the information is a lot to take in and the numbers are bigger than expected. It would be good for council members to review the options and discuss them at the next meeting once Town Manager Cox has received additional information regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Councilman Turner noted that he understands that ADA requirements are the main need for the improvements, but council members should also look down the road and consider all the options.

Council will discuss the options further at the next Town Council meeting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION-

A. Financials

Council members took a moment to review the March financials.

Town Manager Cox stated that things are moving along well, business licenses are due on May 1st and bank stock tax should arrive the first or second week of May. She noted that vehicle license taxes were due today and there are still quite a few that are unpaid. This seems to be coming from a lag in mail through the postal system.

Guidance on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds should be released by April 16th and initial funds should be sent to each locality no later than May 11th. The Town should be receiving around \$400,000 in two increments over the next two years.

B. Certificate of Deposit

Town Manager Cox provided council members with the current certificate of deposit rates. She noted that she had also spoken with Mr. Scott Griffin at Skyline National Bank regarding the loan on the public restroom facility. Mr. Griffin stated that the interest rate on the current loan could be reduced to 3.5% from 3.99%.

Town Manager Cox continued by stating that there is about \$130,000 left over in the TEA-21 account that needs to be moved back into the general funds account and the \$80,500 in certificate of deposits could be reinvested in CD's or moved in the general fund. There is also the option to pay down the current loan on the public restroom facility which would cut the loan terms by 2 years and save the Town about \$2,700 in interest. It was consensus of council members that the certificate of deposit funds should be moved into the general funds account.

On a motion by Chairman Bond, seconded by Vice Mayor Patton, and passed, it was resolved to withdraw the funds of the expiring Certificate of Deposit with Carter Bank & Trust, account ending in 1540, and the funds of the expiring Certificate of Deposit with Atlantic Union Bank, account ending in 6423, authorizing Town Manager Cox to remove the funds on behalf of the Town of Floyd.

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

C. FY 2021-2022 Budget

Town Manager Cox stated that more presentations will be held at the May 6th and May 20th Town Council meetings. The public hearing on the FY2021-2022 budget will be set for the first meeting in June. Advertisement will be placed in the Floyd Press on May 20th and May 27th.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT-

Town Manager Cox asked council members if they would like to begin the Small Town Summer events on June 3rd as planned or start them later to allow more time for announcing and planning the events. Currently Mr. Dylan Locke has not signed a contract for the June 3rd date, so it would not affect any bookings. If we start later, does council want to extend the series into September or shorten the season and only have six events. It was consensus of council members to begin the Small Town Summer events on June 17th and only have six events.

Council members discussed the Small Town Summer budget and the request for funds from Mr. Alan Graf in the amount of \$7500 for the Americana Event. Due to the uncertain of the Town revenues council members felt that it would be best not to fund the Americana event for FY21-22 and continue to fully fund the Small Town Summer event. Council members will review Mr. Dylan Locke's contract in August or September for the future Small Town Summer series.

Town Manager Cox shared information from Sheriff Brain Craig regarding recent traffic stops in Town or just outside the Town limits. Fifty-eight speeding tickets and other violations were issues in the last month. Most of the speeding violations were for speeds 10 plus over the speed limit. Council members thanked the sheriff's office for being proactive in anticipation for the busy pedestrian and travel season.

Town Manager Cox stated that one bid on the old trash truck had been received from Via's Truck and Tractor repair in the amount of \$4790. She stated that bid amount is most like for the truck to be used for parts or salvage. It was consensus of council members to list the truck on the GovDeals website to see if a high offer could be received.

Town Manager Cox shared a working document for the new tourism agreement created by herself, Ms. Linda Millsaps, County Administrator, Ms. Pat Sharkey Tourism Director, Mr. John McEnhill, Chamber Executive Director. The proposed agreement will be sent to both the Board of Supervisors and the Town Council for input so a final document can be created that both parties are willing to stand behind.

Vice Chairman Patton voiced his concerns about the working document. He questioned if the tourism director position should be an employee of the Town or Country or if they should be a contracted position. Town Attorney Short provided a brief history of the tourism position from when it would original created. He stated that the position was not employee of the County or Town because neither party was willing to take on the position. The Tourism Development Council with members of the Board of Supervisors, Town Council and Chamber of Commerce was created as the operating body for the Tourism Director.

Vice Chairman Patton stated that additional clarification is needed on bullet point six of the working document. It indicates that an operation board, made up of the County Administrator, Town Manager and the Chamber Executive Director will serve as the day-to-day guidance for the Tourism Director position. Does this mean that the Tourism Director will have three bosses? He noted that under bullet point seven, he feels that auditing of funding should be added to the responsibilities of the operational board. He went on to question the relationship between the County Administrator and Town Manager, what if they don't agree on the hiring and firing of the tourism director, how will that be resolved? He also asked how long the new agreement will last, what if we don't like the results after a year. Town Manager Cox stated that the current agreement gives the option for 90-day termination of the agreement.

Council members continued by discussing the obligations in the Tourism Development Agreement, Visitor Centers Agreement and the Senior Community Services Employment (SECEP) Agreement. Vice Mayor Patton questioned the staffing of visitor's center and if the Chamber should be involved in the visitor's center. Councilman Turner state the Chamber was the main reason the visitor's center was created. It is of a benefit to the Town and County to have the visitor's center.

Council members will discuss the matter further once they receive a copy of the draft agreement from Town Manager Cox.

OTHER BUSINESS-

None

CLOSED SESSION-

None

ADJOURNMENT-

Councilman Whitaker makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, and unanimously carried, to adjourn until May 6, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the Floyd Town Hall.

William R. Griffin, Mayor

Katie Holfield, Town Clerk