

**FLOYD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
W. SKIP BISHOP JR., TOWN HALL
May 6, 2021
5:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Griffin called the May 6, 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.

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. April 1st and April 15th minutes-** Council reviewed the minutes provided in their packets. Councilman Whitaker makes a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Patton, to approve the April 1, 2021 and April 15, 2021 minutes.
- Councilman Turner-aye
 - Councilman Whitaker-aye
 - Councilman Bond-aye
 - Vice Mayor Patton-aye
 - Mayor Griffin-aye

PRESENTATIONS

A. Old Church Gallery

Ms. Catherine Pauley spoke as a representative of the Old Church Galley and their mention of remembering, protecting, and preserving the history of Floyd County through stories and artifacts. She spoke of the three “A”s, artifacts, archaeology and anthropology. She shared photos of artifacts from Floyd County including a truck tail gate painted by Mark Cox, and feed sacks converted into coverlets.

Ms. Pauley noted that this past year has been a busy one for the Old Church Gallery, members have worked to transcribe the Old Church Gallery’s oral history collection from 1999-2002, as well as complete some maintenance on the building. The gallery is working with the community committee to create 3 or 4 kits that include a computer, recorder and scanner so that people can go out into the community and interview citizens to preserve the stories of Floyd County.

Ms. Pauley mentioned that the Old Church Galley would like to build an exhibit space to house all the artifacts owned by the Old Church Galley. She stated that the emphasis is “Build strong as we go and that will create a strong foundation.” Councilman Whitaker asked if the Old Church Galley requests any assistance from the County of Floyd. Ms. Pauley stated that in the past they have asked the County for money however over the years of hearing, “We don’t have the money” we stopped asking. She noted that with the Town’s donation, matching funds from the Virginia Commission of the Arts (VCA) and with funding from special projects there hasn’t been a need for additional funding.

Council members thanked Ms. Pauley for coming.

B. Floyd County Chamber of Commerce

Mr. John McEnhill, Executive Director stated that the Floyd County Chamber of Commerce is requesting \$2000 for the visitor’s center. He noted that the request could be allocated and disbursed quarterly. If the Chamber’s budget rebounds from last fiscal year, then the Chamber would opt to not received the final quarterly disbursement and the Town could reallocate the money to another organization. He stated that there are a lot of unknowns for the Chamber’s 2021 revenues.

Mr. McEnhill went on to state that in 2019, 3700 visitors and residents visited the visitor’s center, 30-40% of those who visited were in town visiting family and friends. He noted that with COVID regulations easing the visitor’s center is seeing an increase in walk ins and calls. He stated that the visitor’s center will have two SECEP workers beginning on Monday and this will allow the visitor’s center to be open 7 days a week, currently the center is closed on Tuesday’s and Wednesday’s. Mr. McEnhill thanked council members for their donations and stated that the visitor’s center offers tremendous support to the local businesses, helps residents and visitor’s navigate town and offers promotional material from the businesses.

Mayor Griffin stated that staff tried to coordinate with Mr. McEnhill to come to a council meeting but due to COVID it hadn’t been planned. He continued by congratulating Mr. McEnhill on his upcoming retirement and read a proclamation honoring Mr. McEnhill for his time, service and dedication to the Chamber and other organizations. Mr. McEnhill was very touched and stated that is has been an honor to work with council members.

C. New River Community Action

Mr. John McEnhill, Chairman of the New River Valley Community Action Board, stated that New River Community Action makes a true difference in the community and worked to find creative ways to continue their essential services during the pandemic. He thanked council members for their consistent support over the past years.

He continued by stating that Ms. Terry Smusz, Chief Executive Officer of New River Community Action is set to retire June 2021. He noted that it has been a privilege to work with Terry over

the years. The New River Community Action board plans to make a public announcement of the new CEO soon.

Ms. Terry Smusz thanked Town Council members for their past support. She noted that funding from the Town goes toward the Rapid Rehousing program to offer financial assistance with rent and utilities for families that are just one bill away from crisis. Funds also go to help with the emergency assistance program. In FY 19-20 the emergency assistance program helped 842 families, in FY 20-21 the program has helped 572 families. NRCA representatives feel that the decrease because of all the COVID funding since the pandemic began. At this time the fund balance for these programs has grown significantly however NRCA reps feel that these programs will be in extreme demand once the federal COVID assistance funding runs out.

She went on to stated that emergency bills are paid directly to the utility companies not to the families. On average around \$2145 is given to families seeking assistance. She closed by thanking the Town for their continued support.

Mayor Griffin asked about food assistant programs for families. Ms. Smusz stated that most families get food assistance from other local food banks since NRCA must see proof of income before offering services.

Council members thanked Ms. Smusz for her time and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement.

D. Floyd County Historical Society

Mr. James Slusher, Vice President stated that during the pandemic the museum has been closed and they have not reopened. Members of the Historical Society have taken time to revamp their policy, procedures, and paperwork along with their accounting procedures. This also allowed members time to clear a three-year backlog of donations and properly document them. Members have also worked to create an online record system that would allow people to view documents online. The Historical Society has received more than 40,000 records from the County Courthouse. It takes about 35-man hours to turn 100 records into online documents. The Historical Society is also working to create an online registry of all the cemeteries in Floyd County.

The Historical Society staff plans to reopen the museum two days a week starting June the 4th. There are also renovations that will need to be done to the building in 2021. The Historical Society continues to grow and will need additional storage area. The Historical Society is working with the Floyd County Public Schools to create an online version of the settler's map that can currently be viewed in the geological center at the library. This online map could be used by individual classes within the school system. Members of the Floyd County Historical Society and the school system are working on a grant to pay for this work.

Mayor Griffin thanked Mr. Slusher for his time and stated that he knows it is hard to get people involved and volunteer. He knows that the Historical Society lost several key members over the last year and offered his sympathy.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION-

A. Recognition of Mr. John McEnhill

Recognition of Mr. John McEnhill was presented during the Presentations section of the agenda.

B. 2021 Small Town Summer

a. T-Shirt Design Contest

Council members reviewed that artwork that was submitted for the annual t-shirt design contest for the design of the 2021 Floyd Small Town Summer T-shirts.

On a motion by Councilman Bond, seconded by Councilman Whitaker, and passed, it was resolved to approve the artwork submitted by Ms. Zola Dulaney for the 2021 Floyd Small Town Summer T-shirt.

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

b. Food Vendor Services

Town Manager Cox stated that no proposals were received to provide food and beverage concessions for the annual Floyd Small Town Summer Event series at the Warren G. Lineberry Park for the 2021 calendar year. Council members agreed to take a year off from food vending services for the 2021 calendar year.

C. Partnership for Floyd Request

Town Manager Cox was approached by Partnership for Floyd a couple of months ago about working with the Town to promote and support our local businesses. One of the ideas they discussed was adding a wrap to the existing Information Kiosk at the public restrooms. Currently the kiosk is silver and does not have any signage letting residents or visitors know what information the device can provide.

Town Manager Cox shared a copy of the proposed artwork for the kiosk wrap with Council members. She noted that Finn Graphics estimates the cost of installing the wrap to be \$175. Partnership for Floyd is willing to pay up to \$200 for the new signage.

It was consensus among council members that by adding "Sign donated by: Partnership of Floyd" to the wrap it may insinuate that the whole kiosk was donated by the Partnership. The wrap will be paid for out of beautification funds within the current FY20-21 budget.

D. Warren G. Lineberry Park Use Application-Floyd Americana Arts & Music

Mr. Alan Graf submitted a Park Use application on Wednesday, April 21st requesting use of Warren G. Lineberry Community Park on Sunday, September 19th from 12noon until 6:00pm for the Floyd Americana Arts & Music Festival. Mr. Graf would like to have vendors/artisans at the event but does not have the list compiled yet. He is requesting the Town Council give preliminary approval or conditional approval of the event prior to providing the following information:

- Event Site Plan
- Vendor List
- Commercial Food Vendor List
- Certificate of Liability Insurance

Council has the ability to give conditional approval of the event provided that the above list of information is provided within 45 days of the event or by August 5, 2021.

On a motion by Councilman Turner, seconded by Councilman Bond, and passed, it was resolved to give conditional approval of the Warren G. Lineberry Park use application for the Floyd Americana Arts and Music Festival on September 19th contingent on the Town Manager receiving an event site plan, vendor list, commercial food vendor list, certificate of liability insurance and \$150 park us fee by Thursday, August 5, 2021 by close of business.

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

Mr. Dave Werner submitted a Park Use application for Virginia Organizing, a non-profit, for use of the park on Saturday, June 19, 2021 from 10:00am to noon. The event would have a couple music groups and representative from the Virginia Health Department will speak about COVID vaccines. Town Manager Cox stated that all required documentation for the event has been received.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Patton, seconded by Councilman Bond, and passed, it was resolved to approve the Warren G. Lineberry Park use application for Virginia Organizing on June 19 2021 from 10:00am to noon.

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

**During “Other Business” Councilman Whitaker stated that he abstained from this vote because he didn’t feel that he had enough information about the event to vote in favor.

E. FY2021-2022 Budget

Discussion moved after Town Manager’s report.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT-

Town Manager Cox read a proclamation in honor of National Skilled Nursing Care Week.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Patton, seconded by Councilman Whitaker, and passed, it was resolved to adopt the proclamation honoring National Skilled Nursing Care Week on May 9-15, 2021.

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

Town Manager Cox reported that the trash truck modifications will happen next week, and no trash collection services are expected to be disrupted.

Town Attorney Shortt exited that meeting.

FY2021-2022 BUDGET

Council members discussed the highlighted line items within the draft budget and worked to create a balanced budget. Meals and lodging tax revenues were increased with the anticipation that they will continue to rebound as restrictions are lifted. Council member discussed the increase in County Real Estate taxes and public service rates and felt this would not be the year to impose a real estate tax rate increase in Town. Councilman Turner stated that residents can only do so much and are already getting taxed to death, when does it stop.

Council members discussed the cigarette tax that can now be imposed by county governments. Member stated that if the County imposes the tax, then they may plan to do the same so the revenues from the tax can stay within the Town. If the tax is imposed members would plan to allocate the tax funds for a specific capital improvement.

Vice Mayor Patton stated that if organizations continue to receive request money for events in the park, then council may want to decide if some of funding from the Small Town Summer events is allocated to other events. He also stated that Mr. Dylan Locke has done a great job with the events, and he would love to see the events continue. Mayor Griffin stated that the Small Town Summer Events were created as a way for the Town to give back to the community and Mr. Locke has continued to be the most qualified to facilitate the events. Councilman Turner tried to clarify some of Vice Mayor Patton’s thought and stated that at the end of the Small Town Summer contract with Mr. Locke, council may want to request proposals from multiple parties, it never hurts to have options.

Council members continued by discussing the donation and salary line items. It was consensus to set the donation line item at \$17,500 and increase the salary line item by 4% with the understand that these numbers would be discussed further at the next Town Council meeting.

On a motion by Councilman Bond, seconded by Vice Chairman Patton, and passed, it was resolved to authorize Town Manager Cox to advertise the draft FY2021-2022 budget and set the public hearing for June 3, 2021 at 5:30pm in W. Skip Bishop Town Hall.

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

OTHER BUSINESS-

Vice Mayor Patton thanked Town Manager Cox for keeping everyone on track and keeping the presentations moving along in a timely manner.

Councilman Whitaker stated that he would like to clarify that abstained to the approval of the park use application from Virginia Organizing because he didn't feel that he had enough information about the event to vote in favor.

CLOSED SESSION-

None

ADJOURNMENT-

Councilman Whitaker makes a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Patton, and unanimously carried, to adjourn to May 20, 2021 at 5:30pm at the Floyd Town Hall.

William R. Griffin, Mayor

Katie Holfield, Town Clerk