

**FLOYD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
W. SKIP BISHOP JR., TOWN HALL
September 16, 2021
5:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Griffin called the September 16, 2021, meeting of the Floyd Town Council to order.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS-

None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION-

A. VDOT-Mr. David Clarke-

Mr. David Clarke with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) stated that he is in regular contact with Town Manager Cox. He noted that he also attends the Board of Supervisors meetings regularly and that Board of Supervisors member Jerry Boothe is a great advocate for the town. Mr. Clark continued by stating that the Check VDOT road crew serves the Town of Floyd. The dividing line between the Check and Willis VDOT crews is Route 8. He stated that the roads within the Town of Floyd are maintained with the same money as the secondary roads within Floyd County and no additional funding is received for the town roads.

Mr. Clark stated that VDOT is currently working to repair drainage issues along Fox St and Penn Ave. During this repair fox St will be repaved. Mr. Clark has also met with Mrs. Angie Muncy the owner of Milestones Childcare to work on solutions to correct the crosswalk issues at her building. Mr. Clark continued by stating that VDOT engineers plan to restripe several of the areas around the crosswalk to create more visibility and designate a drop off area for the childcare. Repairs will also be made to the crosswalk at the entry to the Heritage Trail on East Main Street. Safety and operations funding will be used to create bump outs at the crosswalk to create more visibility. This project will cost about \$20,000 and new electronic traffic signage will be installed by VDOT traffic engineering crews.

Mayor Griffin asked if a study had been completed on the usage of the crosswalks in the Town of Floyd. He feels that upgrades should be done to the crosswalk at Floyd Baptist Church before the crosswalk at the Heritage Trail. Usage of the crosswalk at Floyd Baptist Church seems to be higher because of the preschool services offered daily and the church services on Sunday. Mr. Jerry Boothe stated that he has received several calls regarding visibility issues at the crosswalk at the Heritage Trail. He continued by stating that the crosswalk at the Floyd Baptist Church would be the next crosswalk to be fixed. Mr. David Clarke stated that no formal study had been completed on the crosswalks however VDOT could complete a comprehensive crosswalk study throughout town if requested.

Councilman Turner stated that he is concerned about the flow of traffic through Town. There are many locations in town due to the high flow of traffic you are unable to get pulled out of the side streets. He also voiced concern about the speed of traffic when entering town. Mr. David Clarke stated that VDOT engineers are looking at the approach into the town. Additional signage may be able to be added to make people more aware that they are entering a downtown area. Councilman Bond stated that it can be a challenge to get pulled out of Oxford Street daily. He chooses to use the alley to avoid the cross sections at the end of Oxford Street.

Mayor Griffin stated that the stoplight, especially to visiting traffic, can be confusing due to the multiple signals on the traffic pole. This leads drivers to believe there are two lanes. He suggested that the outer part of the pavement be painted as a hatched area so that drivers know it is not a turning lane. Mr. Clarke stated that there should not be two traffic light heads on the traffic pole.

Council members continued by discussing the disrepair of East Oxford Street. Mr. Clarke stated that the Route 8 side of Oxford St is the worst. You can see where the street has been patched and there is a lot of cracking from heavy equipment. This may also have to do with the fiber installation that was done by MMI, the subsidiary of Facebook. Mr. Clarke feels that it would cost around \$50,000 to repave East Oxford Street. The road would have to be milled and completely repaved. This amount is not in the maintenance budget for this fiscal year, but he continued by stating that VDOT may have leftover money at the end of June if so VDOT engineers could work up a preliminary estimate of the cost to repave the road and the cost could be split between two fiscal years. Mr. Boothe asked is the road could just be resealed, Mr. Clark stated that the crack sealer is used on the primary roads and that East Oxford Street would be too small to use the rescaler.

Vice Mayor Patton asked that Mr. Clarke attend the Town Council meetings quarterly starting in January 2022. He continued by stating that the addition of sidewalks along East Oxford Street was a great asset to the town however the potholes and cracking along East Oxford Street were there before the project began. When asked about the

paving of East Oxford Street when you attended the last meeting you alluded that the paving along East Oxford Street would be completed when the sidewalk and fiber project was completed. However, now that the project was complete over a year ago, when will East Oxford be paved? Mr. Clark stated that he could not put a timeline on completion of the paving project on East Oxford Street. He stated that the VDOT Christiansburg residency crew maintains over 300 miles of secondary roads and that this paving project will have to be added to their list.

Vice Mayor Patton continued his discussion by addressing the overgrown hedges along East Main Street that are within the VDOT right of way. This is an issue we have asked about for years, will it be addressed in my lifetime? The rules and ordinances should apply to all in these cases. Mr. Clark stated that this situation is a little bit different, the overgrown hedges are not in the VDOT right of way. Vice Mayor Patton stated argued the fact the hedges are within the VDOT right of way and cause sight problems for vehicle coming off of East Oxford Street and pedestrians walking along East Main Street. Mayor Griffin added that the town continues to get calls about the sight distance problem when exiting East Oxford Street on to East Main Street.

Vice Mayor Patton stated that his next topic of concern is in the county not in the town. It is the street that runs in behind DJ's Drive In and CVS pharmacy, Willis Ave. This street is in major disrepair, it is not only an eyesore, but also a danger to those who travel it. The road is used by many businesses that border it, what can we do about it? Mr. Jerry Boothe stated that he has talked to the citizens that live along Willis Ave. The street is privately owned and maintained by the property owners. If the property owners would like the street to be maintained by VDOT, it would have to be brought up to VDOT standards. When he last spoke with the property owners there were several that would not agree to build the road to state standards. Vice mayor Patton requested that Mr. Clark send him the information packet on what it involves to build a road to state standards. Vice Mayor Patton also brought up Rick Lewis Way, Pine St, Akers Ave, and Old Hensley Road, he asked Mr. Clarke what it would take for VDOT to take over maintenance of these streets. Mr. Clarke stated that the same information packet suggested for Willis Ave would apply to these streets.

Vice Mayor Patton stated that the wall at Schoolhouse Fabrics has been in bad shape for some time. He asked Mr. Clarke what happens if the wall crumbles into Route 8. Mr. Clarke stated that the wall is not VDOT property however if the wall crumbled into Route 8 it would have to be cleaned up. In this case VDOT would have to get a construction easement from the property owner and cases like this would be treated like any other mudslide along a VDOT road. VDOT repair the wall and grade the slope but would not build the wall back. Vice Mayor Patton continued to voice concern about the wall, stating that there should be something that can be done before the wall crumbles, and someone gets hurt.

Mr. Clarke stated that since it is private property, there is nothing that can be done by them. At this point it is preventive work by the property owner. Councilman Turner noted that the property owner could hire someone to look at the wall's structural integrity and recommend ways the wall could be repaired. Mr. Boothe added that if the wall were to come down it will affect the foundation of the Schoolhouse Fabrics building.

Councilmembers thanked Mr. Clarke for coming.

B. Financials-

Council members reviewed the August financials provided in their packets. Councilmen Whitaker asked for clarification on the blacked-out section on the meals tax spreadsheet. Town Clerk Holfield stated that reporting forms have not yet been received from those businesses for that month.

C. Warren G. Lineberry Park Use Application & Parade Permit-Floyd County Humane Society-

On a motion by Vice Mayor Patton, seconded by Councilman Whitaker, and passed, it was resolved to approve the Warren G. Lineberry Park use application and parade permit for the Floyd County Humane Society for their Halloween Dog Parade and Pet Costume Contest event to be held on Saturday, October 30, 2021, from 12 noon to 2:00pm.

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

D. Town Hall Renovations-Scope of Work

Councilmembers reviewed the scope of work emailed to them by Town Manager Cox last night. Member discussed the differences in cost between option 3 and option 4. Member felt that the construction differences between the two options did not out way the additional cost. Members choose to revert to option 4 with the smaller lobby area as shown on page 3 of the scope of work provided by Thompson and Litton.

On a motion by Vice Mayor Patton, seconded by Councilman Bond, and passed, it was resolved to accept the scope of work with Thompson and Litton for design option 4.

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

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT-

None

OTHER BUSINESS-

Councilman Turner stated that he walks by the wall at Schoolhouse Fabrics often. He noted that the wall is in major disrepair and that something needs to be done before someone gets hurt. Mayor Griffin questioned if the building official would have any authority over the wall. Board of Supervisors member, Jerry Boothe stated that this is not the first time the condition of the wall has been questioned. In 2004 the building official at the time said he had no authority since the wall is on private property. Mr. Boothe added that the only way to research the ownership of the wall would be to go back through the old clerk records or see if the right of way study done by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), about five years ago, shows any right of way ownership.

Councilman Turner stated that the wall, as it stands, is a safety issue. We need to work together to come up with a plan to see that the wall is fixed. Mr. Boothe stated that the Board of Supervisors and the Town Council could seek the right of eminent domain for the safety and well-being of the citizens however at that point the wall would need to be fixed by the parties. Mr. Boothe added that if the wall comes down into Route 8 VDOT would be forced to clean up the site and repair the wall as if it were a mudslide. Mr. Boothe will check with the current building official to see if the county has any authority over the deteriorating wall.

Vice Mayor Patton asked Mr. Boothe how the recreation department has been functioning since it was taken under the county as its own department. Mr. Boothe stated that it is going well despite the pandemic impact over the past year. Football and soccer programs are currently being offered to the youth.

Mayor Griffin asked Mr. Boothe about the joint subcommittee meetings that are to be held quarterly. Mr. Boothe stated that he will reach out to Mrs. Cindy Ryan at the county office to see if a joint subcommittee meeting can be set up for the middle of October. The joint subcommittee has not met for over a year due to the COVID pandemic.

CLOSED SESSION-

None

ADJOURNMENT-

Councilman Whitaker makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond, and unanimously carried, to adjourn until October 7, 2021, at 5:30 pm at the Floyd Town Hall.

William R. Griffin, Mayor

Katie Holfield, Town Clerk