

Minutes of a public hearing held Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. at the Town Hall. Steven Johnson, Town Manager opened the hearing and stated this hearing is scheduled to receive public input on two (2) rezoning requests. The first request was to consider rezoning a parcel of property located behind 211 and 213 Old Quarry Road from a Residential Low Density District Boundary (R-1) to Residential Medium District Boundary (R-2). The second request was to consider rezoning the Shell Building property that contains 7.97 acres from an Industrial District (M-1) to Agriculture Conservation (A-C) and is located on Battleground Avenue.

PRESENT: Steven W. Johnson, Town Manager  
Christen W. Burkholder, Town Attorney

COUNCIL: Sabrena Ison, Danny Maiden, Todd Young, Neil Johnson, Bill Palmer,  
Ron Orr

ABSENT: Jeffrey L. Campbell, Mayor

Steven Johnson stated if any citizen wanting to speak for or against one or both of the two rezoning requests please do so.

Mr. Johnson declared the public hearing closed, no one commented for or against either of the two (2) rezoning requests.

Minutes of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Town of Saltville Town Council held on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall.

PRESENT: Jeffrey L. Campbell, Mayor  
Steven W. Johnson, Town Manager  
Christen W. Burkholder, Town Attorney

Council: Sabrena Ison, Danny Maiden, Todd Young, Neil Johnson, Bill Palmer,  
Ron Orr

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order stating he would like to have a moment of silence for Mitzi Greer who had passed away. After a moment of silence, Mayor Campbell gave the invocation and led in the pledge of allegiance.

Councilman Orr made a motion to approve the April 8<sup>th</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup> Called Meeting, and the May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 Special Called Meeting Minutes. Councilman Palmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mary Lamie, Fifth Avenue, was the only citizen who signed up for Citizen's Time. Ms. Lamie told Council there were numerous cats running loose in her neighborhood, in which out of the 14 cats only one cat has its shots and is tagged. Ms. Lamie said Animal control came by but, nothing was done and she asked if Council could do something on this issue.

Mayor Campbell said we will look into this issue and get back on the proceedings.

Mayor Campbell said he had a request to add to the agenda a naming of a road (a private driveway) off Ridgeview Road for the Town to consider naming it Honeysuckle Ln.

Councilman Young made a motion to add this request to the agenda. Councilman Palmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Young said he would like to add the opening of the wave pool to the agenda and put it in a motion. Councilman Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Campbell said Council would be taking up the two (2) items that were added to the agenda first.

Steven Johnson discussed the letter of request from the Shannon Williams, 911 Coordinator on the naming of the private driveway to Honeysuckle Ln. Mr. Johnson said the reason was the numbering of the new residential housing would not fit with the numbering of the existing homes.

Councilwoman Ison made a motion to approve the naming of Honeysuckle Ln. Councilman Young seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Young discussed the Grand Opening of the wave pool and a special price. The two weekends prior to the end of school should be \$3.00.

Steven Johnson stated that we are assuming the private pool parties will be \$150.00. Also, Mr. Johnson said the parties will be from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. with the approval of Council.

Councilwoman Ison made a motion to have the private pool parties from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at \$150.00.

Councilman Johnson said he disagrees with that because, by the time you pay the lifeguards you will be going in the hole.

Councilwoman Ison said, I resend my motion and stated, she will not be voting for the \$200.00 price tag for private parties either. Councilwoman Ison said it would be hard to get \$150.00 and now wanting to charge \$200.00 especially if it is for our kids.

Christen Burkholder told Council these are two issues and needs to be a motion separate in the effect.

Councilwoman Ison made to have the pool parties from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Councilman Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to charge \$200.00 for private pool parties. Councilman Young seconded. Motion carried 4-2-0, Councilwoman Ison and Councilman Maiden voting against.

Councilman Young made a motion to set the admission to the wave pool for the next two weekends at \$3.00 per person. Councilman Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Ison stated to Council, the first issue was the Planning Commission met to discuss rezoning the parcel of property behind 211 and 213 Old quarry Road from R-1 to R-1 Residential District Boundary. Councilwoman Ison said the recommendation from the Planning Commission was to rezone the property as requested.

Councilwoman Ison made the motion to grant the request of the mentioned property. Councilman Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Ison stated the seconded issue discussed at the Planning Commission Meeting was rezoning the Shell Building property that contains 7.97 acres from an M-1 to an A-C District Boundary. Councilwoman Ison stated the recommendation from the Planning Commission was to grant the request on this mentioned property.

Councilwoman Ison made a motion to grant the request on the Shell Building property. Councilman Orr seconded. Motion carried 5-0-1, Councilman Palmer abstained.

Christen Burkholder told Mayor Campbell, a draft Resolution pertaining to the last rezoning issue is in front of Council.

Councilman Orr made a motion to approve the resolution and to authorize the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer to execute. Councilwoman Ison seconded. Motion carried 5-0-1, Councilman Palmer abstained.

Mayor Campbell said Valerie Mutter was unable to attend tonight to discuss the letter from Roy Evans that is within the Council Packet.

Steven Johnson discussed the letter of request from the Smyth County's Commonwealth Attorney's Office on the shortfall pertaining to their budget. Mr. Johnson stated the upcoming budget has \$561.00 for such funding and the latest request from their office is in the amount of \$3086.00.

Mayor Campbell said the service provided by their office is at no cost to the Town. Mayor told Council just a few hours put in the right case would over exceed this request.

Chief Surber said he agrees with the Mayor, he does prosecute a lot for the Town which saves us a lot of money.

Councilwoman Ison made a motion to approve the funding that is requested and for the Budget Committee to make arrangement for such expenditure. Councilman Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tim White, Executive Coordinator with Song of the Mountain, discussed the Saltville pre-celebration and funding. Mr. White told Council he will be giving them a brief overview of Song of the Mountain. Mr. White thanked the Town of Saltville for the support in what they are presently doing. Mr. White said is sure everyone knows that the number one business in the State of Virginia is Tourism with their shows reaching 52 million viewers. Mr. White said a grant from the Tobacco Commission bought their TV equipment last year. Mr. White showed a video that

was taken at the Lincoln Theater of Song of the Mountain with the country music artist Tom T. Hall. Mr. White stated he was here tonight to ask Council to consider an \$8,000.00 sponsors up, in which he can't think of a greater return to reach 52 million people.

Mayor Campbell said if the Towns and County are going to reap the benefits from the Tourism market we will have to come to a collective agreement with each other.

Councilman Young made a motion to send this funding request over to the Budget Committee for their recommendation. Councilman Palmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve Surber discussed with Council on the addition of Alltel to the cell tower that should have service by the end of June. Mr. Surber said this carrier has a better deal along with a better reception. Mr. Surber asked Council for permission to talk with Alltel to see what they have to offer as far as service for the Police Department. Mr. Surber said the phone numbers will stay the same and we are currently using them now in our in car equipment that is going through the County.

Councilman Maiden made a motion to authorize the Police Department and keep in contact with the Town Manager on what Alltel has to offer. Councilwoman Ison seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Steven Johnson discussed the Business Appreciation Week 2008 Resolution that Governor Timothy M. Kaine has recognized May 11th-17th.

Councilman Young made a motion to adopt the Resolution and authorized the Mayor to sign. Councilman Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Palmer discussed the Land Management meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the referral from Council on surplus property located at the end of River Road in the Government Plant Community. Councilman Palmer stated the recommendation from the committee was to sell this property by the Land Sale Policy.

Councilwoman Ison made a motion to accept the Land Managements recommendation and to advertise the sale of such property. Councilman Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve Surber discussed the many complaints pertaining to the crosswalks we have in Town. Mr. Surber said within the complaints they suggest the Town look into the pedestal type unit that is in Downtown Marion. It would do a better job than the plain crosswalks that are presently in Town. Mr. Surber said he had Sergeant J. C. Robinson to do a study on this issue.

Mr. Robinson said he had talked with the Town of Marion on the location where the signs were bought and got a quote for the ones for Town. Mr. Robinson said seven signs would cost \$1,616.31 and 10 signs would cost \$2,285.00. Mr. Robinson said other methods can be used such as the raised brick like the one in front of the Barter Theater.

Mayor Campbell asked Mr. Robinson what is the cost of the raised brick?

Mr. Robinson said he does not have a cost, but this would be the most costly. Mr. Robinson discussed the locations of the present crosswalks.

Stanley Cahill told Council that the crosswalk in Abingdon had to be rebuilt twice because of maintenance equipment cleaning the roads.

Councilman Young made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to advertise for the raised brick crosswalks in the downtown area. Councilman Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Scott Booth discussed the addendum for the program design policy for the Housing Rehabilitation Projects on Buckeye Street. Mr. Booth said the project was funded through Department of Housing and Community Development. Mr. Booth said the reason for this addendum is that DHCD requires all loans they provide money will be secured by a rehabilitation Agreement, Promissory Note, and a Deed of Trust. Mr. Booth said this provides them with security in the money that they are providing to these people that need assistance and some will payback depending on their income. Mr. Booth told Council the proposed program

design policy change comes about due to a couple of things. The first issue is aging residents, having their property paid for and without any indebtedness to them for years and DHCD is now allowing \$10,000.00 of their money to be a grant if we provide on \$10,000.00 in any project. Mr. Booth said the reason we are able to present this addendum to Council tonight is that we have

luxury the of other agencies that have put money into the Buckeye Street Rehab and it is 50/50. Mr. Booth said a lot of elderly households are leery of getting into any type of agreement when they may not be around for the 10-year requirement and don't want this worry to be passed on to their children. Once a Deed of trust is required, they will back out and everyone that is in need for assistance will get it.

Mayor Campbell asked what percentage of the houses on Buckeye Street would qualify for the new policy?

Mr. Booth stated only a small percent.

Mayor asked if the Town has any leverage funds within this project?

Mr. Booth stated, the Town does have \$12,000.00 committed to this specific project and to date initially has \$600.00 in this project.

Councilman Young said all this addendum is doing is making the person that is in need for housing assistance feel safe if something was to happen to them.

Councilwoman Ison made a motion to adopt the addendum presented by Mr. Booth. Councilman Johnson seconded. Motion carried 5-1. Councilman Young voting against.

Steven Johnson gave the Town Manager's Report. Mr. Johnson gave an update on the Downtown Revitalization saying the parking lot for the use of the Post Office will be completed first. Mr. Johnson told Council he had gotten a letter from the County for the Town to cease construction on the parking lot because the Town does not have all the proper permits. Jeff Smith made several calls and I wrote a letter so everything is back on track with crises averted.

Mr. Johnson discussed the seminar that he and Councilman Young attended pertaining to Go Green Virginia.

Mr. Johnson told Council the caboose will be moved under the shelter in June.

Mr. Johnson said the pool dedication in May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 P.M. and refreshments will be served and is opened to the public.

Mr. Johnson told Council he has a request to have a tree cut down on McKee Street. The residents are worried it is going to fall and hit their house.

Mayor Campbell stated don't we have a tree in Henrytown that needs cutting?

Councilwoman Ison made a motion to put both trees mentioned out to bids. Councilman Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### OLD BUSINESS.

Steve Surber told Council a letter was put in your packets pertaining to the transfer of the radio frequency to Smyth County.

Mayor Campbell said legally the Town is the owner of the frequency because it was the applicant and the Rescue Squad is maintaining it out of their funds. Is that correct?

Mr. Surber stated that is what Mr. Louthian is saying.

Mayor said this is what he has been told.

Mr. Surber said it is a public safety frequency it was an initial charge but, there is no charge in renewing it.

Councilwoman Ison asked if our Fire Department was paying rent to use it?

Bobby Dye said the Fire Department is paying maintenance.

Councilman Orr asked if we know when Smyth County wants this?

Mr. Surber said they would want ownership as soon as possible they use this as a back up as soon as the new system goes in.

Councilman Orr made a motion to transfer the frequency as to what is within the letter. Councilman Palmer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Maiden said at the June meeting several items are to be addressed at the treatment plant.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to go into Closed Session, Code of Virginia, section 2.2-3711(A)(7) to discuss actual and probable litigations regarding rails-to-trail issues and Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) to discuss personnel issues regarding the Public Works Department. Councilman Orr seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning to open session, Mayor Campbell took a roll call vote to certify that only matters identified in the motion to go into closed session were discussed during the closed session. Accordingly, each member certified by responding "YES."

Councilman Maiden made a motion to advertise for one sewer and one water operator.  
Councilwoman Ison seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

After a motion, duly seconded, the meeting adjourned.

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**MAYOR**

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**CLERK**