

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Saltville Town Council held on December 13, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall

Council: Tom Holley, Sandra Wyatt, Eugene Call, Steve Surber, and Ron Orr
David Smith was absent

Mayor:C. Todd Young

Staff: Brian Martin, Town Manager
Trent Crewe, Town Attorney
Chris Wilcox, Police Chief
R. B. Henderson, Public Works Director
Steve Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

Councilman Call made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2017 regularly scheduled meeting, and Councilwoman Wyatt seconded. All were in favor.

Citizens' Time

Nobody signed up to speak.

Approval of the Agenda

Councilwoman Wyatt made a motion to approve the agenda, and Councilman Call seconded. All were in favor.

Old Business

1. ATVs and zoning violations involving chickens

Councilman Holley, the Chair of the Ordinance Committee, informed the Council that his committee had a meeting to discuss the ATVs and the zoning violations. The committee recommended not adding ATVs to the town's existing golf cart ordinance. This would include not allowing the ATVs or gators during the Labor Day celebration. Basically, the only vehicles

allowed on designated town roads will be golf carts. Regarding chickens and other livestock not allowed in areas of town not zoned agriculture, the town's code already prohibited this. However, the code did not specify the form of consequence the violator would incur. Councilman Holley said the committee recommended sending a certified letter initially giving the violator ten days to correct the problem. If after ten days the problem is not resolved, the violator is given a \$100 fine. If after ten more days the problem is still not resolved, the fine goes to \$250 and stays that way every ten days until the violation has been fixed.

Councilman Surber asked about having ATVs in parades, and Mr. Martin said the Council could set up this any way they wanted to with ATVs allowed at certain town-sanctioned events. Councilman Surber agreed and said even if the ATVs aren't allowed like golf carts, they might need gas occasionally and have to come to town. Councilwoman Wyatt asked about horses at the show grounds, and Mr. Johnson told her that area was zoned for agriculture so horses there is not an issue.

Councilman Holley made a motion to implement the recommendations involving the zoning violations for chickens and other so-called livestock in non-agriculture sections of town. Councilman Orr seconded, and all were in favor. No further action was taken on the ATVs.

2. Swing set at old playground

Councilman Surber said that at last month's meeting George Robbins had requested that the town donate the swing set at the old playground to the North Holston Recreation Area, an outdoor facility recently constructed that contains, picnic shelters, volleyball courts, etc. There have been no swings on it for a few years, and the town has the new playground area on the Salt Trail, anyway. The Mayor mentioned that, in the past, the Little League Board had asked that the big apparatus at the old playground be moved closer to the ball fields. Also, he was concerned that all the equipment may have been purchased with grant money and, therefore, could not be sold. Councilman Surber said that the sign at the old playground lists the local donors who contributed to its construction and that he had talked to several of them, and they had no problem with the town donating the equipment.

Councilman Call said it was his understanding that Little League wanted the apparatus only and not the pipe that comprised the swing set. He suggested letting Little League have it if they still wanted it. Councilman Surber made the motion to donate the swing set to the North Holston Recreation Area and let Little League take the big apparatus if they still wished to have it. Councilman Call seconded, and all were in favor.

3. House at 101 Henrytown Road

Councilman Surber asked for an update on the empty house at 101 Henrytown Road that was infested with roaches, mice, etc. Mr. Martin said the county building official had been contacted

and he told the town the county would not intervene in this issue, so it was up to the town to condemn it. He recommends that the town pursue condemnation and have the town staff work with the Health Department to get his done. Councilman Call made a motion to do this, and Councilman Surber seconded. All were in favor.

4. Veolia report

No representatives were present for the meeting.

5. Lane Group report

Les Sutherland spoke on the following:

- 1) Work on the sewer project is continuing on McKee Street. Approximately 40% of the line there has been repaired. Based on the camera work done by the Washington County Service Authority, there are seven areas on Buckeye Street where holes were found that have been repaired.
- 2) In the coming month, work will be finished on McKee Street and start on the pump stations when the flow meters arrive. Overall, about 30% of the total project has been completed.
- 3) Councilman Orr asked if the additional work on Buckeye Street would increase the cost of the project, and Mr. Sutherland told him no. When the main line on McKee Street had the camera run through it, it was found to be in better shape than anticipated. Therefore, the funds that were to be used for repairing that main line were used for the repairs on Buckeye instead with no increased cost for the project.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Martin spoke on the following:

- 1) There was a meeting with the other towns participating in the Virginia Tech rural water surveys. Hopefully, the town may get some grant money in the future and get free technical advice.
- 2) Meetings continue with both Crossroads and the Lane Group regarding future projects.
- 3) He introduced the Council to Mark Roberts who was wanting to hookup to the town's water system. Mr. Roberts explained that he bought a house at 351 Cedar Branch Road and the well

there had run dry. VDOT had given him permission to dig a ditch along the road if the town will let him connect to the system, and he will pay the costs involved.

Councilman Call made a motion to grant the request to connect to the town's system, and Councilman Surber seconded. All were in favor.

4) There have been conversations with companies other than Veolia about running the water and wastewater systems. When the RFP is published, the town should get good feedback.

5) The Stuart Cabin is in need of repair as the lower logs are rotting and there are drainage issue around the base. Councilwoman Wyatt made a motion to submit bids to do the repairs, and Councilman Orr seconded. All were in favor.

6) Cub Scout Pack 19 has requested to use the kitchen area at the GCS building for their meetings on Mondays from 6:30 – 7:30. Councilwoman Wyatt made a motion to allow the Cub Scouts to use the building, and Councilman Surber seconded. All were in favor.

7) The truck the Council approved for the maintenance department was sold before the town could bid on it.

8) At recent meetings it was discussed that the town is in need of a new salt storage facility and a site for a new town shop as well. The most viable site for this is in the industrial park on Battleground Avenue. This property is owned by Ron Orr and he is willing to lease it long-term or sell it at his cost. Public Works Director R. B. Henderson said this was a good place for new town shop since it was out of the way and didn't interfere with any tourism sites. Councilman Surber made a motion to start the process of securing this property, and Councilman Call seconded. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Councilman Orr abstaining.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Wilcox spoke on the following:

1) He, Assistant Chief Puckett, and Officer Cline attended a conference on opioids in Abingdon. This led to a training meeting at the Town Hall where a representative of the state's Attorney General's office spoke. The department was given some Narcan free of charge. Narcan is used to help reverse an opioid overdose.

2) Officer Cline procured a \$500 grant from Wal-Mart that the department used to buy camera equipment.

3) The annual Toy Drive was deemed a success.

Maintenance Report

Public Works Director R.B. Henderson spoke on the following:

- 1) He thanked Hiram Robinson and Rocky Casey for the work they did with the Christmas decorations. They stayed after work at no cost to the town and built the sleigh and reindeer and other things that you see in the Commons Area.
- 2) Two town trucks have blades and spreaders attached.
- 3) The paving was completed on Palmer Avenue, Perryville Road, and Kent Street. Quotes are being obtained for striping. Mr. Martin said that the Town of Marion had a striping machine that the town may be able to use. He put in a call to Bill Rush to try and set this in motion since that would be much cheaper than going with a striping contractor.
- 4) The fall clean-up was last week, and the big brush pile will be burned on December 30th after DEQ approved it.
- 5) Nine truck signs were recently installed. There are five on Highway 107, two on Highway 91, and one each on Palmer Avenue and First Avenue.
- 6) A used chipper was bought from Bristol Rent-All, and a motor will be bought for it tomorrow.
- 7) At last month's meeting, Councilman Surber asked about a roof for the GCS Building. Mr. Henderson asked if the Council wanted prices on a new roof or to repair the current one. Councilman Surber said he preferred a new one but thought it was good to get quotes for both.
- 8) The current garbage truck needs to be replaced since it's over thirty years old and has had numerous repairs, and Mr. Henderson asked this issue be taken up during budget time. Councilman Surber agreed and said he thought the town could do the weekly trash service cheaper than Republic Services, anyway.
- 9) A new radiator is being built for the old backhoe at a cost of \$600.
- 10) There needs to be directional arrows painted on Palmer Avenue at BB&T and at the triangle where Panther Lane and First Avenue come together. The Mayor suggested having the arrows burned in so they would last longer. Councilwoman Wyatt agreed about the area at the triangle saying that cars never yield where they should.
- 11) The speed limit signs have been installed.

Fire Department Report

No members were present.

Closed Session

Councilwoman Wyatt made a motion to enter Closed Session in accordance with the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the discussion of inmate supervisor personnel; Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) for the discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body; and Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) for the consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. Councilman Holley seconded, and all were in favor.

After exiting Closed Session, Councilwoman Wyatt made the motion to certify that the Closed Session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law regarding those matters that are exempted from open meeting requirements and nothing was discussed other than what was mentioned in the motion to convene Closed Session. Councilman Call seconded, and the roll call vote was 5 - 0.

Councilman Call made a motion to accept the contract with Republic Services with the addendum included and have the Town Manager sign it. Councilwoman Wyatt seconded, and all were in favor.

Lastly, Councilman Holley made the motion to adjourn, and Councilman Call seconded. All were in favor.