

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Saltville Town Council held on May 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall

Council: Tom Holley, Sandra Wyatt, Eugene Call, David Smith, Randall Brickey, and Ron Orr

Mayor: C. Todd Young

Staff: T. Michael Taylor, Town Manager
Trent Crewe, Town Attorney
G.C. Wilcox, Police Chief
R.B. Henderson, Public Works Director
Steve Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

Councilman Holley made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2016 regularly scheduled meeting, and Councilman Smith seconded. The motion carried 5-0-1 with Councilman Brickey abstaining since he was not present for that meeting.

Fire Department Presentation

Town Manager Mike Taylor walked to the podium and read a description of the events that occurred on March 29, 2016 when the Saltville Volunteer Fire Department and the Saltville Rescue Squad responded to a call for a dog kennel that was on fire with animals still inside. When they arrived on the scene, and even though the fire's progression throughout the house was still unknown, Chief Jimmy Davidson entered the house and rescued an infant that was in a swing.

For his efforts, Chief Davidson was awarded a Medal of Valor, and it was presented to him by Mayor Young. The Mayor thanked the Fire Department in general for their brave work and Chief Davidson for his act of courage. The Mayor continued and stated that Chief Davidson and all members of the Department were blessings to the community due to their leadership. Chief Davidson thanked the Mayor and everyone else for their support and said that anyone in the Department would have done the same to save the child.

Citizens' Time

Diana Haynes was at the meeting on behalf of Little League to request the use of the field for Church League softball for the time period of the Tuesday before Memorial Day through mid-July. The time slots requested are the same ones used by the high school softball team. Councilman Brickey made a motion to add this to the agenda, and Councilman Smith seconded. All were in favor.

Janice Orr was representing the Museum of the Middle Appalachians to discuss the upcoming Research Dig to take place in the Wellfields. This is being undertaken by the Paleontology Department at ETSU and is a continuation of their work from 2014. The event will take place from May 31 – June 17, and the participants will stay at the field camp. She asked that the town provide a water hook-up and a pump to drop down the water level at the site as it had done in the past.

On June 11th, the Museum will also have a Kids' Dig. The site will need to be prepared, and there should be approximately twenty kids at each of the two sessions.

Approval of the Agenda

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the Church League softball. Councilman Orr seconded, and all were in favor.

Old Business

1. Elizabeth Cemetery graves and bone discoveries

Town Manager Mike Taylor said that Dr. Boyd will have the final report ready soon. The remains look to be those of a 40 – 50 year old male who was around five and one-half feet tall. This person probably had health issues as a child in addition to bowed legs and probably died between 1870 and 1920. It is presumed that the upper part of his body is still buried in its original location. Reburial in the cemetery is recommended after the investigation is completed.

Following up on a discussion at a prior meeting, Mr. Taylor said that approximately sixty graves have been filled in and reseeded so far with about twenty or thirty still to go.

New Business

1. VDOT Resolution

Clerk/Treasurer Steve Johnson said that VDOT was requiring the Council approve the resolution that was in their packets as the final step before work is started on rerouting Palmer Avenue at the ball fields. Councilman Brickey made a motion to accept the resolution and have the Mayor sign it. Councilman Call seconded, and all were in favor.

2. Car Show recap

Councilman Smith stated the recent Car Show was held as a benefit for Kelsey Frye, a local girl who has leukemia. Seventeen cars and trucks participated, and over \$300 was raised. He thanked Investigator Nicole Cline, Assistant Chief Erik Puckett, Fire Chief Jimmy Davidson, and Fire Department member Curtis Crawford for their assistance.

3. Lane Group report

Les Sutherland spoke on the following:

1) There was limited success on the recent use of the video camera for the sewer pipes on McKee Street. Not all of the area could be seen due to water and gravel buildup. Veolia has a larger truck that is in town that is going to be used for additional video monitoring. The indications are that part of the existing line will have to be replaced and part of the line will be able to be repaired using technology like is being used by Reline. The goal is to have the final plans to the town by Labor Day weekend.

2) He said he had intended to set up a meeting with the Fries concerning the drainage issue at their property on Palmer Avenue last month but had not done so as of yet due to unforeseen circumstances.

3) Councilman Brickey asked about the pipe footage on McKee Street, and Mr. Sutherland said it would be about 2000 feet starting at Highway 107 and going to First Avenue. While the spur lines are okay, the manholes still need to be replaced. Councilman Brickey then asked if the big storm drain would be replaced as well, and Mr. Sutherland replied that is not part of this project's scope. The sewer line parallels the drain about 80% of McKee Street. Therefore, this is why using technology like Reline's makes sense. There doesn't need to be a lot of excavating since that could damage the storm drain.

4. Lane Group report

Bill Duty spoke on the following:

- 1) The driveways have been repaired on East Main Street where the sewer line was recently replaced.
- 2) Grass has been planted at the Salt Park where part of the area was dug to fix a water line.
- 3) Asphaltting was performed on Wiley Drive, First Avenue, Fourth Avenue, and Perryville Road.

5. Church League softball

Councilman Call asked Ms. Haynes the dates that these games would take place. She replied it would be Tuesdays and Thursdays. Councilman Call then stated that he would have to get with the people involved with Travel Ball since those are the days that are used by that group. He then suggested sending this topic to the Recreation Committee. The Mayor suggested scheduling a special-called meeting next week to discuss this topic and have a budget discussion too. Councilman Call could have his Recreation Committee meeting before then and bring his committee's recommendation back to the Council.

The Recreation Committee meeting was set for next Monday with the special-called meeting set for the following Wednesday.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Taylor spoke on the following:

- 1) The Council's budget materials are at their seats on the bench.
- 2) The inmates have cleaned the Wall of Honor in preparation for the Memorial Day ceremony to be held at 1:00 p.m. That same day Marion will have their annual Memorial Day parade which will begin at 10:00 a.m., and all Council members are invited.
- 3) Negotiations are still underway with DEQ regarding the loan with the McKee Street sewer project.
- 4) If anyone wants to go to the functions sponsored by the Smyth County Chamber of Commerce, the descriptions of which are in the packets, you need to notify the Chamber of your intentions.

- 5) Due to this summer's inmate crew total being nine instead of the normal thirteen, the town-wide mowing is going a little slower this year.
- 6) The new CitiPak program will go online after the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Wilcox spoke on the following:

- 1) On May 17th at 6:00 p.m., there will be a town-wide meeting to promote drug awareness for the community.
- 2) Officer McMillion is officially gone from the department and living in North Carolina. He did a good job while here and will be missed.
- 3) There were several traffic stops last month that resulted in drug arrests.
- 4) In conjunction with Washington County and the DEA, a meth lab bust occurred one house outside of the town limits. Officer Buchanan says this was the biggest shake-and-bake operation he had ever seen with over 100 meth labs in this one residence.
- 5) The department handled 189 incidents in the month of April. Councilman Brickey asked how many arrests were the result of these 189 incidents, and the Chief said less than ten.

Fire Department Report

Chief Davidson spoke on the following:

- 1) The BINGO crowds have been excellent.
- 2) Two members of the department, Shane Davidson and Larry Taylor, recently obtained their Fire Fighter I certifications.
- 3) On June 11th, the department will be selling hot dogs and drinks for the *Back of the Dragon* motorcycle ride.

Closed Session

Councilwoman Wyatt made a motion to enter Closed Session in accordance with the Code of Virginia, 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; Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) for the consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel; and Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) for the discussion of the awarding 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. Councilman Smith seconded, and the motion carried 5-1 with Councilman Brickey voting no.

After exiting Closed Session, Councilman Smith 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. Councilwoman Wyatt seconded, and the roll call vote was 6-0 in the affirmative.

Councilman Brickey made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign the documents and the contract discussed in Closed Session. Councilman Orr seconded, and all were in favor.

Councilman Smith made a motion to have the Mayor sign the Veolia contract after it has been reviewed by the town's attorney. Councilwoman Wyatt seconded, and the motion carried 4-2 with Council members Holley, Wyatt, Smith and Orr voting yes and Council members Call and Brickey voting no.

Councilman Orr made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to talk to the Clinic to ensure that the current fitness trail will be allowed to be turned into a bike trail if the Playground Committee can find the funding for it. Councilman Brickey seconded, and all were in favor.

Lastly, Councilman Holley made a motion to adjourn, and Councilman Smith seconded, and all were in favor.

