

Minutes of the November 13, 2018 regularly scheduled meeting of the Saltville Town Council held at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall

Council: Tom Holley, Hiram Robinson, Eugene Call, Bryan Morris, Steve Surber, and Ron Orr

Mayor: C. Todd Young

Staff: Trent Crewe, Town Attorney
Erik Puckett, Acting Police Chief
R. B. Henderson, Public Works Director
Tammy Carter, Front Office Clerk
Steve Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

Councilman Morris made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2018 regularly scheduled meeting, and Councilman Surber seconded. The motion carried 5-0-1 with Councilman Holley abstaining since he was not present for that meeting.

Councilman Morris made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2018 special-called meeting, and Councilman Surber seconded. The motion carried 4-0-2 with Councilmen Holley and Call abstaining since they were not present for that meeting.

Citizens' Time

Betty Griffiths thanked the Council on behalf of the Saltville Senior Citizens Center for all of the assistance the town has always given to that group over the years. Public Works Director R.B. Henderson and the members of the town's maintenance crew are always willing to help with whatever they can, and it's much appreciated.

Ms. Griffiths then mentioned that the local VFW lost its charter recently, and by default, so did the Ladies Auxiliary, of which she was a member. Due to this, she asked the town to help keep up the Veterans Wall. Several names need to be added first, and the murals on the backside of the Wall need to be touched up as well. Additionally, a couple of the letters on the sign naming the area after Hugh Helton are dangling a little, and the flower beds need to be dug up so the soil can be aerated.

The Town of Marion's VFW has offered to assist Saltville with military services, but she asked that the town set aside funds in future budgets for overall upkeep of the entire park area at the Veterans Wall.

Old Business

1. Paleontology agreement

Councilman Orr told the Council that ETSU sent back the revised copy of the paleontology agreement among the town, the Museum of the Middle Appalachians, and ETSU. The only difference is a name change to the ETSU Museum of Natural History from the ETSU General Shale Brick Natural History Museum, so he recommended the agreement be approved.

Councilman Orr then made the motion to approve the agreement, and Councilman Call seconded. All were in favor.

New Business

1. Fall clean-up

Clerk/Treasurer Steve Johnson asked the Council to approve December 3-7 as Fall clean-up week. Councilman Holley made the motion to approve those dates for the clean-up, and Councilman Morris seconded. All were in favor.

2. December, January, and February meeting times

Mr. Johnson reminded the Council that for the past few years the regularly scheduled meetings in the winter months were held at 5:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m., and he asked the Council if they wished to continue that practice. Councilman Morris said that he felt the meeting times should stay the same for the entire year at 7:00 p.m. since some citizens cannot be here as early as 5:00 p.m.

Councilman Call made the motion to have the winter meetings start at 5:00 p.m., and Councilman Orr seconded. The motion carried 4-2 with Councilmen Holley, Call, Surber, and Orr voting yes and Councilmen Robinson and Morris voting no.

3. Stuart Cabin

Mr. Johnson said that Town Manager Brian Martin had recently met with Mike Pulice, the Architectural Historian with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) and Freddie Caudell, an expert in log structure restoration. They both agreed that it would be okay for the town to move Stuart Cabin to the area at the Salt Park to receive more visibility and be better

protected from vandalism. The issue involved is the cost to dismantle and then rebuild since Mr. Caudell estimated that the total cost for the project would be \$20,000 - \$30,000. It was recommended to the town that various fundraisers be had to raise the necessary funds and that the members of the town's Historical Society get involved.

4. EMS, Inc. report

Gary Johnson spoke on the following:

- 1) The weekly meetings with the EMS staff and the town's staff continue to be productive.
- 2) Regarding the wastewater plant, the monthly DEQ report has been submitted, and it contained one overflow notation. The installation of the sludge cover has been completed, and the old drying beds need some attention. They could be used for storage when the pits and pump stations are cleaned out, and the contents need to dry. The Mayor suggested having the town staff make the repairs to save some money instead of bidding out the project, and Mr. Henderson stated that if things slow down this winter, the repairs could be made then.
- 3) The monthly water treatment reports have been sent to the Health Department.
- 4) He is looking at the water accountability issue in terms of how the numbers are being obtained.
- 5) There was a meeting on October 29th with the engineers over the impending water project.
- 6) Before the meter replacement project is started, the water policy needs to be finalized. Councilman Orr agreed saying the engineers need to know what to expect when doing their designs.

5. Helen Barbrow Trail

The Mayor stated that this trail through the Wellfields is used extensively, and it's a shame that the benches are always getting vandalized or completely destroyed. He asked the Council if they thought Acting Chief Puckett should purchase cameras to better monitor the area. Additionally, there's a patch of the asphalt that had been repaired by a contractor that is coming back apart. He asked that the town staff cut that asphalt out and replaced it with stone and have the paver come back in the spring to repair it. He has also been asked if the dog notice signs that are on the Salt Trail could be put on the Barbrow Trail too.

Mr. Henderson stated that the town could cut out that portion of the Trail and suspected that either the soil is just bad or tree roots have caused this spot. Councilman Morris asked about the benches, and the Mayor said that all of the benches have either been destroyed or thrown

into the ponds, and even the signage has been vandalized. Councilman Morris asked about the cost for benches, and Councilman Robinson said he had done some research and found some for about \$900 each that are made of 2 X 4 oak and heavy gauge steel. Acting Chief Puckett said that trail cameras aren't that expensive, and more than one is needed. Councilman Morris suggested tabling this until next month when Acting Chief Puckett can bring back more information about the cameras.

An audience member asked about a drainage issue near the site of the annual paleontological dig on the trail. Councilman Orr suggested channeling it to the ditch beside it. Regarding the benches, Councilman Morris mentioned that he and Councilman Robinson had previously discussed having benches sponsored by individuals or groups to offset the cost. Ms. Griffiths, who spoke during Citizens' Time, mentioned that benches her garden club had donated ended up in the pond. The Mayor then repeated the need for the cameras, and Acting Chief Puckett said he would look into prices. Acting Chief Puckett then mentioned that a bear was spotted on the trail, but the game commission won't do anything unless it starts misbehaving.

Town Manager's Report

Due to Brian Martin's absence, Front Office Clerk Tammy Carter gave his report and spoke on the following:

- 1) The Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Breakfast will be at the Higher Ed Center in Abingdon on December 3rd starting at 9:00 a.m. Let the front office know by November 20th if anyone wishes to attend.
- 2) MuniCode's offices were cyber attacked last month, thereby, causing a delay in the update to the Town Code.
- 3) There is a dump truck in good shape that could be used by the Public Works department and be purchased for \$17,000 if fitted with a snow plow and salt spreader or just \$14,000 if purchased by itself.

Councilman Morris asked if the truck was worth it. Mr. Henderson and Councilman Orr looked at it, and said it was a 1996 model that had around 80,000 miles on it. Councilman Morris asked if that price was negotiable, and Mr. Henderson replied that Mr. Martin had spoken to the person selling it but did not know the specifics of what was discussed. Councilman Robinson said he would like to see the town look around a little more, and Councilman Morris said he would like more information.

- 4) The Christmas parade will be on December 2nd at 3:00 p.m. starting at the Medical Center. The members of the Saltville Preservation Alliance are going to decorate downtown windows

and asked for volunteers to help. Before and after the parade, there will be vendors in the Commons Area.

Committee Report

Councilman Call's committee, *Streets & Roads*, met, and he asked his report be tabled. Councilman Robinson's committee, *Library, Historical and Cultural, and Health and Beautification* has been meeting every Wednesday in anticipation of the upcoming Christmas decorating and parade festivities, and he encouraged people not on the committee to attend. Also, he and the Cub Scouts have raked and cleaned up trash at the Veterans Park, and some replacement flags were obtained. Last week they put over 400 flags on the veterans' graves in the Elizabeth Cemetery.

Police Chief's Report

Acting Chief Puckett spoke on the following:

- 1) He talked to the Cub Scouts about Halloween safety the week before Halloween.
- 2) The Trunk-or-Treat in the Commons Area drew a huge crowd, and there were no problems.
- 3) The DEA drug take-back was on October 27th, and 112 pounds of drugs were collected for proper disposal.
- 4) He, First Sergeant Lynch, and Officer David Frye served lunch to 211 kids at the elementary school on October 17th as part of National School Lunch Week.
- 5) Equipment has been ordered to upgrade the evidence room.
- 6) The inmates will help with the upkeep of the Veterans Park.
- 7) The town has received the paperwork for the Humvee to be sold under the condition that it cannot be sold overseas.

Maintenance Report

R.B. Henderson spoke on the following:

- 1) The road salt has been procured.
- 2) The maintenance staff completed CPR and First Aid training, and there is an upcoming class on Confined Spaces.
- 3) The paperwork has been signed for the new salt shed, and it should be delivered in March.
- 4) The generator maintenance agreement has been signed.
- 5) The speed bumps and appropriate signage were installed on Fifth Avenue per Council instructions.
- 6) Councilman Morris asked about the hydrants that need to be repaired or replaced. Mr. Henderson replied that he thought Fire Department Chief Jimmy Davidson had spoken to appropriate contractors who would do this. Chief Davidson, who was in the audience, confirmed this and said he was waiting to hear back.

The Mayor suggested replacing these hydrants when all of the water meters were being replaced and just bid these as a separate item. Councilman Morris asked who would oversee this, and Mr. Henderson said that the town and the fire department would work together.

- 7) The new sludge cover will pay for itself fairly quickly.

Fire Department Report

Chief Jimmy Davidson spoke on the following:

- 1) Twenty of the hydrants need to be repaired, and many of those are simple fixes. Others will have to be dismantled to look at the parts inside to see if they need replacing.
- 2) The department worked the Trunk-or-Treat and had a Trick-or-Treat at the elementary school in addition to a fire prevention demonstration.
- 3) There were thirteen calls last month, both in and out of town.

Closed Session

Councilman Morris made a motion to enter Closed Session in accordance with the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) for 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)(1) to discuss personnel in the police department and the maintenance department and the performance of public officers; and Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) to discuss the disposition of real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. Councilman Call seconded, and all were in favor.

After exiting Closed Session, Councilman Morris made a 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 Holley seconded, and the roll call vote was 6-0 in the affirmative.

Councilman Morris made a motion that the Streets & Road employee discussed in Closed Session be given until June 30, 2019 to abide by the terms of the employment under which he was hired. Councilman Call seconded, and all were in favor.

Councilman Morris made a motion to have the town's attorney respond to the issue involving Veolia, and Councilman Call seconded. All were in favor.

Councilman Morris made a motion to have the property discussed surveyed and then have it transferred to the SIDA. Councilman Call seconded, and all were in favor.

Councilman Orr made a motion to transfer the forward portion of the aquaculture property from the town to the SIDA. Councilman Morris seconded, and all were in favor.

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