

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF LURAY, PAGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA
Tuesday October 14, 2008**

The Luray Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Luray Town Council Chambers located at 45 East Main Street, Luray, Virginia at which time there were present the following:

Presiding: Mayor Barry Presgraves

Council Present: Nancy Shifflett
Lonnie Arrington
William Menefee
Leroy Lancaster
Jerry Schiro
Earl "Rock" Racer

Also Present: Rick Black, Town Manager
Bryan Chrisman, Assistant Town Manager
Jason Spitler, Town Attorney
Mary Broyles, Treasurer
Danielle Babb, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
Ligon Webb, Town Planner
Charlie Hoke, Director of Utilities
Pat O'Brien, Director of Parks and Recreation
Lynn Mathews, Superintendant of Public Works
Catherine Stewart, Luray Downtown Initiative
Powell Markowitz, Luray-Page County Airport Commission
Kenneth Painter, Luray-Page County Airport
Pat Racey, Luray Little League
Nathan Strickler, Luray Little League
Luther Johnson, Page News and Courier
Allen Louderback, Citizen
John Sisler, Allegheny Power

A quorum being present, Mayor Barry Presgraves declared the Council to be in session for the transaction of business. All present stood to recite the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING

**Application for and Acceptance of a Virginia Department of Aviation Grant to:
Install an Automated Weather Observation Station and a Rotating Beacon**

Mayor Presgraves opened the public hearing regarding the acceptance of a Virginia Department of Aviation grant to install an automated weather observation station and rotating beacon at the Luray

Caverns Airport. With no comments from the public, Mayor Presgraves closed the public hearing. **Motion:** Councilman Lancaster motioned to accept the application for the Virginia Department of Aviation grant as presented, motion seconded by Councilman Menefee with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Shifflett, Arrington, Menefee, Lancaster, Schiro, Racer. **Approved 6-0**

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Presgraves removed Fairview Meadows from the Consent Agenda to allow for further discussion.

Motion: Councilman Menefee motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, motion seconded by Councilman Racer with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Shifflett, Arrington, Menefee, Lancaster, Schiro, Racer. **Approved 6-0**

Consent Agenda

- A) *Minutes of September 8, 2008 Regular Council Meeting*
- B) *Minutes of September 15, 2008 Planning Session*
- C) *Minutes of the October 7, 2008 Council Work Session*
- D) *Minutes of the September 23, 2008 Council-Board of Supervisors Joint Work Session*
- E) *Minutes of the September 16, 2008 CDBG Meeting*
- F) *Financial Report for the period September 1-30, 2008*
- G) *Accounts payable checks totaling \$ 344,937.34*
- H) *Luray Landing: Section One- A Final Plat*

Town Manager, Rick Black, reminded Council of their concerns that were stated at the work session regarding Phase I. Mr. Black stated that the entrance with right hand turn would be constructed off of Collins Avenue. According to the documents received by Mr. Black and Attorney Mark Reed this entrance would be installed. Councilman Lancaster addressed concerns over the time frame of the project for Phase I. Mr. Lancaster also addressed safety concerns for the various roadways on the property. Councilman Arrington expressed concerns regarding the Town maintaining the stormwater management facilities for the property. Town Manger, Rick Black, stated that this item could certainly be excluded from the agreement. Currently the developer would create the stormwater management infrastructure but the Town would maintain this. Mayor Presgraves feels that the Council should resolve these issues before voting on the final plat. **Motion:** Councilman Menefee motioned to table the approval of Fairview Meadows: Phase I until several issues are clarified with the developer, motion seconded by Councilman Lancaster with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Shifflett, Arrington, Menefee, Lancaster, Schiro, Racer. **Approved 6-0**

GENERAL CITIZEN COMMENTS

Allen Louderback

Mr. Louderback has been talking with the Page County School Board and wants to salvage the tennis courts located at Luray High School. Currently the school board has intentions of tearing them out completely. Mr. Louderback has calculated an estimate of \$35,000 to repair the existing tennis courts. Mr. Louderback stated that the renovations at the courts at the American Legion building have resulted in a great demand from the public. Mr. Louderback feels it is important to save the existing courts at Luray High School so that the sport could possibly be offered to students in the future. Mr. Louderback asked the Town to consider contributing approximately \$15,000 toward the renovations of the existing courts.

Mr. Louderback also plans to ask Page County to contribute an equal amount of \$15,000. He plans to raise the additional \$5,000 himself, thus totaling the estimated \$35,000. Council and staff discussed the specifics of Mr. Louderback's estimate for paving, nets, etc. Pat O'Brien, Director of Parks and Recreation, discussed the cost details of the newly renovated courts at the American Legion building. Councilman Schiro feels that competitive rates for the renovations should be explored. Also, Mr. O'Brien presented Council with a depiction of the long term plan for the Ralph H. Dean Recreation Park. This plan includes new tennis courts to be added to the park in the Spring/Summer of 2009. Even with these plans already in place, Mr. Louderback does not feel that the area can have too many tennis facilities. Mr. Louderback hopes that if the courts are renovated and maintained properly they will serve the community for many years. Page County Board of Supervisors Member, Sharon Lucas, was nominated to serve as the County Liaison for the project. In conclusion, Mr. Louderback would like for Council to consider this project. Councilman Racer agreed that Council should take this item under consideration. The Page County Board of Supervisors has agreed to hold off until January on making any decisions.

Pat Racey, Luray Little League

Pat Racey spoke before Council to review the expenses for the concession stand at the recreation park. On behalf of both the Luray Little League and Midget Football League Mr. Racey is requesting any help available to pay for these expenses. Mr. Racey is also suggesting that additional dugouts be constructed at the park.

Mr. Racey stated that the town and league have been selected to host the 2009 State Little League Tournament (9-10 yr. olds) next summer. Mr. Racey stated the importance of being able to provide lodging, restaurants, and entertainment for the visitors that will be in town for that weekend. Overall there would be approximately 36 games over a 5 day time period. The committee has discussed several options to assist in this; one possibility is to host a small carnival at the park for children to participate in between games. Catherine Stewart, Luray Downtown Initiative, stated that an Evenings on Main Concert would be a good addition to the activities. Mayor Presgraves stressed that the event will create a significant economic impact for the town. Councilman Arrington stated that he feels the event is terrific and would like to see the Town do anything possible to make the tournament successful.

TOWN AFFILIATED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Luray Downtown Initiative

Catherine Stewart presented Council with several informational handouts. Ms. Stewart also briefed Council on the upcoming events for Halloween on the Greenway. The Halloween event has been moved to October 30, 2008 to avoid interfering with the LHS Homecoming Football Game on October 31, 2008.

Catherine reminded Council to view the Town's VML Advertisement in the recent magazine issue.

Ms. Stewart addressed the street lighting issues in the downtown area. The LDI Board has explored the possibility of replacing the downtown lamps to coincide with the new wayfinding signs. Ms. Stewart has researched this and obtained an approximate cost of \$1,975 each. She stated that they will need to work with Allegheny Power to obtain cost information for the removal of the existing fixtures. Also, a TEA 21 Grant is a possibility for this project.

Catherine presented the Award of Excellence for Wayfinding Signage to Mayor Presgraves and the Town Council.

Mr. John Sisler of Allegheny Power stated that there are many factors to consider when installing new lamps. The use of banners and/or planters must be considered when looking at the durability of new posts. Councilwoman Shifflett expressed concerns over the current lighting in the downtown area. Mr. Sisler advised that when replacing the current fixtures, nearly two times the amount of poles would be required to provide the same lighting pattern. Mr. Sisler also explained to Council and Staff the life of the bulbs and the different types of street lighting that may be feasible. Also, if the Town would want to put in new poles from an outside vendor; Allegheny would then set up metering points for the lighting with the Town being responsible for the maintenance.

Airport Commission

Mr. Powell Markowitz thanked the Council for their approval of the grant funding at the beginning of the tonight's meeting. He will leave the grant paperwork with Mr. Black for his signature. The Page County Board of Supervisors will consider this at their meeting next week. Also, Mr. Markowitz reviewed the progress on the T-Hangar project. He stated that the first building has been constructed and the second building has been delivered to the site. Mr. Markowitz feels that the hangars may be available to house aircrafts by December. Mayor Presgraves raised concerns over the grant funding due to the current national economic status. Mr. Markowitz feels that none of the funds will be jeopardized. Mayor Presgraves also confirmed with Mr. Markowitz that with the AWOS and Rotating Beacon Project being approved the Council had fulfilled almost entirely their commitment for the 2009 ACIP.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

POLICE- PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Chief Campbell was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. The departmental report can be found in the Council packets.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Director of Parks and Recreation, Pat O'Brien, updated Council on the amount of donations that have been received for both the Greenway and Recreation Department. Mr. O'Brien stated that the Tree and Beautification Committee would like to hold its annual Magic of Christmas Contest. The contest this year will have the trees decorated in the downtown area along Main Street. Councilman Menefee raised concern over mural repairs, Mr. O'Brien stated that the repairs were either completed or nearing completion.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Lynn Mathews, Superintendant of Public Works, reported that the public works department repaired seven water leaks for the month. Also, the department responded to six sewer calls. The department made one new water tap this month. Upcoming projects for the Public Works Department will include brush collection, storm drain cleaning, trimming roadsides, and repairing a water line on Reservoir Avenue.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT DEPARTMENT

Mr. Charlie Hoke, Director of Utilities, noted that all distribution samples came back negative. Mr. Hoke stated that Reid Engineering has completed their design for the Forest Hills Booster Pump Station. Also,

he reported updates on the Water Filtration Plant; The Crom Corporation has put the dome on the tank today. Councilman Schiro questioned how many change orders have been approved concerning the project. Mr. Hoke stated that at this time no change orders have been approved. Lastly, Mr. Hoke stated that the wastewater plant is in full compliance for the month.

TOWN PLANNER'S REPORT

Town Planner, Ligon Webb, stated that all items were covered in his report and had also been addressed at last week's work session.

Mr. Webb reported updates on the recycling program. The pad for the recycling bins is complete; however the containers have not been brought in from the landfill. Assistant Town Manager, Bryan Chrisman, noted that he is considering adding more asphalt to the back portion of the pad. Councilman Racer advised against this idea considering that area is located in the flood plain.

OLD BUSINESS

Electric Service: Request for Proposals

Town Manager, Rick Black, stated that Mr. John Sisler was on hand for the meeting to present the bid for Allegheny Power. Mr. Sisler is an Account Manager for Allegheny Power, who presented the only bid for electric service. There are several options for the franchise agreement with Allegheny Power which would be a twenty year agreement. The most attractive of these options is an agreement that would allow the Town to use the Potomac Edison parking lot and grassy area for Town sponsored events and/or the Page County Farmers Market. The Town would assume liability insurance for these events. The Town expresses a use for these Allegheny Power owned facilities and would like to have a license agreement in place that would allow use of the facility at a free of charge rate. The only time the property is used by Allegheny is for emergency situations. In the case of an emergency, Allegheny may use this as a staging area for its trucks or helicopter. Mr. Sisler stated that Allegheny currently has no plans to sell the property. However if the property were sold, Allegheny would revert back to the bond agreement to uphold the bargain. Town Attorney, Jason Spitler, stated that he sees no problems with the agreement. He stated that the Town simply needs to make a decision on which of the franchise options they want.

NEW BUSINESS

Chamber of Commerce Representative

Town Manager, Rick Black, stated that the Council needs to select a member to appoint as its representative for the chamber of commerce. **Motion:** Councilwoman Shifflett motioned to appoint Leroy Lancaster to serve as the Town's representative for the Luray-Page County Chamber of Commerce, motion seconded by Councilman Schiro with the vote as follows: YEA: Council Members Shifflett, Arrington, Menefee, Lancaster, Schiro, Racer. **Approved 6-0**

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney, Jason Spitler, stated that he has no issues that have not previously been discussed.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mayor Presgraves adjourned the regular session of the Town Council at approximately 8:40pm.

Barry Presgraves
Mayor

Danielle P. Babb
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer