

**MINUTES OF A TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MEETING
TOWN OF LURAY, VIRGINIA
Tuesday, January 28, 2020
5:30pm**

The Luray Town Council met in a Work Session on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Luray Town Council Chambers located at 45 East Main Street, Luray, Virginia at which time there were the following present:

Presiding: Mayor Presgraves

Council Present: Ron Vickers
Jerry Dofflemyer
Jerry Schiro
Leroy Lancaster
Joseph Sours
Leah Pence

Others Present: Steve Burke, Town Manager
Bryan Chrisman, Assistant Town Manager
Mary Broyles, Treasurer
Danielle Babb, Deputy Clerk Treasurer
Chief Bow Cook, Luray Police Department
Jason Pettit, Luray Downtown Initiative
Rodney Jenkins, Baker Development -Luray Landing

Mayor Presgraves led members in the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

UPDATES & DISCUSSION ITEMS

LURAY LANDING- ROAD & UTILITY DEDICATION

Town Manager, Steve Burke, presented the pending request from Baker Development for the acceptance of roads and utilities associated with the Luray Landing Development. Staff met this morning with Baker Development and Racey Engineering and received two of three requested items. Town Staff anticipates three submittals from the developer; the Business Park, Planned Neighborhood Development, and Phase II Rezoning. Council members asked why General Drive is currently closed. Mr. Burke explained that Baker Development has requested that the road be closed until the roadway dedication is accepted by the Town in order to mitigate any liability. The Town of Luray is still holding a bond from the developer.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Mr. Steve Burke requested to discuss several Traffic Management options proposed by the Chief of Police. The first option is reconfiguration of the traffic flow through the intersection of Mill Creek Road and South Court Street. The change would establish a priority traffic flow along Mill Creek Road and South Court for north/south bound traffic. The stop sign on Mill Creek Road would be removed and replaced by a Yield and Stop for west bound traffic on South Court Street. Council discussed the recent reconfiguration of this intersection and new line markings. Council members also expressed concern about the speed coming down the hill on Mill Creek Road approaching the intersection. No action was taken this evening.

The second traffic management option is the reconfiguration of speed limits along Rt 340 from Mechanic Street to the Town limits to remove the 40mp zone to ease enforcement by transition from 25mph to 35mph to 45mph. Chief Cook said that the main change is the removal of the 40mph zone, and this will ease enforcement issues. Mr. Burke said that this will require a speed study, and staff will proceed as such, provided there are no objections from Council.

Lastly, Mr. Burke discussed the establishment of a School Zone along Luray Avenue and the adjoining side streets. This would include the area of Luray Elementary and Luray Middle School. Council members were provided with a draft school zone map. Mr. Burke advised that the Town has purchased some signage and has the ability to set the school zone within its jurisdiction. Mr. Chrisman, Assistant Town Manager, said that if the School Board endorses the school zone then a speed study is not needed.

URBAN AGRICULTURE

Mr. Burke discussed the draft Code Amendments to regulate urban agriculture within the Town. Council previously discussed the draft code amendments at their January meeting. The Planning Commission is currently evaluating a draft code amendment that would require a special use permit in order to maintain fowl or livestock on properties within the Town. Pre-existing uses would be permitted to continue unless abandoned for a period of two years. Council members discussed the draft amendment Section 18-1 (b) that discusses setbacks. Mr. Burke identified that staff hopes to be able to address citizen requests through the establishment of these regulations. Council members then discussed the subject of nuisance birds and the associated trapping/removal of such.

WEED CONTROL

Town Manager, Steve Burke, discussed the Town's plan to address weed control on Town property. The Virginia Department of Agriculture has cited several times that the Town does not possess a licensed member to apply pesticides. Town staff plans to implement a pesticide management program under the supervision of a certified technician. The Town has hired a part time staff member who is a Certified Pesticide Applicator to oversee the program and train employees. In addition, several Town employees are enrolled for upcoming training and can obtain their licensure.

FY 2020-2021 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Burke discussed general goals for the FY 2020-2021 Town Budget. Included in Council’s packet is a budget calendar that sets goals and dates. Town Staff has incorporated some items identified in the audit. Mr. Burke said that there is no anticipated increase in tax rates, but there will be a recommendation for a sewer rate increase to address sewer infrastructure needs. Mayor Presgraves said he is pleased to hear that there are no plans for a tax increase. Councilwoman Pence would like to see staff pursue tax incentives and a capital plan for downtown streetscapes. Mr. Burke discussed current and continued capital projects which include; continuation of Memorial Drive upgrades, Lake Arrowhead restrooms, Lake Playground relocation, Lake septic upgrades, and the Greenway pedestrian bridge. In addition, staff is looking at the replacement of the Imagination Station playground with associated debt service. Also, Town Staff is reviewing the recommendation from Racey Engineering for a sidewalk path extension of the Greenway on Linden Avenue. The Town will also continue to use VDOT smart scale funds to improve West Main and Northcott Drive through the implementation of a roundabout. Lastly, Councilwoman Pence would like to see a bar graph of consumer tax history to accompany the budget.

Announcements and Adjourn

With no further business, Mayor Presgraves adjourned meeting of the Luray Town Council at approximately 6:12 p.m.

Mayor, Barry Presgraves

Deputy Clerk, Danielle Babb