

**Town of Louisa
Monthly Meeting
April 15, 2008**

Present: James S. Artz, Mayor; Mary Jane Clarke, Vice-Mayor; A. Daniel Carter; Pamela H. Stone, Warren D. Gehle, Matthew L. Kersey, Council Members; Ronald M. Maupin, Attorney; Brian W. Marks, Town Manager; Donna L. Pinter, Treasurer; Jessica M. Ellis, Clerk; M. Brad Humphrey, Project Manager; Stan Batten, Chief of Police

Also Attending: Shana Strang, The Central Virginian; Mr. I. H. Dulaney, 135 West Street, Louisa; Mr. Frank Fair, Auto Trading Center, Louisa

Absent: None.

All copies including: reports, handouts, and documents can be found following the minutes.

Mayor Artz called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Council Member Kersey gave the invocation.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council member Carter made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Council member Clarke seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING

SUP 2008-01:

An application was submitted by Mr. Frank Fair requesting a Special Use Permit to operate an automobile dealership in the General Commercial District. Automobile Sales Establishments are an allowed use in the General Commercial District with a Special Use Permit.

Mayor Artz opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Marks briefly updated Council and introduced Mr. Frank Fair.

Mr. Fair stood before Council and explained how he intended to use the lot. Mr. Fair informed Council that repairs on the existing building have been done to improve the look of the structure. Mr. Fair also stated that he has plans to make further improvements to the lot, such as additional lighting and plantings.

Mr. Maupin reminded Council that the Planning Commission suggested a number of conditions when they recommended approval of the Special Use Permit.

Mr. Marks noted a couple of emails that he had received regarding the SUP which were included in the packet for Council's review. Mr. Marks stated that the emails were not for or against the SUP, but simply requested that Council consider their suggestions on set backs so that vehicles would not be parked too close to the sidewalks.

Council member Gehle reported that he had heard from several town citizens and each of whom he had spoken with were in opposition of the new business opening in the downtown area. Mr. Gehle stated that there were concerns about the location of the business, banners, flags, parking, sidewalk obstruction and obstruction of a motorist's view.

Mayor Artz closed the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

FY 2009 Budget

Mr. Marks reported that the FY 2009 Budget advertisement needs to be submitted in order to hold a public hearing at the May 20, 2008 Louisa Town Council meeting.

Council member Stone made a motion authorizing the Town Manager to advertise the FY 2009 Budget in order to hold a public hearing at the May 20, 2008 Louisa Town Council meeting. Council member Gehle seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of SUP 2008-01

Mr. Marks reported that the Planning Commission met on March 31, 2008 and held a public hearing regarding the SUP. The Planning Commission concluded with a recommendation of approval and five conditions for Council's review.

Mr. Maupin suggested to Council, that if it met their approval, a sixth condition should be added regarding inoperable and unlicensed vehicles – that they are not allowed to be stored on the property – in light of concerns that have been heard at this meeting.

Council member Kersey suggested a seventh condition regarding set backs – that there should be at least a 10 feet between parked vehicles and the sidewalk.

Mr. Marks stated that he felt it was best to meet with Mr. Fair and look at the lot to get accurate measurements in order to get as close as possible to Mr. Kersey's suggestion without being too strict, given that 10 feet may not be possible. Mr. Maupin agreed, stating that the

seventh condition can be approved along with the six others as long as Council is okay with Mr. Marks' judgment.

Council member Kersey moved to approve SUP 2008-01 as recommended by the Planning Commission with the approval of the first five conditions set by the Planning Commission and the sixth and seventh conditions set by Council. Council member Carter seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: Clarke, for; Kersey, for; Stone, for; Gehle, against; Carter, for. The vote carried 4-1.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Department:

(Please refer to the Police Department report.)

Council member Kersey and Mayor Artz commended the Louisa Police Department on their professionalism and response to the recent numbers reported on the rise in crime in the town.

Water & Sewer Department:

(Please refer to the Water & Sewer Department report.)

Mr. Humphrey stood before Council and read aloud from his report, highlighting areas of interest.

Litter Committee:

No report.

Streets & Sidewalks

No report.

Cemetery

No report.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Counsel

No report.

Clerk

No report.

Treasurer

Mrs. Pinter reported that the deadline for town decals was today, April 15, 2008 and approximately 600 decals have been purchased, which is about half of what is sold annually.

Manager

Mr. Marks reported:

- Dairy Day will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2008 & a place was reserved for anyone interested in “celebrity milking”.
- The Rural Development \$2 million dollar loan closing will be on Thursday, April 17, 2008.
- Mr. Marks reported that the town received a \$50,000 grant from Rural Development.
- Decal season went well – thanks to Donna, Jessica, and Kettrina.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Kersey moved to adjourn the April 15, 2008 meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk