

**Town of Louisa  
Monthly Meeting  
July 21, 2009**

**Present:** James S. Artz, Mayor; Vice-Mayor Mary Jane Clarke; Matthew L. Kersey; A. Daniel Carter; Warren D. Gehle; H. I. Dulaney, 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:** Officer Mark McGehee, Officer Steve Irving, and Officer Glen Arrington of the Town of Louisa Police Department; Mrs. Tammy Irving and family; Skip Notte, Jim Brown, and Kyle LaClaire of Dewberry; David Purcell, town resident & town business and property owner; Ruby Madison, town resident and property owner; Dale Hopkins and Howard Scheurenbrand, town residents; Deborah Shifflett, town business owner; Randal Robinett and Jay Sudduth, co-owners of Main Street Computers; Mr. John Hannah, owner of Around the World Gifts

**Absent:** None.

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

Mayor Artz called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Council member Kersey gave the invocation.

## **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Proposed Downtown Pedestrian Improvements Project**

**The goal of the Public Hearing is to 1) Present conceptual drawings prior to submission of the 50% plans to VDOT, 2) Clarify the parking impacts and 3) Receive formal public comments on the project.**

Mr. Marks briefly stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to receive formal public input on the project as well as to clarify issues found with the first set of plans. Mr. Marks then turned the public hearing over to Mr. Skip Notte and his associates of Dewberry.

Mr. Notte and his associates, Kyle LaClaire and Jim Brown, very quickly brought those in attendance up to speed on where the project is at this time. The three gentlemen took turns reviewing and explaining details of the plans that were projected on the wall for everyone to see.

After the presentation, Mayor Artz opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m. asking if there was anyone present that would like to speak for or against the project.

Several questions were received by Mr. Notte and his associates, as well as Mr. Brian Marks, Town Manager. Mrs. Ruby Madison, Mr. David Purcell, Mr. Jay Sudduth, Mr. Randal Robinett, and Mr. John

Hannah all stood and expressed concerns regarding parking and pedestrian safety on Main Street.

Mayor Artz closed the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **FY 2008-2009 Manager's Report IAW Town Charter Chapter 4-5**

Mr. Marks stated that the Town Charter requires him to provide the Council with a fiscal year closeout which he included in the packet for their review.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Dollars for Drug dogs – Donations for the Louisa Police Dept K9 Program**

Mr. Marks reported that on the evening of the July 4th parade; he was in a local business and saw a sign asking for donations for a drug dog. Mr. Marks noted that it was the first time he had heard anything about the matter. He stated that there had been a couple of people who had expressed interest in getting another canine, but no one had come to him regarding the solicitation of money for a program that would benefit the town. Mr. Marks stated that he contacted Chief Batten and Officer Irving regarding the matter and asked that it be added to the agenda for the next Council meeting as an item to be discussed.

Mayor Artz stated that since Council was unaware of the program until reading the agenda for the meeting, they were not prepared to take any action that evening. Mayor Artz noted that this matter did not come up for discussion during the multiple budget meetings that were held prior to the adoption of the FY 2009-10 budget. Mayor Artz limited the discussion to 15 minutes and stated that further discussion or action would be taken at a later date.

Mrs. Tammy Irving stood and apologized to Council stating that she was responsible for the flyers that had been distributed throughout town. Mrs. Irving stated that she was trying to find out how many people were interested in the program and how much support they could garner. Mrs. Irving stated that she started the program because she knows what the expense would be for another canine and that there is no funding available in the current budget to purchase another dog. Mrs. Irving stated that the funding collected would be used to purchase the dog which would prevent the town from having to do so itself. Mrs. Irving informed Council that she has received a lot of positive feedback regarding the matter.

Mayor Artz appointed Council member Clarke and Council member Gehle to serve on a committee in which they would discuss the matter with Mrs. Irving and report back to Council.

Mr. Marks reported that he had included letters of support that the town had received regarding the program.

### **Reappointment of Staff IAW Chapter 3-8 of the Louisa Town Code**

Council member Dulaney made the motion to reappoint: Jessica Ellis, Clerk; Donna Pinter, Treasurer; Ron Maupin, Town Attorney; Stan Batten, Chief of Police; John Jones, General Superintendent; and Brian Marks, Town Manager. Council member Carter seconded he motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

### **Declaration of excess property and authorization to sell excess property at auction**

Mr. Marks recommended declaring the army surplus truck excess property and selling it at auction after it receives a tune-up. Mr. Marks stated that Chief Batten informed him that the truck is of no use to them anymore.

Council member Kersey made the motion giving the Town Manager authorization to declare the truck excess property to sell at auction

after it receives a tune-up. Council member Clarke seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Police Department:**

(Please refer to the Police Department report.)

Chief Batten commented of the amount of public support present at the meeting.

Chief Batten stated that Officer Mark McGehee was appointed Town Sergeant, and introduced Glen Arrington as the newest officer of the Louisa Police Department.

Mayor Artz swore in Officer Arrington.

Chief Batten briefly spoke about the possibility of being able to inspect large trucks/tractor trailers in the near future.

#### **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:

Mr. Marks noted that he included a set of plans for the columbarium for Council to review.

Personnel Committee:

No report.

**REPORTS FROM STAFF**

Counsel

Mr. Maupin informed Council that Sergeant McGehee's salary will increase by \$2500 effective the date he took the position.

Council member Gehle made the motion to increase Sergeant McGehee's salary by \$2500 effective July 2, 2009. Council member Dulaney seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Maupin also spoke of a matter regarding an easement (a deed of confirmation) in the alley way behind the shops on Main Street. Mr. Maupin suggested that Council adopt a motion authorizing Mr. Marks to execute the deed of confirmation.

Council member Carter made the motion to authorize Mr. Marks to execute the deed of confirmation. Council member Clarke seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Maupin also spoke of an issue regarding an ROW easement on Carter Street. Mr. Maupin stated that a new solution has been brought to the table to be considered by Council, but before any action can be taken, Council will need to hold a public hearing.

Council member Clarke made the motion to authorize the Town Manager to advertise for a public hearing regarding the matter. Council member Carter seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

Clerk

No report.

Treasurer

No Report.

Manager

Mr. Marks reported the following:

\* Two rooms have been reserved for the VML Conference. Two registrations have also been completed for the conference for who ever would like to attend.

\* Mr. Marks stated that the town applied for a \$5000 matching grant with the Commission of the Arts (which is something the town does annually) and we were awarded the funding that will be donated to the Arts Center.

Council member Clarke made the motion to accept the \$5000 grant. Council member Gehle seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

\* Mr. Marks gave a brief update on the WWTP.

\* Mr. Marks reported that there is a letter in the packet from the TJPDC supporting the town for applying for a 60/40 grant match for 2 police cars.

\* Mr. Marks stated that the newly adopted lodging tax supersedes the county tax.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Carter made the motion to adjourn the July 21, 2009  
Louisa Town Council meeting at 8:28 p.m.

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Mayor

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Clerk