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**Town of Louisa
Monthly Meeting
September 15, 2015**

Present: R. Garland Nuckols, Mayor; Matthew L. Kersey, Vice-Mayor; Mary Jane Clarke, Warren D. Gehle, A. Daniel Carter, Andrew G. Wade Council Members; Jeff Gore, Legal Counsel; Tom Filer, Town Manager; Jessica M. Ellis, Clerk; Elizabeth T. Nelson, Treasurer; M. Brad Humphrey, Project Manager; Ronnie Roberts, Chief of Police

Absent: None.

Also in Attendance: Nelson Smith, 200 Lyde Ave; Jeff Brown, owner of True Value/Louisa Hardware; Jade Lourenco & Rob Jones, owners of Obrigado restaurant; Donna Patrick, owner of Patrick's BBQ; LaVahn Hoh, LDDC President

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

Mayor Nuckols called the Louisa Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Nelson Smith, town resident at 200 Lyde Avenue, expressed his concern regarding how the American flag is displayed in front of the town hall building, and also commented on the size of the American flag and the condition of the flag pole in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Mr. Jeff Brown, owner of True Value/Louisa Hardware; Jade Lourenco and Rob Jones, owners of Obrigado restaurant; and Donna Patrick, owner of Patrick's BBQ all stood and individually addressed Council regarding the need to update the town's sign ordinance. They also questioned: Council's stance on the matter; the amendment process; and requested more/better communication between the town and businesses.

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2 **CONSENT AGENDA**
3

4 Mr. Filer asked Council to refer to the supplemental packet at their
5 desks for updated items, and the Mayor stated that he did not have
6 the committee assignments with him and would email them out to
7 everyone on Wednesday, September 16, 2015.

8
9 Council member Kersey made the motion to approve the consent
10 agenda. Council member Gehle seconded the motion. The vote went
11 as follows: 5-0 in favor.

12
13 **PRESENTATION**
14

15 **Louisa Arts Center Update/Progress Report**

16
17 Mr. LaVahn Hoh, LDDC President, stood and briefed Council stating
18 that they had met with several different groups recently to help them
19 determine what they want to incorporate in their village/campus
20 plans, and have also been looking into available grant funding. Mr.
21 Hoh stated that they would keep Council updated as they continue
22 their research.

23
24 **OLD BUSINESS**
25

26 **1) Discussion/Action: Sign Ordinance – Planning Commission**
27 **Comments/Recommendation**
28

29 Mr. Filer stated that at the last meeting, Council requested that the
30 Planning Commission review the sign ordinance and report back at
31 the next Council meeting. Mr. Filer reported that the Planning
32 Commission discussed the ordinance and that a copy of the minutes
33 from their meeting and copy of a letter submitted to the Chairman
34 from Mr. Gehle had been included in the packet.

35
36 Mr. Filer went on to discuss the different types of signage throughout
37 the town and then spoke to specific signs that stand out and do not
38 adhere to the ordinance. Mr. Filer stated that the signage in question
39

1
2 falls under Chapter 134-6 A&B, and suggested that it be reviewed
3 further.

4
5 Council and staff further discussed the matter and spoke specifically
6 about: fluttering signs, exemptions, and the permitting process.

7
8 Mr. Gore then spoke to the matter and stated that it would be unlikely
9 that the town would be held responsible for an accident caused by a
10 private business owner's signage, but noted that what is on the books
11 should be enforced. Mr. Gore continued that he felt the town should
12 not set a precedent of not enforcing what is on the books, and added
13 that Council could also revise the ordinance.

14
15 After further discussion, Council took the following action:

16
17 Council member Kersey made the motion to send the matter back to
18 the Planning Commission to be studied further; and requested that
19 they also seek input from local merchants; and requested that
20 businesses be allowed to operate "as is" until the matter can be
21 resolved; and report back to Council. Council member Clarke
22 seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

23
24 **NEW BUSINESS**

25
26 **1) Discussion/Action: Wreath Request – Sunset Club**

27
28 Council member Clarke made the motion to approve the wreath
29 request made by the Sunset Club. Council member Kersey
30 seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

31
32 **2) Discussion/Action: Halloween Permits**

33
34 Council member kersey made the motion to approve the Halloween
35 permit submitted by the Central Virginia Assembly of God for their
36 "No Fright Fun Night" on Saturday October 31, 2015 at the Louisa
37 Fireman's Fairgrounds from 5-8pm. Council member Carter
38 seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

1
2 **3) Discussion/Action: Louisa County Water Authority Agreement**

3
4 A lengthy discussion was held between Council and staff on the
5 matter. The Town Manager requested that Council review the
6 document and report back with changes so that he and Mr. Gore
7 could amend and resubmit the agreement to the Water Authority for
8 their review.

9
10 **4) Discussion/Action: Lease Claybrook Farms**

11
12 Council member Wade made the motion to approve the lease with
13 Claybrook Farms. Council member Clarke seconded the motion.
14 The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

15
16 **5) Committee Appointments – Mayor Nuckols**

17
18 *This item was struck from the agenda.*

19
20 **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

21
22 Police Department:

23
24 (Please refer to the Police Department report.)

25
26 Chief Roberts reviewed the Police Department's report and fielded
27 questions from Council.

28
29 Police Committee:

30
31 No report.

32
33 Water & Sewer Department:

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

36
37 Mr. Humphrey stood before Council and read aloud from his report,
38 highlighting areas of interest.

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Litter Committee:

No report.

Streets & Sidewalks

No report.

Cemetery

No report.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Counsel

No report.

Clerk

No report.

Treasurer

No report.

Manager

Mr. Filer made mention of the following:

- Bids for the roof repair have come in, and were under budget. Repairs to several buildings will be done soon.
- Goose neck pole lights will be coming down on Main Street.
- VDOT is not willing to look into/change the Right on Red at the intersection of Courthouse Road and Main Street at this time.
- VDOT is willing to look into a possible road from Route 208 to Lyde Ave.; however the town would have to undertake the cost of

