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**Town of Louisa
Monthly Meeting
July 15, 2014**

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Present: R. Garland Nuckols, Mayor; Matthew L. Kersey Vice-Mayor; Mary Jane Clarke, Warren D. Gehle, A. Daniel Carter, Andrew G. Wade, Council Members; Brendan Hefty, Legal Counsel; Brian W. Marks, Town Manager; Jessica M. Ellis, Clerk; Carol A. Brown, Treasurer; M. Brad Humphrey, Project Manager

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Also Attending: Paula Hawthorne, The Central Virginian; Susan R. Hopkins, Louisa County Circuit Court Clerk; Nelson Smith, town resident, 200 Lyde Avenue; Joyce Bickley, town resident, 115 Lyde Avenue; Deborah Martin, town resident, 201 Carter Street

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Absent: None.

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

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Mayor Nuckols called the Louisa Town Council meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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OATH OF OFFICE

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Susan R. Hopkins, Clerk of the Louisa Circuit Court, administered the Oath of Office to R. Garland Nuckols, Mayor; Mary Jane Clarke, Council member; Andrew G. Wade, Council member.

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BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

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CONSENT AGENDA

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

ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT

1) Election of Vice Mayor

After a brief discussion, Council member Clarke made the motion to nominate Council member Kersey to serve as Vice Mayor. Council member Carter seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: Gehle, for; Kersey, abstain; Wade, for; Clarke, for; Carter, for.

2) Appointments to Standing Committees

Mayor Nuckols distributed the 2014-2015 Standing Committees list to Council and staff.

3) Designation of Town Depository

As required by section 3.3 if the Louisa Town Code, Mr. Marks recommended the following banks and financial institutions to be designated as the town depositories: Virginia Community Bank – General Checking; Essex Bank – Special Checking; Virginia Community Bank – Savings; Essex Bank – Savings; Local Government Investment Pool (VA) – Savings.

Council member Gehle made the motion to approve the Town Manager’s recommendation for Town Depositories. Council member Clarke seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

4) Resolution for Bank Signatories

Council member Carter made the motion to adopt the Bank Signatories Resolution. Council member Gehle seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

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OLD BUSINESS

1) Action/Discussion: VRA Commitment Letters – Northern Loop and Tank Modifications

After a brief explanation, the Town Manager reported that he, Mr. Gore, and Mrs. Perry had reviewed and recommended approving the VRA Commitment Letters.

Council member Carter made the motion to approve the VRA Commitment Letters. Council member Clarke seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

2) Action/Discussion: VDH Low Interest Loan-Grant Funding Package – Well Development Project

Council member Kersey made the motion to accept the VDH Low Interest Loan – Grant Funding Package. Council member Gehle seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

3) Discussion/Action: Water Tank Modifications Contract Award

Council member Gehle made the motion to enter into the water tank modification contract. Council member Carter seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Discussion/Action: acceptance of VCA Challenge Grant

Council member Clarke made the motion to accept the VCA Challenge Grant. Council member Kersey seconded the motion. The vote went as follow: 5-0 in favor.

2) Discussion/Action: Reappointment of Town Officers

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The Town Manager recommended reappointing the Town Officers with the exception of the position of Chief of Police (as it is vacant at this time).

Council member Clarke made the motion to reappoint all Town Officers with the exception of the Chief of Police position. Council member Kersey seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

3) Discussion/Action: FY 2013-14 closeout report

Mr. Marks spoke briefly of his report and highlighted key areas of interest.

4) Discussion/Action: VML Safety Grant Application

Mr. Marks reported that he would like to use the funding for the purchase of rubber playground mulch for the town park located on campus behind the town office building.

Council member Wade stated that he had spoken with a local business about the cost of their product and felt that it was very competitively priced and a good idea to support our local businesses.

Council member Clarke made the motion to approve the VML Safety Grant Application. Council member Wade seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Department:

(Please refer to the Police Department report.)

In the absence of a Chief of Police, Mr. Marks, Town Manager, stood and quickly updated the Police Department's report and fielded questions from Council.

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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.

Following Mr. Humphrey's report, Mayor Nuckols requested that Mr. Marks give an update on what the Louisa County Water Authority has been doing to aid in resolving the recent water problems. Mr. Marks obliged by giving a detailed report before moving on to the next item on the agenda.

Litter Committee:

No report.

Streets & Sidewalks

No report.

Cemetery

No report.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Counsel

No report.

Clerk

No report.

Treasurer

No report.

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Manager

Mr. Marks reported:

- Our auditors, Brown Edwards, have submitted an engagement letter for Council to review and sign.

Council member Carter made the motion to sign the engagement letter submitted by Brown Edwards to conduct the audit. Council member Clarke seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

- The new tax/fee schedule has been posted for the public.
- A letter from Williams in regards to the Transco natural gas pipeline was included in the packet for review.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Nuckols noted all the work that is being done to the building and grounds at 301 W. Main Street and asked if Council would consider reducing the rent for a couple of months in return for all his hard work and out of pocket expenses.

Council briefly discussed the idea and felt that they did not want to address the matter at this time, but would revisit the matter at a later date.

CLOSED SESSION

Council Member Wade made the motion to convene in closed session to discuss the following: as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(3) to discuss the acquisition of real property; and as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(1) to discuss (2) personnel matters involving the Chief of Police position and a part time employee. Council member Clarke seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

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Council went into closed session at 7:43 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

Council member Carter made the motion to go back in to open session. Council member Gehle seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

Council returned to regular session at 8:42 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Council member Carter made the motion certifying that, in the closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and (2) lawfully permitted to be discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information act cited in that motion. Council member Wade seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: Clarke, for; Kersey, for; Carter, for; Wade, for; Gehle, for (5-0 in favor).

ACTION

Council member Wade made the motion to appoint Sgt. Powell as acting Police Chief and authorize the Town Manager to advertise for the Chief of Police position. The vote went as follows: Clarke, for; Gehle, for; Carter, for; Wade, for; Kersey, against (4-1 in favor).

COMMENTS BY MEMBER OF TOWN COUNCIL

Council briefly discussed changing the monthly Town Council meeting time to 6:00 p.m. The matter did not prompt a motion, therefore no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:47 p.m., Council Member Carter made the motion to adjourn the

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meeting. Council member Wade seconded the motion.

Mayor

Clerk