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**Town of Louisa  
Monthly Meeting  
January 19, 2021**

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Please note that this meeting is being held by all-electronic means with no physical quorum of council members assembled together and no staff or members of the public assembled together. This meeting is being conducted pursuant to Va. Code 2.2-3708 (A) 3 as authorized when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with Va. Code § 44-146.17, provided that (i) the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and (ii) the purpose of the meeting is to address the emergency.

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**Present:** R. Garland Nuckols, Mayor; Jessie Lassiter, Vice-Mayor; A. Daniel Carter, Bud Dulaney, John J. Purcell IV, Sylvia Rigsby, Council members; Jeff Gore, Legal Counsel; Elizabeth T. Nelson, Town Manager; Jessica M. Ellis, Clerk/Treasurer; Tom Leary, Chief of Police

**Absent:** None

**Also in Attendance:** Toby Cox, The Central Virginian

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

Mayor Nuckols called the Louisa Town Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mrs. Nelson read a letter aloud from Kenny and Stephanie Throckmorton, owners of Kenny's Central Tire located at 204 E. Main Street. As a recipient of a \$10,000 grant awarded by the town (via COVID Cares Act Funds), Mr. and Mrs. Throckmorton thanked the town for their support of the small businesses in town.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council member Dulaney questioned if we had received change order no. 3 – in regards to the sewer system improvements project

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2 which appears on the agenda as item no. 2 under New Business.  
3 Mrs. Nelson responded that she had not received anything as of the  
4 start of the meeting. Mr. Dulaney then requested that the item be  
5 tabled.

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7 Council member Dulaney made the motion to approve the agenda as  
8 amended. Council member Lassiter seconded the motion. The vote  
9 went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

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11 **PUBLIC HEARING:**

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13 ***Increase in Sewer Rates***

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15 Mayor Nuckols opened the public hearing at 6:06 pm asking if there  
16 was anyone present who would like to speak for or against the  
17 proposed sewer rate increase. Hearing no comments, Mayor  
18 Nuckols deferred to Mrs. Nelson who reported that she ran the  
19 advertisement in the newspaper for two consecutive weeks as  
20 required, however she did not receive any comments from the public.  
21 Without further comment, Mayor Nuckols closed the public hearing at  
22 6:07 pm.

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24 **OLD BUSINESS**

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26 None.

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28 **NEW BUSINESS**

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30 **1) Discussion/Action: Sewer Rates**

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32 Council member Dulaney began the discussion by stating that he  
33 has served on the Water & Sewer Committee in years past and  
34 knows how difficult it can be when considering and implementing a  
35 rate increase. Mr. Dulaney commented that usually rate increases  
36 prompt comments from the public and expressed his concern with the  
37 town not receiving any after the sewer rate increase was advertised  
38 for public hearing. Mr. Dulaney questioned if Mrs. Nelson/Council felt  
39 that the public was aware and prepared for the increase. Mrs. Nelson

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2 responded saying that she felt that the public has been properly  
3 informed - citing the required advertising, and stating that the Louisa  
4 County Water Authority (who the town buys their water from) just  
5 recently raised their rates, and historically, the town has always  
6 followed suit.

7  
8 Mr. Dulaney then referenced a rate study conducted several years  
9 ago and questioned if the proposed increase would help to bring the  
10 sewer fund more in line with the water fund. Both Council  
11 member Purcell and Mrs. Nelson responded saying that the increase  
12 would help, but that the water fund would continue to  
13 supplement the sewer fund until future increases are made.

14  
15 Mr. Dulaney then concluded the discussion by suggesting that  
16 Council consider the idea of allocating funds for another rate study –  
17 something to discuss during upcoming budget work sessions.

18  
19 Toby Cox, a reporter for The Central Virginia, then asked for the  
20 dollar amount of the sewer rate increase. Mrs. Nelson responded  
21 that the base sewer rate for 0-4,000 gallons would increase from  
22 \$34.34 to \$40.53 – a \$6.19 increase. Ms. Cox also questioned when  
23 the increase would take place. Mrs. Nelson stated that the rate would  
24 take effect as of the March 1<sup>st</sup> billing, after Council takes the  
25 proposed ordinance up for consideration at next month’s meeting.

26  
27 **2) Discussion/Action: Change Order #3 – Sewer System**  
28 **Improvements**

29  
30 *This item was tabled during the approval of the consent agenda.*

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32 **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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34 **Police Matters:**

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36 Council member Dulaney gave a brief update stating that the  
37 committee met on January 7<sup>th</sup> and discussed the following: the Chief  
38 of Police position search; received an update on the accreditation  
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process; and discussed tracking in monthly reports – more to come on that later.

**Legal Matters:**

Mrs. Nelson reported that the Legal Matters committee had a joint meeting with the County of Louisa to discuss the future use of the Henson Building on West Street. Mrs. Nelson stated that the County requested a letter of determination on that property from the town to which Mrs. Nelson reported she is working on with Mr. Gore.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Police:**

Chief Leary reported on the following:

- Working on bringing back a Neighborhood Watch program and a Business Watch program.
- Chief of Police position has been advertised with several entities. Starting to receive applications.
- Thanked Mrs. Nelson and County of Louisa for access to COVID vaccine.

**Legal Counsel:**

Mr. Gore made mention of:

- The General Assembly is in town.
- He’s working on the letter of determination with Mrs. Nelson and is reviewing contracts.

**Clerk/Treasurer:**

No report.

**Manager:**

1  
2 Mrs. Nelson reported...

- 3
- 4 • The valve replacement on West Street is scheduled to take place
  - 5 on January 25<sup>th</sup> – weather permitting – and will affect many
  - 6 residents on West Street and Ellisville Drive. Staff will call all that
  - 7 will be affected.
  - 8 • The cable survey has been completed.
  - 9 • Cares Act Funding has been extending to the end of 2021.
  - 10 • Due to the age of the building, not much can be done about
  - 11 upgrades to Council’s meeting room in regards to audio and video
  - 12 equipment.
  - 13 • Working on Chief of Police search with Dana Schrad (VACP) – will
  - 14 receive valuable feedback on the best candidates for the position.
  - 15 • Louisa County Middle School Civics teacher, Bonnie Collier,
  - 16 reached out to the town for assistance for with her lessons on local
  - 17 government. A recording of the meeting tonight will be sent to her,
  - 18 and anyone who would like to participate by offering a video
  - 19 dialogue for her class can do so by getting in touch with Mrs. Nelson.

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## 21 **COMMUNICATIONS**

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23 Mayor Nuckols reported that he had a meeting with Abigail

24 Spanberger in regards to upcoming funding possibilities for water

25 and sewer projects. He reported that there will be more information

26 to come.

27

## 28 **ADJOURNMENT**

29

30 Council member Lassiter made the motion to adjourn the meeting at

31 6:28 p.m.

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33 \_\_\_\_\_

34 Mayor

35 \_\_\_\_\_

36 Clerk