

Minutes of Town Council Meeting
July 10, 2007
Glasgow Public Library

Council Members present: Roger Bradley, Ruby Clark, Sarah Funkhouser, Roberta Lyle, and Mike Turner.

Council Member absent: Tim Turner

Also present were: Sam Blackburn, Mayor; Andrew Havens, Town Manager; Thomas Simons, Town Attorney; Shirley Edwards, Secretary; Armond "Hammer" Falgoust, Public Works; and Damon Propst, Town Sergeant.

Guests Present were: Elaine Massie, Caroline Norrington, and Judith Perkins from the Glasgow Garden Club, and Roberta Anderson (News-Gazette).

Mayor Blackburn called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Public Comment Period:

There was no Public Comment

The Minutes of the June 12, 2007 Council Meeting and July 3, 2007 Special Meeting were reviewed and approved by consent.

The July bills were presented:

Motion by Ruby Clark and **Second** by Roberta Lyle to approve the printed bills and allow payment of other regular bills.

Carried by unanimous voice vote.

Committee Reports:

Mrs. Lyle reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee met and is planning the next Music in the Park event for Friday, August 31st from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m. The committee has a band and the necessary sponsors to pay for the band and other activities. The committee is asking for \$100 from the Town for advertising.

Mrs. Funkhouser reported for the Street and Light Committee. She and Mr. T. Turner recommend that a streetlight be placed at the corner of 13th Street and Anderson Street (in the cemetery) and one placed on Catawba Street between 5th and 6th. This committee reported two maintenance issues: a stop sign that needs to be reoriented and some brush that needs to be cleared from two other signs. The committee also suggested outdoor lighting at the public works shop. Mr. Havens will contact Dominion about the streetlights and reported that VDOT and/or our crew would take care of the maintenance issues. He noted that we do have lights outside the shop, but in deference to the neighbors, they are not used unless our crew is working after dark. He indicated that if Council so desires these lights can be put on a timer or dusk/dawn switch.

Police Report:

Sgt. Propst presented his written report. He noted some increase in activity, but indicated that the 4th of July holiday was relatively quiet. He spoke with some people who were using fireworks to remind them of our ordinance, but noted that most were not being used at an unreasonable hour. Mrs. Funkhouser asked if there was any progress toward getting funding for a "speed sign". Sgt. Propst reported that most of the grants he is able to get are geared less toward motor vehicle violations and more toward homeland security. After being asked, he said he would check with the Lexington police department about borrowing theirs. We can no longer use Buena Vista's as it needs to be mounted on a car. Mrs. Funkhouser is especially concerned with speed on Route 130.

Old Business:

Before taking old business, Mayor Blackburn asked Mrs. Massie, and the other representatives from the Garden Club for their presentation.

Mrs. Massie reported that the crab apple trees along Blue Ridge Road were planted in the 1940's and had a life expectancy of approximately 40 years. These trees are now well beyond their planned life and in need of replacement. The Garden Club has been working with experts to get advice regarding what types of trees would work best in this setting and provide some longevity. The recommendation they are bringing to the Town is to remove the old crab apple trees, plant new trees, and other items along this road. She noted that she talked with Mr. Havens who said the Town could cut down the old trees, a tree service will be contracted to remove the stumps, and the new trees/plantings will be professionally installed. She also mentioned that the Ruritan Club and Fire Department would be asked to assist with watering the new trees/plantings once they are installed. Due to the cost of this work, the Garden Club has advertised memorial opportunities, allowing people to "purchase" a tree or grouping in memory of a loved one. Their plan calls for a total of 11 trees, 8 of which have already been "purchased". Of the 10 planned groupings, 2 have been "purchased" and BB&T Bank is going to "sponsor" a rock garden in the area of the Bank.

Motion by Roberta Lyle and **Second** by Ruby Clark to approve the Garden Club's plan.

Carried by unanimous voice vote.

The first item of old business was to discuss the current draft of the Personnel Manual. Mr. Havens noted that he provided Council with pages to reflect the changes they have made over the past two months to the original draft.

Motion by Roger Bradley and **Second** by Ruby Clark to adopt the Personnel Manual as amended.

Carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Funkhouser suggested that the Town pursue placing directional signs on Route 130, noting that this is an item that had been discussed several months ago. She presented a draft design and noted that we would likely need two signs, one placed in the area of the land the Town owns west of Reynolds Chevron, and the other across from CC's Stop and Go. Mayor Blackburn mentioned that there was a sign across from CC's when Sandy St. Clair had a pharmacy in Town. He indicated that this sign was helpful to guide people to sites off Route 130. Mr. Havens indicated that the Town would need to speak with VDOT and the owner of the property across from CC's regarding the placement of the signs, and get a price from Danny St. Clair to make them. Mrs. Lyle also asked that there be some discussion about which budget line these funds would come from.

Mrs. Funkhouser suggested that we begin planning now if we want to have lighted decorations placed on power poles along Blue Ridge Road for the holiday season. This is an item that has been discussed in the past, but never with enough lead-time to allow for work to be done before the holidays. Mr. Havens noted that there appears to be seven poles that could be used. Mayor Blackburn questioned how the decorations would look given the lack of uniformity of the location of the poles in relationship to the street. Mrs. Lyle asked where the money would come from for this project. She suggested that this is something that should be included during the budget process. Mrs. Funkhouser asked if we could just get prices for the electrical work and put it in next year's budget if there is no funding available this year. Mr. Havens will work to get a quote for the electrical work.

New Business:

Connie Rosser submitted an offer to purchase a single lot of land owned by the Town. Mr. Simons indicated that the Town would have to advertise this parcel for sale and advertise for a public hearing regarding the sale of the parcel.

Motion by Roberta Lyle and **Second** by Mike Turner to advertise the lot and for a public hearing at the August meeting.

Carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the Concerned Citizens of Glasgow. This memorandum supports the current verbal understanding regarding the use of the funds, held by the Town, which were a result of grant projects in the North Glasgow area of Town.

Motion by Roger Bradley and **Second** by Roberta Lyle to approve this memorandum of understanding.

Carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Havens explained the draft of a change to our Town Code in response to a change in State law. The change in our Code would exempt one vehicle owned or leased by a member of the Glasgow Rescue Squad, Glasgow Fire Department, Glasgow Police Department, Rockbridge County Sheriff's Department or Virginia State Police, from personal property tax and Town decal fee. Mr. Simons noted that Council would need to conduct a public hearing if they would like to make this change.

Motion by Roger Bradley and **Second** by Roberta Lyle to advertise this ordinance change for a public hearing at the August meeting.

Carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Havens mentioned that with his imminent departure there would be no one to maintain the Town's website. He indicated that Mrs. Funkhouser has expressed an interest and shown the aptitude to be able to make many of the regular updates. Mayor Blackburn questioned where this would be done given the necessity of limiting access to computers in Town Hall. Mr. Havens mentioned that the Town purchased a portable hard drive when Darren Chestnut was doing the site, and this drive could go to whoever is working on the site. Mr. Havens noted that when Mr. Chesnut was doing the site he would send the changes for approval before they were posted.

Motion by Ruby Clark and **Second** by Roberta Lyle to table further discussion of this issue until the August meeting.

Carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Havens noted that the Fire Department wants to hold another horseshoe tournament at the horseshoe pits on Gordon Street. Their first event was successful and the players indicated a desire for more similar events. The next tournament is planned for Sunday, July 29th beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Motion by Roger Bradley and **Second** by Roberta Lyle to allow this use of the facility.

Carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Havens reported that Verizon Wireless had a representative at the Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss our project. The County has expressed an interest it helping to move this project along. Verizon also reported that they will be meeting, face-to-face, with VDHR to attempt to resolve some of the issues surrounding their approval of this project.

Ms. Clark inquired if the burn ban was still in effect. Mr. Havens reported that it is not.

Ms. Clark asked how our water wells are doing. Hammer indicated they are in good shape.

Ms. Clark indicated that she had called the Town Hall about spraying for mosquitoes. Mr. Havens said that spraying would begin this week.

Ms. Clark noted that she called the Town Hall about dust issues on Kanawha Street. Mr. Havens reported that this street is scheduled for surface treating in the current fiscal year and that we will put some chloride on the road, although its effect is likely to be minimal.

Ms. Clark passed on thanks from Ben Watts for fixing the alley behind his house.

Ms. Clark asked if we are still having buzzard issues. Mr. Havens reported that they do not seem to be a problem this year. He noted that Jeff Rankin is monitoring the area for them and did some work to discourage their presence when they came in Town this spring.

Ms. Clark asked about getting inmates or someone else to clear brush from the ditch along Shenandoah Road and Blue Ridge Road. Mrs. Funkhouser agreed that these are a problem. Mr. Havens noted that the Blue Ridge Road ditch does have some re-growth that is now just a year old, and that the Town did a significant amount of work on the ditch on Shenandoah Road two years ago. Mrs. Funkhouser asked if we could put the project out to bid to see what it would cost to have done.

Motion by Sarah Funkhouser and **Second** by Ruby Clark to develop and advertise a request for proposals to clear brush and trees from the ditch along Shenandoah Road from Blue Ridge Road to 2nd Street and along Blue Ridge Road from the Norfolk Southern Railroad to the Town line.

Carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Ruby Clark and **Second** by Roberta Lyle to appropriate \$100 from the parks and recreation budget, for advertisement for the Music in the Park event.

Carried by unanimous voice vote.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk