

The Smithfield Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Members present were Mr. T. Carter Williams, Mayor; Mr. Andrew Gregory, Vice Mayor, Mrs. Denise N. Tynes, Ms. Connie Chapman, Mr. Michael Smith, Dr. Milton Cook, and Mr. Randolph Pack. Staff members present were Mr. Peter M. Stephenson, Town Manager; Mr. William T. Hopkins III, Director of Planning, Engineering, and Public Works; Ms. Lesley King, Town Clerk; Ms. Ellen Minga, Town Treasurer; Mr. Steven Bowman, Chief of Police; Ms. Amy Musick, Smithfield Center Director; and Mr. William H. Riddick, III, Town Attorney. Council candidate Mr. Douglas Jett was present. There were approximately twenty-nine (29) citizens present. The media was represented by Ms. Abby Proch of The Smithfield Times and Mr. Ryan Murphy of The Daily Press.

Mayor Williams – Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Smithfield Town Council meeting of May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. We would like to welcome everyone for coming tonight. We have the honor of having Eagle Scout, Mr. Kirk Ring. He will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.*

Mayor Williams – We have a full agenda tonight. We will try to get through it as quick as we can. I would like to recognize some people that we have in the audience tonight. Isle of Wight County Administrator, Ms. Anne Seward, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, Mr. Rudy Jefferson, School Board members, Mr. Kent Hildebrand, and Ms. Tina Hill. I would like to remind all of the Council members to speak into the microphone so that the minutes can be heard on the recorders. Next is the Informational Section. The Town Manager will give us the Manager's Report.

Town Manager – Thank you, Your Honor. Welcome everyone. The Activity Report for the month of April was included in the electronic posting as well as on the website. We have a full agenda. I will not go into details except for the meeting schedule for the month of May. We have a Pinewood Heights Management Team meeting scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the Smithfield Center. All meetings unless otherwise noted will be at the Smithfield Center. On May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. we will have a Planning Commission meeting. On May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. there will be a meeting with Congressman Forbes. Please let the Town Clerk know who will be attending from Town Council by tomorrow. If there are any members of the public or staff that wish to attend

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please let the Town Clerk know by tomorrow. Committee meetings are on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> because of the Memorial Day holiday. There will be a Board of Historic and Architectural Review meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. On Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> town offices will be closed in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. On May 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. at the Smithfield Center we have an Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting between the Town Council and the Isle of Wight Board of Supervisors. We have a very busy month. We will also be getting the budget advertised for our June public hearing.

Mayor Williams – Next is Public Comments. The public is invited to speak. There will not be a public hearing tonight. Anyone can speak on any topic that they would like. I will remind you that you have five minutes to speak. Please state your name. If you would like a response from the Town Manager or Council member you need to give your address. We have four people signed up.

Ms. Hill – Good evening. I am Tina Hill. I live at 150 Riverview Avenue. I am a very proud citizen of the historic Town of Smithfield. I have pictures of two residences that are vacant. The first is 211 Washington Street that has been vacant for a year. The other one is three doors down from me at 200 Riverview Avenue. The houses are really disgusting and the worst two homes in this town. Numerous phone calls have been made to the town. The house on 200 Riverview Avenue has a gaping hole on the roof. Three months ago they put a piece of steel on the roof. The window below is rotten and has been open for the last three months. The window above it has birds flying in and out all the time. We have children in the Riverview area and it is unsafe. At what point does demolition by neglect come into play? I have lived in my home for seven and a half years and no one has lived there during that time. Not one thing has been done to improve that piece of property. It is deteriorating. I have heard that there is asbestos in it. Maybe that is why the owner does not do anything with it. The house on 211 Washington Street was purchased a little over a year ago. The gentleman who bought it is going to renovate it but for some reason has stopped. It has looked like the picture since April of 2013. I do not want to compare it to Church Street and Main Street but I pay the same taxes in Riverview and so do my neighbors. To walk past it and have children exposed to that is wrong at every level. I do not know what to do which is why I have come to you as a citizen, neighbor, someone who cares about the children, and cares about my property value. It is not fair. I follow every rule. Those two properties

need to be condemned. On another note this week is Teacher's Week and Nurse's Week. As a member of the School Board please thank your teachers. I am also a nurse. Please make sure to thank your nurse.

Mayor Williams – Next for public comments is Mr. Albert Burckard.

Mr. Burckard – Mr. Albert Burckard. I live at 12303 Titus Point Lane. I want to thank you all for stepping up to the plate to help save the museum. I am not 100% sure what you all will decide about the museum, the Department of Historic Resources, and the jobs that are associated with it. I only know what I read in the newspaper. It indicated that Council was going to talk about that tonight and perhaps approve it. Let me sort of put it in a historical perspective if I might. I am going to read one paragraph from Cofer Dashiell's book. It is about the 1750 Courthouse icon logo which is on your crest. For the untiring efforts of Emily Delk Simpson, a native and lifelong resident of Smithfield, the town would have lost forever its oldest building and outstanding historical landmark. In 1937, Ms. Simpson persuaded the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities which is now Preservation of Virginia to buy the old courthouse and the clerk's office. She requested Congressman Norman Hamilton to delay the deal with the postal authorities until another site could be found for the new post office. The town provided some additional money to buy the property at the corner of Main Street and Institute Street. The post office was built there. The old courthouse of 1750 and clerk's office of 1799 were saved. Ms. Emily Delk Simpson did something in 1936 that the entire south could not do in 1861 through 1865 she defeated the federal government. The post office in this case was the predator and of course that was saved and you have your icon. You all are probably in a similar situation right now. It was devastating to me and many of us in the historic community when the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors completely defunded the Isle of Wight County Department of Historic Resources' budget. I think it was \$ 228,000.00. In the Daily Press two days ago the City of Newport News has a \$1,052,000.00 budget for historic services. They are much larger than us. They have more people and more taxpayers. The City of Williamsburg has a budget of \$3,250,000.00 that still has to be voted on. It contains \$1,300,000.00 for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, \$650,000.00 for tourism, and for marketing is \$1,300,000.00. I just wanted to put that in perspective. I know that you all do not have that kind of money. You all know how I feel about this. I have sent many emails in the

last week. I emailed you again just before this meeting. I will talk to Windsor's Town Council next Tuesday. Mayor Richardson of Windsor asked me to do that in an attempt to add to the funding. I do not know whether that will happen or not. I just want you to know that there are a lot of efforts out there besides the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation and Town Council who would like to save our Department of Historic Resources and the museum. President of the Rushmere Community Development Corporation, Ms. Rosa Turner wants to support it too. The Chapman family has been here for three hundred years. Mr. Paul Chapman sent me an email trying to encourage Council to support the museum. We also received one from another Warmwell family which goes back to 1641. I am personally committed to helping in this regard. I am going to work with the Isle of Wight Historical Society to do that too. I am optimistic. I know that the sums that have been talked about in the newspaper do not quite equal the entire budget of the Department of Historic Resources. I think with a little bit of effort that we might be able to reach that. We might be able to save the three jobs and operating budget to keep it open. I thank you very much for your attention.

Mayor Williams – Thank you. We appreciate your time and efforts. Next we have Mr. Herb DeGroft.

Mr. DeGroft – I am Herb DeGroft. Thank you, Mr. Mayor and members of Council. As a person who has a belief in keeping a handle on our historical roots. The month of May has been rather momentous in Smithfield's history. In May of 1862, a Captain Decay who was the aide-de-camp to General Mansfield at Fort Monroe. Captain Decay, six federal troops, and a sailing launch with the General's permission reconnoitered the Nansemond River mouth, Chuckatuck Creek mouth, and the Pagan River. I was involved with the museum for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Commemoration of the Battle of Smithfield. I happened to come across this book called, "The Civil War in Song and Story". There is a story of Captain Decay and his six troopers coming to Smithfield and taking your predecessors into custody. If they did not swear allegiance to the federal government then they were going to Fort Monroe in irons. They decided that discretion was the better part of valor and did so. Then Captain Decay left. In May of this year, the Isle of Wight Board of Supervisors sort of did something akin to that when they defunded the Department of Historic Resources. I know that we are in tough straights as far as the County's finances are concerned and its revenue picks going

forward. I am encouraging the Council to keep an open mind and sit down together to figure out how we can do this. The museum is a real golden touch to Isle of Wight County and the Town of Smithfield. I think it can be of even greater use to our students in the Isle of Wight County School system. I think if the weather had not been so bad when the history mobile was supposed to be here then more students would have attended the 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Battle of Smithfield. The museum is a real asset. I just ask you all to do whatever you can to help keep it open for tourist as well as to the local people.

Mayor Williams – Thank you. Next we have Ms. Jane March.

Ms. March – Good evening. I am Jane March. I am from Zuni. The history of the County is shared by all of us. I kind of grew up in Smithfield so it is very valuable to me. We really need to save the museum and the resources that it nourishes. Isle of Wight County has more history than Jamestown and Williamsburg. If you just go through the resources that are in the library and the courthouse still today. It is too important to let it go by the wayside or to lose its ambiance. The County is full of people who volunteer all the time. Some historical societies and museums are run totally by volunteers. The people who have contributed items from their own personal lives to this museum over the last forty or plus years do not want their efforts thrown away. They donated these things to be preserved because they knew they would not live forever and the items might get lost over time. It is very important to think not only of the tourist who come to see the items but also the people who have donated parts of their lives to the museum. We cannot just turn our backs on them. I feel like a bunch of volunteers can help support the museum. Perhaps hours could be cut for the people who work there so that it does not cost so much. The town could support one employee, the county could support one employee, and volunteers could help. There are more ways to volunteer than just a sense of money. I feel a lot of people would contribute. I know that I am one of those. I am committing this evening even though right now there is nothing to commit to. I feel that it is an important item to save. I appreciate your concern and that you are stepping up to do something to work in cooperation with the rest of the County to keep the museum open and functioning. Thank you.

Mayor Williams – The floor is still open for public comments if anyone else wishes to speak. We welcome your comments.

Mr. Duncan – I am Lee Duncan. I do not live in the town limits. I live out near Pond's store. I am a property owner inside the town limits. Mrs. Betty Duncan is my grandmother. She lives in North Carolina. She was a Smithfield resident for a very long time. I have a comment to make about the museum. My son William is ten years old and he supports the museum. He hopes that you will be able to find a way to keep it open. The second thing that I am about to say is highly controversial and probably an awful idea. I might live to regret it. Since this is the Town Council meeting for Smithfield there is currently a lawsuit against the Isle of Wight County Schools for a very large amount of money. I think it is particularly distressing because the schools and the county's budget in general are somewhat lacking. I hope that the town and the School Board members will carefully monitor the lawsuit that is pending against the county schools. I hope that if there is any way that we can support the county schools that we will. I do believe as a citizen that it is our job to push our government, to criticize it at times, and to make very strong suggestions. I feel it is also important to support our county at times. I feel that the School Board did a very brave thing when they eliminated Ms. Rebecca Mercer from the school's roles. As a former teacher I welcomed the maneuver. I hope it was legal. If there is anything that I can do to donate to the legal fund to support the schools then I am very happy to do so. If anyone else is interested in supporting our schools, they did a very brave thing when they took on that particular challenge. Thank you.

Mayor Williams – Thank you, Mr. Duncan. Would anyone else care to speak?

Ms. Braswell – Good evening. I am Joanne Braswell. I live at 21041 Lankford Lane. My husband and I moved here about two years ago. At the time, our reason for moving to Smithfield was because of its history, lovely historic district, and all that it brings to this community. Through church I know there are several young folks who recently moved here who were interested in moving here for the same reason. I hope when you look at this decision that you are considering the economic vitality of Smithfield moving forward. It has such a great appeal with its history. I work for Preservation Virginia at Bacon's Castle as the Community Development Coordinator. If there is anything that I can do to partner with anybody or volunteer then I would be more than happy to do so. Thank you.

Mayor Williams – Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to speak? Seeing none, public comments are closed. Usually at this time we have Mr. Al Casteen give us a Board of Supervisors report. He has other pressing issues with his family. Next is a Proclamation Honoring Eagle Scout Mr. Kirk Ring. Would you come forward with your family please? He has his mother and sisters with him this evening. He is in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and an honor student. He is a member of the cross country team, indoor track team, outdoor track team, and the Shakespeare Club. He is with Troop 1 in Smithfield. He is an Eagle Scout and the chapter secretary with the Nansemond Chapter of the Order of the Arrow. He also is in the Boy Scouts of America National Honor Society. He has completed the Boy Scouts of America National Leadership training. He is currently serving as a troop guide in the Order of the Arrow. He lives in Smithfield with his parents. He was on his way back from a scouting trip with another scout and the scout leader when they came upon a wreck. The car had run off the road head on into a tree. They jumped out of the car and called 911. The driver's door was completely smashed in. They went up to the car on the passenger's side and opened the door. The engine compartment was pushed all the way into where the steering wheel was. The person was trapped in the car. There was white smoke coming out of the car everywhere. I have been involved with the Volunteer Fire Department in Smithfield for over forty years. I have been to some of these accidents. When I have to do that I get scared. I was trained professionally to act in scary situations. Scouts have the instinct instilled into them to be prepared. They cut the seatbelt and tried to pull him out but he was stuck. They were finally able to get him out. By now the car was burning with flames everywhere. The man was unconscious as emergency personnel arrived. It was a really brave thing to do. We have a proclamation honoring Mr. Kirk Ring.

WHEREAS, Kirk Ring, a Freshman at Smithfield High School and a member of Boy Scout Troop #1 has earned his rank as Eagle Scout and one Bronze Palm. Kirk has completed the Boy Scouts of America National Youth Leadership Training Course and is currently serving as a Troop Guide and Order of the Arrow Representative for Troop #1; and

WHEREAS, while Kirk Ring along with fellow Boy Scout Tyler Robinson and adult Scout Leader David Robinson were traveling home from an Order of the Arrow work weekend in Jamaica, VA they came across a vehicle that had crashed head on

into a tree. Their quick response in calling for emergency assistance and removing the unconscious driver from the burning vehicle was an act of heroism and contributed to saving the life of that individual; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare every eligible youth in America to become responsible, participating citizens, and leaders, who are guided by the Scout oath and law. Kirk's persistent progress through the ranks demonstrates his determination to prepare himself for a meaningful, productive role in society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, T. Carter Williams, Mayor of the Town of Smithfield do hereby recognize Kirk Ring's heroic efforts in helping to save a life. Best wishes for a bright future. Dated May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Mayor Williams – Becoming an Eagle Scout is something that I would like to see a whole lot of boys in this world become. If there is a job opening with two equal candidates and one is an Eagle Scout and the other is not then the Eagle Scout will get the job every time. They know where they came from and how they got there and the time and effort that they put into becoming an Eagle Scout. On the other side of that coin you have to commend the mother and father for helping them. It is a lot of work to get those kids to that point. Next we will have Council Comments. Does any member have any comments?

Councilman Pack – In retrospect looking back at this current election cycle we may have shorted our citizens a little bit. We had no Council forums for the six candidates that ran which kind of lend itself to a popularity contest which is no way to elect your officials. At our next election cycle, I think it should be the role of the town to host or put on some sort of non-partisan or non-biased forum for the public to meet the candidates to get a feel for what they are running for and what their reasons are. I think we kind of failed a bit on that one. I am as much to blame as everyone else. It is something that is good for the town and will let the public know their candidates better.

Councilman Dr. Cook – While sitting at the Smithfield Center all day today, I noticed a lot of cars bottomed out while leaving the parking lot. It was done a long time ago. I do not know why it is as steep as it is. I would think that it might not be that hard to remedy by putting in a pipe for the water and some concrete to level it out a bit. It would be nice to try to protect the cars. I think we should look into that this month and

have staff get back to us at the Committee meetings. We could discuss it and come up with some ideas. I am not an engineer so I just thought of something simple for how to remedy that. It could make it a lot easier to get out without damaging as many cars.

Mayor Williams – You are talking about both entrances. The one west of us is the worst but the other one is also bad.

Councilwoman Tynes – I always go out the driveway next to the Veteran's Memorial because it is a little higher. The one in front of the Smithfield Center doors is the low one.

Councilwoman Chapman – I would like thank the citizens that came out today in support of our local election. Thanks to Mr. Jett and Ms. Evans for stepping up to become part of the race. I think the best way to become involved is to become educated on the issues and get involved in your local government. You think you know a lot of things just from the local newspaper and hearsay but when you get involved then you really find out what is going on in your town. I commend them for being interested enough to want to be involved.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I wanted to address something that came up in our Committee meetings last week. The way that they were run last time we were not able to converse as well as we had in the past. I wanted to address something that Councilwoman Tynes brought up in the Police Committee meeting. She wanted the town staff to write a letter of apology to the candidates for the signs that were picked up on the road. She wanted the apology because of lack of communication or warning that the signs were not allowed. Councilwoman Tynes is probably not aware of this but we received multiple emails well in advance of the town doing their sweep of the signs. It stated what was allowed and not allowed. I had a lot of my signs pulled up this week because I was not really aware of where easements and private property was. We were warned. I apologized to staff for my signs that were in the easement. I really do not think an apology is necessary for the reasons that Councilwoman Tynes said for lack of communication. We had several emails that came out to the candidates. It was not exactly a surprise.

Mayor Williams – Does any other Council member have anything to say? Seeing none, we will move to our Consent Agenda Items. Would any member like to pull any of the twelve items from the consent agenda for further discussion?

Councilman Pack – Yes sir. I would like to pull item C-6.

Mayor Williams – I would like to pull item C-11.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I would like to pull item C-5.

Mayor Williams – We will now move to the Consent Agenda Summary. At this time, we will start with the Police Committee Chair, Ms. Denise Tynes.

Councilwoman Tynes – Police Committee Summary. We have a resolution to amend the Olden Days Festival street closure request. This is an annual event. It has been going on for quite a few years so there are no changes other than there is a revision. The revision is to close South Mason Street at 7:00 p.m. rather than North Mason Street from Cedar Lane to Main Street. It will be on Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. It is the only change. The next item is a resolution for a street closure request for Toys for Tots Car Show on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. For those of you that are familiar with that car show in prior years the Ruritan Club sponsored it but this year it will be replaced with Toys for Tots. Nothing is really going to change there. I think the blocks that will be closed will be the 100 to 300 block. The next item is a resolution for the Smithfield Evening Christmas Market on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. This is the second year that the town has sponsored this through the Farmer's Market. It was such a success last year. It is a night where you can bring your family out to enjoy everything going on and buy last minute gifts if needed. The next item is a resolution for street closure and traffic assistance request for Genuine Smithfield Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Last year they had a new route for the parade because there were so many people that wanted to be in the parade. In previous years the parade started at the YMCA but they just did not have enough space. They are spreading it out over different locations. This is what they did last year and it worked well. We have to have our annual Christmas parade.

Mayor Williams – Next is item C-7 which is Finance Committee, Chair Mr. Randy Pack.

Councilman Pack – Finance Committee Summary. This evening we only have one invoice over \$10,000.00 which requires Council's authorization. The invoice is for Caldwell Tanks in the amount of \$25,823.29 for a quarterly payment for repairs and maintenance that is budgeted to our water towers within the town. The next item is a resolution to continue to phase in at 1% to the Virginia Retirement System for member

contribution for a total five. This is simply a housekeeping issue that the town must adopt a resolution to continue the 1% VRS phase in that we agreed upon last year.

Mayor Williams – Next we have item C-9 which is Fire and Rescue Committee, Chair Denise Tynes.

Councilman Tynes – Fire and Rescue Committee Summary. This is a motion to support the Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department's request to install blue reflectors on town streets adjacent to fire hydrants. We have fire hydrants all over Smithfield. Some people have them in their yard and it might have a bush by it. During an emergency at night they have a hard time finding the fire hydrants. It is a square reflector. They will put it right by each hydrant so that the fire department can locate them as soon as possible in case of fire. Thank you.

Mayor Williams – The next item is C-10 with the Parks and Recreation Committee Chair, Connie Chapman.

Councilwoman Chapman – Parks and Recreation Committee Summary. We have a proposal from Girl Scout Troop 622. They would like our blessing on creating a Windsor Castle Park patch that Girl Scouts can earn. Some of the ways they would earn the patch would be to participate in various activities at the park including identifying different species of trees, animals, the number of acres in the park, the number of geo caches hidden in the park, and various other facts about the park. They submitted a design with a bridge and with Windsor Castle Park on it. This would be something that not just Troop 622 could earn but other girl scouts as well. It was originally proposed to the Foundation Board who approved it over a year ago. It has now come to Council just as a courtesy. Thank you.

Mayor Williams – The next item is Public Works Committee Chair, Mr. Michael Smith.

Councilman Smith – Public Works Committee Summary. We have a motion to accept proposals from Blair Brothers, Inc. for various pavement overlays. This is done periodically. Staff worked it out so that the money does not have to come out of the General Fund by spacing these out through the years. I commend staff for working with the budget on that. We recommend that it be approved.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I would like to make a motion that we approve the consent agenda as presented.



a very difficult response time if a pump station was to go down and we were not able to respond. Twenty minutes is not a large enough window in our estimation. The main reason that I pulled this item is because we discussed another item also. The antennas at our pump stations that are used to help communicate with each other and to our central hub at the Reverse Osmosis Plant will have to have some adjustments. They are not communicating because of where they are located. There are trees surrounding the antennas. The height on some of these will have to be adjusted higher in order to do that. The location of the antennas in some instances is going to have to be moved as well. I wanted to make sure that the citizens understood exactly what we are working on. The town is going to be very sensitive to the fact that aesthetics matter as far as where these antennas are going to be located. We will take them on a case by case basis. I have been assured that a ten foot antenna will not automatically be extended to seventy-five feet just to get it as high as it can go. It will be extended just high enough to where we get the communication that we need in order to keep our sewer system safe and properly communicating. I will make a motion to approve the budgeted sewer projects as presented.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion?

Councilman Pack – In your motion, I would ask that the town work with the most closely effected residents by these new antennas to satisfy both and to make sure the antennas are not obtrusive and still communicate.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I will gladly amend my motion to include that.

Mayor Williams – We have a motion, a second, and an amendment. Is there any further discussion? Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Next we have item C-6 which is a Resolution to Adopt a Charter Agreement for membership in the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. Water and Sewer Committee Chair, Vice Mayor Gregory.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I would refer to Councilman Pack for item C-6.

Councilman Pack – Forgive me but our Council Committee meetings did not go the way that we are used to this past month. We hope to change that this evening. I fail to see how membership in the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission benefits the town. What is the cost?

Town Manager – Basically the cost is a dollar per capita which based on our current population would be roughly \$8,200.00 per year. The town has been eligible for some time to be a voting member of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission in order to be a voice at the table and have a vote. We have not previously been able to vote. It came to our attention recently that we were in fact eligible to be a voting member. I certainly am recommending that we be a voting member. Mr. Dwight Farmer who is the outgoing Executive Director and has been with HRPDC for many years will be going off on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He was present to answer questions. He explained what the HRPDC does, how it was founded by the General Assembly essentially as a political subdivision of the Commonwealth, and its purpose. Right now we are represented solely through Isle of Wight County who does have a vote. This would increase our voice collectively between the town and the county in the region which right now is under represented.

Councilman Pack – Is HRPDC doing anything that we dislike now? Is the County handling it well before we invest \$8,200.00 of town money. We are purchasing the right to vote essentially. My understanding is that we are pretty involved and are happy with the way things are going so possibly we do not need to interject until we see things that we do not necessarily agree with. The county is representing us right now and paying their fees to do it.

Mayor Williams – If the County votes on something that we do not agree with then Council cannot do anything about it. This does give us a voice at this meeting. We will have input and can join in on the discussion to be part of the voice for Hampton Roads.

Vice Mayor Gregory – The county voice is important. At least up until this point I do not think that we have had a direct impact on what that voice has said and voted for. I think not only will this increase our level of input by 100% essentially because we will have two voices as opposed to one. We will be able to combine those voices together. I

do not want to speak out of turn but the County would probably support the Town's position on a lot of things. There are very few things that effect the town that do not effect the county as a whole when it comes to transportation matters, road alignments, and Route 460. The Route 460 project by itself I think is enough for us to invest the money to have the voice. Without that platform I do not know if we can make enough noise. We talked about writing a letter to the Governor and doing these things that a lot of other communities do to express our support of one alignment verses another. I really think that this gives us a more official voice in that regard. Who knows what transportation issues there might be in the coming years. I truly appreciate the fact that as the Finance Chairman you have always watched the bottom line. My opinion is that this is going to be a good investment for the town.

Councilwoman Tynes – I agree with Vice Mayor Gregory. Right now the town as well as the county is in a position without the Route 460 piece we do not know about industries coming here. If they cannot widen Route 460 to make it safer than a lot of industries will go some other place perhaps on the other end of 460 where it is better in the Petersburg area. It will give us more of a voice as far as transportation. I think the more voice that we have coming from Isle of Wight County the better.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Are we under any timeline that we have to join? An issue might come up then we could join. Secondly, you said that the cost is per capita. If we decide to join individually away from the county does the County's price go down by \$8,200.00? Are we paying twice?

Town Manager – I believe they said if we became a member then the County's price would come down. The timing is important in that July 1<sup>st</sup> is when new members can be accepted each year. We would pretty much have to act now or wait until next year.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Just to make sure that I am clear, if we decide to join and pay our \$8,200.00 then the County's cost would decrease by \$8,200.00.

Town Manager – Yes that is what Mr. Farmer indicated because it was per capita. We are unique in that we are the only town in Hampton Roads that qualifies for membership. It was also the case with the Hampton Roads partnership previously where we had a separate fee and it did not double on the county's fee.

Councilman Dr. Cook – If Isle of Wight County has already budgeted for it then we could have them pay our membership then we would have two votes for the county.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I will make a motion that item C-6 be approved as presented.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion? Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – The next item is C-11 which is a Motion to Authorize Removal of Invasive Tree Species at Windsor Castle Park. Parks and Recreation Chair, Connie Chapman.

Councilwoman Chapman – At our Parks and Recreation Committee meeting last week staff member Mr. Josiah Jendrey brought it to our attention that there is an invasive species of tree called the “Tree of Heaven”. It sounds nice but it is not. It was introduced in the 1800’s and is a native of China. We have it in Windsor Castle Park. There are two reasons that this is a problem. It is very fast growing and once it continues to grow it will put a chemical into the soil that will inhibit the growth of other plant life. It will out compete native species once it gets established. It will slowly take over and spread. Mr. Jendrey indicated a need to take these trees down. In some areas they have become dominate. The way to deal with this invasive species is to take the trees down and treat the roots over the next four to five years. They would spray twice annually. The tree is a real heavy seed producer once it becomes a tree. The roots can also sprout seeds. By removing the mature trees it will eliminate a large number of the seeds. It takes a couple of years to start producing seeds. They would spray the saplings. Mr. Jendrey stated that he has been working with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Department of Transportation, and local extension agents. This has been explored and researched. We want to make sure that the citizens are aware. We do not want them to think that we are cutting down trees to build a disc golf course or something. The Department of Conservation and Recreation

has a local invasive species expert that handles a lot of the area such as the local parks. Mr. Jendrey talked to him about methods of control and what our staff should do. The expert indicated that the best way to control it is to do the twice annual treatment.

Mayor Williams – Thank you. There are quite a few of these trees along the trail in the park. They are pretty trees. They have a nice trunk and grow fast. When the trees are removed, I want the citizens to know that you are going to be missing a lot of trees. We have already had one letter written to the editor of the newspaper about us cutting trees down in there. They were sort of irate about it. They felt that we did not know what we were doing. I just want it to go on record that we do know what we are doing. We are not cutting down trees just for the fun of it. These trees have invaded my property really badly. I have been fighting them for quite a while. They are tough to get rid of. Mr. Stephenson, are we going to handle this in house?

Town Manager – Yes sir.

Mayor Williams – Mr. Hopkins, you were talking to someone in the park about planting more trees can you give us an update on that?

Director of Planning, Engineering and Public Works – It was actually brought up today at the Foundation Committee meeting by Mr. Brad Face. There was a discussion of planting a long leaf pine forest in several locations on the edge of the park. It would involve the State Forestry Department, Virginia Tech, and many other groups. We do not have a lot of details. We plan on meeting soon. It will be put on the Parks and Recreation Committee agenda for further discussion.

Councilwoman Chapman – Yes that is exactly what we were told today by Mr. Face. We did determine based on his research that the long leaf pines were the native tree in this area in the 1800's.

Mayor Williams – Did you have specific places that you were planning that for?

Director of Planning, Engineering and Public Works – There is a map that he provided showing colored areas on it. Nothing is final.

Mayor Williams – The map shows the Tree of Heaven on the map which is marked in yellow. We need to look at putting something back in there. If the pines can work that is fine but any native tree that we can put in there because that is a lot of trees. Are there any other comments?

Councilman Dr. Cook – I think since it is such a dominant tree that we share the information with the public perhaps the newspaper could write about it. The public should know how to get rid of this tree. As I have found out when you cut one down then five come back. According to the presentation that we had last week you have five minutes from cutting it down to applying some kind of poison in the stump or a trigger goes to the root stock to put up more trees. It is not just a function of cutting them down. It is essentially chemical warfare against these trees if you do not mind me saying. I learned a lot last week from the presentation. I think the general public would benefit from knowing that just cutting things down is not necessarily going to be the answer to their problems.

Councilman Pack – One item to add to this is that we are looking at cutting down quite a bit of trees. We certainly have caught some ribbing for it in the past. I think that this is an excellent opportunity for us to take a chance to educate our citizens and explain why we are cutting down trees. We should have somewhere on the trails a sign showing the invasive species with a pamphlet with information. We do not want them to think that we are just cutting down random trees. Particularly in the grave side area behind the brew village this particular tree has taken over. We have an opportunity to educate all of the visitors to the park as to why we are doing this and our plans for restoration. I think that we might save ourselves a lot of grief down the road.

Mayor Williams – Are there any other Council comments?

Councilwoman Chapman – I will make a motion that we approve item C-11 a motion to authorize removal of the invasive trees species “Tree of Heaven” at Windsor Castle Park by our staff.

Councilman Pack – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion? Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Next is the Action Section.

Vice Mayor Gregory – Our first item is a Kimley-Horn Proposal for Bioassay Testing to Discharge Concentrate from the Water Treatment Facility in Cypress Creek.

Essentially there are some water quality tests and concentrate tests to determine whether or not it is going to be safe by DEQ standards for us to disperse this concentrate back into the ground or into Cypress Creek. This could save us as much as a quarter of a million dollars a year in HRSD fees. At this time, I would like for Mr. Jamie Weist to give us a presentation.

Mr. Weist – Thank you for this opportunity. We presented at the Water and Sewer Committee meeting a couple of weeks ago. The Commonwealth of Virginia has a general permit called VAG 64 which is a discharge permit. It was specifically enacted back in 2007 to allow discharge from water treatment plants into local streams, creeks, and bodies of water if they meet certain criteria. Your Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Facility currently discharges to HRSD. It is concentrate, pulls the water from the ground and filters it then the concentrate from the filtering solution is discharged to HRSD. We are proposing to do specific testing that is required by this general permit to determine if the concentrate discharge could be discharged under the general permit to Cypress Creek which is adjacent to the Water Treatment Plant. The testing required is four different tests thirty days apart. It must be tested by a Virginia Certified Laboratory. The tests go through two different species. One is a crustacean type species and the other is a small minnow fish type species. Those species are put under a seven day test at the lab in the concentrate solution only to determine the toxicity. The toxicity test determines if there are any impacts to the species, to their growth, to their life, reproduction, and things of that nature. Those results are then reported back. There are four different tests thirty days apart. As you will note in the proposal after the first test if the species are harmed immediately then we would come back to the town and let you know that there is no need to do the other three tests. It would appear that the toxicity levels are going to be too high. At that time we would say that the general permit path is not an applicable path to go down. If the town wanted to pursue an individual permit to discharge to Cypress Creek then we could revisit that which would require additional testing, possible treatment, or possible discharge possibilities to be able to do that. It would be determined by DEQ to make sure there was no harm. At any time during the concentrate discharge even if it is approved initially if there is any type of water quality

impact then the permit can be pulled by DEQ. It is important that we know that up front.

Are there any questions?

Councilman Dr. Cook – I am not a huge fan of discharging to Cypress Creek to begin with. I know it is done in James City County and Newport News. I am also aware that it is a much larger body of water that they are dumping in versus Cypress Creek. There are researchers that know these tests and know how it will impact. It concerns me putting discharge in there that might alter the salinity, PH, or any other mineral content, or concentration that can affect the flora and fauna that are there. What we have now from one pier to another depends on which crab you will catch. You will either have male and female crabs or just male. By putting in this discharge I need to be assured that none of that is going to change. We are already having an issue now in our marshes. We have a lot of algae growth now that is relatively recent. It looks like there is grass growing in the mud now. I am trying not to change what is there. My comments are not really to change everybody's mind tonight. I just want everyone to know how I feel. I need to be assured that this will not change the creek. I know that we spend about \$250,000.00 a year to HRSD before we discharge. I am all for saving that but I do not think the life of the creek can be bought for that.

Mr. Weist – One thing to consider is that other than the bioassay testing which just determines the toxicity on certain organisms there are also other permit requirements within this permit that I did not mention that will have to be measured every month by the discharge. Part of that is the PH, temperature of the water, the dissolved oxygen levels, and the total suspended solids. Just like any other waste water treatment discharge there will be a monthly report that has to be submitted to DEQ each month after samples are taken and tested. All of those parameters such as phosphorus, nitrogen, and all the different things that have to be measured will have maximum daily loads and maximum monthly loads of certain things that the concentrate can have. You will have to prove to DEQ that all of those things have been met each month. It is not just a onetime check. It is a consistent activity that plant staff will have to monitor to make sure that the discharge is equivalent to the creek that it is going into. Yes you are right Newport News and James City County discharge into a larger body of water but there discharge is a lot larger as well. Your discharge stream is going to be fairly small compared to their discharge stream. The salinity levels and concentrate levels in your

discharge are quite compatible with Cypress Creek because it is a brackish water creek.

Those are the things that DEQ will look at when we finish the testing and submit everything.

Councilman Dr. Cook – You bring up a good point about the monthly testing. The reports that you are going to give back to us are you going to give us an estimate for the annual cost of monitoring? We are trying to save money instead of spending more money.

Mr. Weist – Yes sir. It will cost a little to save a lot. Our report will include the findings and a recommendation. Within that recommendation it will include an estimate of what we anticipate for the cost to divert the discharge from HRSD into the creek. There will be some capital expenditure there. Also there will be operations and maintenance annual costs which will be a cost to the town. I do not think it will be \$250,000.00 per year.

Councilman Smith – Is this discharge governed on tide flows? Is that monitored when a discharge is made?

Mr. Weist – I did not understand.

Councilman Smith – Once you discharge something are you letting it out when the tide is going out or tide coming in?

Mr. Weist – It would be a continuous discharge.

Councilman Smith – It is regardless of the tides?

Mr. Weist – Yes sir. One example if the general permit cannot be used because of toxicity levels one of the ways that the individual permit can be used is if you have various discharges along the stream in different locations or by using a diffuser to dilute the discharge. There are other alternative ways but you would have to go through an individual permit to do that which is a little more costly and a little more time consuming typically. Before we ventured into those types of scenarios we thought it would be prudent to check to see if we could be permitted under the general permit first before we move on to something more complicated.

Mayor Williams – The owner of a fairly large lake behind the Farm Fresh off of Route 10 wanted to know if he could help by allowing us to dump into that lake.

Mr. Weist – We would have to go through the same testing. I am assuming it is a fresh water lake without an outfall.

Mayor Williams – It is a manmade hole which is sandy. I am pretty sure that it seeps down pretty rapidly. My only concern is whether the volume of water running out of our Reverse Osmosis Plant going into there whether it could handle it? It would certainly address Dr. Cook's concerns about Cypress Creek.

Mr. Weist – It would still fall under the general permit. There is a fresh water component to that we would have to test.

Mayor Williams – Have you ever heard of dumping it somewhere else?

Mr. Weist – Yes sir. It is a possibility. If you would like for us to take a look at it as a potential site then we can.

Mayor Williams – How does the rest of Council feel about him looking at that also? It will delay the vote tonight.

Councilman Dr. Cook – It will increase our cost.

Vice Mayor Gregory – From a purely financial standpoint I think this may be our only option. You are talking about running a completely new line across Route 10.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I do not think that it would really address my issue because the water ends up in the head waters of Cypress Creek.

Mayor Williams – It might filter it also.

Councilman Dr. Cook – It might.

Mayor Williams – We do not know unless we look at it. Vice Mayor Gregory has a point we have our existing line there and we have to do is hook to it.

Mr. Weist – May I suggest that it might be something that if the bioassay testing comes back negative and we have to look at an individual permit then at that time it may be worthwhile to visit that as another alternative to consider before we move forward.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I will make a motion that we approve the bioassay testing discharge concentration from the Reverse Osmosis Plant in Cypress Creek.

Councilman Smith – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion? Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Next is a Discussion on Isle of Wight Museum Funding.

Councilman Pack – Before I get started I would like to give a little bit of history of where we stand and where we are today. I would like to thank everyone for coming out. I would like to thank Ms. Anne Seward who is here to answer any questions that the Council may have since Ms. Judy Winslow was unable to make it this evening. Is there anyone in the audience from the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation this evening? Seeing none, I will give you a little background of where we are. The County has defunded in the upcoming budget cycle the museum and all of the historic resources. However, they do not necessarily think it is a good idea to close the museum. They have given us a couple of options. The first thing that we need to realize is that keeping the museum open will certainly be an expense. It is an expense that we are looking at picking up this evening. Ms. Seward is proposing that the museum remain a county asset. The County would insure it, maintain it, and provide utilities. The question remains on how to staff it to keep it open. We are not going to get into that part technically tonight. At least I would not like to. This is not a budget item. It is something that we have to work out with the budget. During discussions at our previous Finance Committee meeting we feel that there is a possibility that we can find funding for this in the town's budget. There are a couple of ways that we are going to do that but it is not really what we need to do this evening. We are looking at the operational side and how we elevate our funding level with looking at keeping the museum under our Director of Tourism, Judy Winslow's control. We hope that the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation can address some of the annual expenditures. It is my understanding that they have been difficult to get in touch with. I was hoping that we would see one of them this evening to speak on this. One of the things that we are looking at is how to reduce staff to keep this museum open and operating. Ms. Winslow has prepared a budget for us to look at. We are looking at the town supporting this to the tune of about \$100,000.00 which would take care of staff. The way that this budget works out and the proposal from Isle of Wight County is that they would handle the cost of insurance, power, HVAC, water, and IT support. The staff would fall on the Town of Smithfield. Our decision is leaning towards having Ms. Winslow oversee that. Budget expenditures roughly \$26,000.00. We have asked for some help from the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation. Initially it was positive and then it was just been quite. We are a little up in the air as to

what will happen. Ms. Winslow has certainly found some items that can help offset the \$26,000.00 whether it is charging for admission or other manners. I have an idea in mind how to move forward with this. Before I do so I would like to hear what my fellow Council members have to say on this.

Councilwoman Tynes – The moment that I heard that the County was having some problems I was for keeping the museum open. I am a true believer that we need to keep the museum open for one reason that is our past. We know our past because we have been to the museum. What about our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren? We need to keep it open. We could work with staff to reduce days of operation. While listening to Councilman Pack discuss Ms. Winslow's budget I thought that was fine also.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Councilman Pack had some comments and we are pretty much in agreement with what we think it will take to run the museum. However, my approach might be a little different. I do not know how other Council members feel about it and whether they agree or disagree. If you look at the budget with the County offering to fund the maintenance cost of the building the town would be funding pretty much the running of the museum as far as the staff and everything associated with opening the doors. I do not see a problem with that if we can make it work financially. I think the museum needs to come under the town's supervision. My proposal would be for the County to lease us the building for a minimum amount and agree to pay for the maintenance, water, electricity, and all the overhead that they have already budgeted. Town Council can figure out how much we would need to provide to the museum to keep it open. It is hard for us not knowing exactly how much we can fund to the museum. We do not know if we can fund three full time employees and keep it open seven days a week. Perhaps we can fund two employees and keep it open only five days a week. It is better than what the county has told the museum, which is zero. I think as we create an income stream to be able to pay for it then I think we can manage and run the museum the way that it needs to be run. The concern that I have is the exhibits. As Councilman Pack stated the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation has been hard to get a hold of. Who owns the exhibits?

Councilman Pack – It was confirmed this afternoon that Isle of Wight County owns the exhibits.

Councilman Dr. Cook – If we are going to run the museum then I have a problem with the County owning the exhibits. I would request that the County sign over the exhibits to the town's supervision. I do not think that anyone owns them since people have donated them. We would have total ability to run the museum in an efficient manner. I am agreeable to verbiage in such a lease for the building as whereas the County is ready to own the museum again I don't think Council has a problem with giving it back. I do not think that this Council would have a problem with that. So the lease would say that at which point in time that the county is ready to run the museum again and fund it then we will revert back to the way things were. I think that is the only way that I am going to feel comfortable with funding the museum especially since we will be funding three or four times the amount that the County will be funding. We are going to be paying \$100,000.00 to \$120,000.00 then I think that we should have a little more ownership in the museum.

Councilwoman Tynes – Is it possible that I could ask Ms. Seward a question so that the other members could hear it?

Mayor Williams – We will get the council comments first and then talk to Ms. Seward.

Councilwoman Chapman – Someone said that the historic resources were not vital to our community. I have to disagree. It is vital. It is who we are and what we are. I think it is important to everyone here tonight. Speaking for myself and I think most of the Council we want to keep the museum open. I just want to commend Mr. Burckard and others for showing interest. If we work together we can find funding and volunteers to make this happen. I think we owe it to our town to keep it open. I am going to do whatever I can to help make sure that happens.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I think the theme tonight with everyone that has spoken so far is that there is little doubt that we will find a way to keep the museum open. Without officially knowing how much time I have left to sit in this chair, I want to take this chance to address communication between the town and the county. I want to start by saying that it has been two years since we have had an Intergovernmental meeting between the two bodies. There has been some back and forth over whose fault that is. It is on the record that Councilman Dr. Cook has requested an Intergovernmental meeting so that we can have conversations about things just like this. I have a healthy appreciation

for Ms. Seward and the job that she is trying to do. It is not an enviable position. It is not an easy one and neither is the position of the existing board members. Mr. Jefferson was kind of thrown into the fire a little bit with his first budget. I know the terms olive branch were thrown out at some point about offering us the ability to run the museum. To me it did feel a little bit like holding your child over a rail and saying we can either drop it or catch it or just see what happens. I do not like that. I do not think that is going to be a healthy way for the county and town to partner going forward. I want to provide this back drop of the decision that we have to make tonight to say that I do not want to set a precedent that this is how we are going to do business going forward. I think because there has been such an outcry about the museum and how important it is to all of us and the community that we are responding the way that we are. I do worry that this will become a theme as budgets get tighter the buck will get passed more. The other thing that I want to address is the lack of a presence from the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation here tonight is deafening. I am very disappointed. Ms. Seward, members of the Isle of Wight Board of Supervisors and Town Council are at this meeting to discuss the options. I am not saying that they are an equal player but when your title is the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation and the closing of the museum is potentially on the table and you are not here to represent that group as a voice then that bothers me a lot. In a way it makes it difficult for me to say if your foundation will not even speak up on your behalf then how am I suppose to go back to my non-historical minded constituents and say that I am all for this. None the less, I am. The last item that I want to address is the comment that has been made about town residents paying their fair share of revenues. I have done some homework. The residents of the Town of Smithfield as my constituents consistently remind me pay the exact same taxes as the rest of Isle of Wight County pays. We pay to the tune of 26% of the overall revenues of the entire county. There are still a lot of items like trash and refuse disposal or the Norfolk water deal that we will never benefit from. We pay for services that do not come to the Town of Smithfield. We do not take county water and the county does not pick up our trash but yet we pay for a lot of those things. There is a \$67 million dollar budget on the table and I counted up at least \$15 to \$16 million dollars of things that will never reach the town limits and yet we are paying for it. The town residents are only getting .75 or .80 cents on the dollar for every dollar that we do pay in taxes in county taxes. I

wanted to put the fair share comment to rest and put it to bed tonight. This is the backdrop that we sit in to have to make this very difficult decision. I will support it in some form or fashion as a way to keep this museum open. I think it is important. I think that tourism is a huge part of our economy in this county. With all the economic issues that we have had with the closures of plants and reductions of businesses this is one of the positives. It is one of the good things and we need to keep it going. We will find a way to get that done. It is not with just a broad brush or just a check of the box that I will support this. This is not how I expect to do things going forward. I really expect a better dialog. I hope that feedback is taken to heart. Thank you.

Councilman Smith – Vice Mayor Gregory and I have discussed this at length with all that he has just shared with you. I also feel like the child was held over the water to see if he would swim or die. The last time I remember a baby getting plucked from a basket in the water he saved a nation. He did not do it with a lot of ease. He sacrificed his people, family, and his nation. It took a lot of work to get it done. I think that we are faced with that here. It is our wish and hope that we will do this. I agree with Vice Mayor Gregory in that we have to have better communication with Isle of Wight County. We are in this together. We need a sense of cooperation and not just holding things over our head. I fear that in the future if they see something that the town has an interest in then they will get rid of it so that we will pick it up. I feel that we are being held hostage on this but I will support the museum in any way that I can whether it be physically, financially, or with my time. I do want to see us move forward with better cooperation with the County.

Mayor Williams – I have talked to Councilman Smith and Vice Mayor Gregory about this. I want everyone to know that it was individually. We did not all get together to talk about this. I agree with everything that Vice Mayor Gregory has said. We are going to help keep the museum open. The Town of Smithfield are not the bad guys. We have been portrayed as this a lot of times. People have stopped me on the street to say that I have got to keep the museum open. We did not know a lot about what was going on with it. We will try to help out. I like the idea of drawing up a contract with a firm deadline on what we will do for three years and after that it will revert back to the County. From talking to some of the Board of Supervisors they feel that in three years that they will at least have their eyes and nose above the water instead of being

completely submerged in it. I think we need to be there to help them with this. I can see a lot of unanswered questions going through this. If tourism gets in it, the town is in it, and the county is in it then who is on first and who is going to catch the ball. We have all seen the ball coming down with two catchers trying to catch it and the ball falls in the middle of the field. My opinion is that we come up with the cost of what it will take to keep it open and I think that is the most important thing. We can give the county the money and let them continue to run it as they have always done. They have done an excellent job. Collectively together we can come up with a way to raise the money to keep it in operation such as charging a fee for visitors. This Council is not the bad guys. We are going to do everything that we can to keep it open.

Chief of Police – I have just been informed that Mr. Duncan a member of the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation was outside when the comments were made. I did not mean to interrupt but I wanted you to know.

Councilman Pack – Absolutely.

Mayor Williams – I am going to turn this back over to the chair of the Finance Committee.

Councilman Pack – Mr. Duncan, please come up to the podium. I am sure that there are a few questions here that Council would like to address. Where do you see the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation being able to assist in keeping the museum open?

Mr. Duncan – Without trying to seem evasive, I am not an officer. I am not the president of the Foundation. I am a member. I can really only offer you my opinion to be honest we have not had an official meeting since this news came forward. The Isle of Wight Museum Foundation's role has always been to supplement requests from the county historic employees if they have exhibits that they want to put forward and other support as well as developing "Friends of the Museum". Traditionally, they have tried to not get directly involved with day to day budgeting, infrastructure that sort of thing. Obviously if the museum closes there is no point in having a foundation. I guess logically we need to step forward and do whatever we can both financially and with whatever man power we can offer in the form of volunteers or organizing volunteers. Our existence is in the balance as well. Ms. Anne Edwards is the president at this time. I

am sure that she is aware of all of this. The fact that no one is here except for me probably does not look very well for their reputation after this evening.

Mayor Williams – I see there is someone else here from the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation. We will let Mr. Duncan finish and then we can hear from her.

Councilman Pack – Are you a voting member Mr. Duncan?

Mr. Duncan – Yes.

Councilman Pack – Are there any other voting members in the audience this evening?

Ms. March – I am a voting member. I am not an officer.

Mayor Williams – Ms. March will you please come to the podium so that we can record for our minutes.

Mr. Duncan – She is from Zuni. I am from Ivor.

Ms. March – The reason that I did not speak up first before when you asked if members were here is because I am not an officer. I have been appointed as a member. If something comes to a vote at the Foundation meeting then I can vote for or against. The reason that I did not come forward before Mr. Duncan is because I am a little upset that there is not an officer of the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation here tonight. I have been writing everything down. I intend to let my feelings be known at our meeting next week. It is kind of a wakeup call for me as well. I am shocked that nobody is here that actually represents the group as an officer. There are several voting members from different places in the county. I did not want to say anything about it because I cannot represent the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation. I just spoke up to represent what I personally felt.

Councilman Pack – Thank you. Are there any other questions?

Councilwoman Chapman – How many people are on the Committee?

Mr. Duncan – Twelve to fifteen members.

Councilwoman Chapman – Does that include officers?

Mr. Duncan – Yes.

Councilman Pack – Are there any other questions? Thank you both. We appreciate it. Ms. Seward, would you like to come up to the podium please? I know I thanked you earlier for being here but wanted to let you know again that we really appreciate it. A lot of the Council members have spoken this evening about the ability to

communicate with the government of Isle of Wight County. If you would can you tell us where we stand? I understand that the historic resources have been defunded. Please tell us about the proposition that is presented to this Council from the county.

Ms. Seward – There are a lot of things that I would like to talk about actually. Some we will talk about tonight and some later. Let me start by saying that I started six months ago. I realized that the financial situation of the County was not what I thought when I enter it and every day I discovered more. Our budget has to be presented to the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Our revenue numbers were not given to me until the third week of March. As soon as I had those numbers I quickly did the math. I realized that I had an \$8 million dollar deficit. We were not covering payroll or making our debt service payments from recurring revenues. I had a crisis. I reached out for partnerships. I took the Town Manager to lunch. I looked at any low hanging fruit that I could find to help with repairing the cavern that I had. I did that as quickly as I could. I offered to come to your meetings. I offered to meet with anyone that I could to make this happen before I actually had to present the budget and make it public. It was not my intent to create any kind of upheaval within the community. I am a historian. I certainly do not want to see a history closed off to the community or to tourist. When I cannot make payroll or the debt service payments then we have to set priorities. My first goal was to look for partnerships. Partnerships are all of the people that benefit from all of those services. I reached out to the town. I quickly went to the Isle of Wight Museum Foundation. I went to everyone I thought could help us pay the bills to keep it open. I did the same with Franklin talking about EMS services. I am sure that you have read about that as well. I apologize if I have disappointed people during the communications. I assure you that I did the very best that I could with the circumstances that I was given. I made myself available. I said that I would come to any meeting. I would love for this to be a partnership. I want to see things work. It is what I am accustomed to. The government with all that we have been through over the last seven or eight years the way that we have survived is by reaching out and partnering and brokering relationships not by breaking them. It is not what was intended with this. I would like to see this be a joint service something that we can come together to do. That is why I put about \$30,000.00 of a partnership in the budget in order to keep the building open, pay the utilities, and keep the technology there. I do not think that I would be doing a service to

anyone if I had simply built the budget the way that it has been built over the last couple of years. I needed to be honest. I needed to say what we had and what we did not have. I had to set priorities and a plan to get us out of this. I think three years is going to be the best that I can do. I am really crossing my fingers to hope that we can get that done. I would appreciate anything anyone can do including the public, volunteers, the Historic Society, Museum Foundation, and everyone who is willing to step up to help us with this. The community should not be on the back of a governmental loan. I am happy to answer any questions but that is the best that I can tell you.

Councilman Pack – We are certainly happy to see that you are there and have been dedicated to come into what you have come into in the last six months is not enviable. I hope you are paid very well for it. To give a little background prior to you arriving is that the town's relationship with the Isle of Wight County has not been as strong as we hoped it would. With you there, it is a wonderful opportunity for us to renew that relationship. You sound very willing to discuss and be open with us. We welcome that. It is really what I think Council would like to see. Of course, that is not really what is on the agenda this evening. We are trying to find a way to keep the museum open. I know that you cannot make any decisions this evening anymore than we are really prepared to make on this. I believe the feeling of the Council is that we want to keep the museum open. Personally sending \$100,000.00 to the County to pay the salaries and other items for the museum is not something that I am willing to vote for. We have seen that happen before. I just cannot in good faith do that with the town resident's money. However, I do feel that we could keep the museum open under the direction of Ms. Winslow. We would like to take the current employee's and make them town employees that would allow us to have direct access to them. The County would pay for utilities, insurance, and other items allowing us to lease the building. Honestly, the reason that we are asking for this is because the direction of the Board of Supervisors has been that if there is not enough money then they want to sell something. We are afraid that if someone wanted to come in and buy the museum then someone might agree to that to fix the temporary loan. We would like to have a lease on the building that would prevent it from being sold during the Town and County agreement. We would also like to have ownership of any artifacts or displays transferred to the town for the exact same reason. I can imagine that the world's oldest ham is

worth some money. If we were able to do those three things I think we could do very well. All with the recourse of saying that in three years it will revert back to the County. This is a proposal that I have spoken to a couple of Council members about. They never said yes or no so I am speaking to council now as well. What is your feeling of the possibility of these things even happening?

Ms. Seward – I see the artifacts belonging to 35,000 people. I think we would be hard pressed to put the County in the position of signing those over to the town's ownership. The other citizens would not be considered. I think that we should look at a partnership. The County would have \$30,000.00 involved in this. I have heard a lot about revenues. I think everyone should be willing to be educated on how this all works. It is not a decision for me to make. My impression is that there should be another way to do that in the true form of a partnership. Not my toy your toy I think it should be ours. I believe that we have been very successful in tourism. I am very proud of what has been built. I can tell you that we have a gem in our joint tourism efforts. It is wonderful where it is today. I think much of that is due to Ms. Winslow and her efforts. I think that we can continue to do the same thing for the museum. If we really want to work on relationships then I think that we start with holding hands not pushing things across lines. I think that Mr. Stephenson and I have a good relationship. I believe that we will continue to have that. We have been to lunch and I hope we will continue to do that. I think you will find that I am very collaborative and always accessible. I am hoping that we will have a lot more discussions. I do not know what else to say except that I wish I had come in under different circumstances.

Councilman Pack – We are glad that you are here.

Councilwoman Tynes – I think that my question has been answered. My question was if we were pretty much going to be like a babysitting service for the county for three years and then give it back. Thank you.

Councilman Smith – I guess that I have some confusion about the artifacts. I thought that in any museum situation that the actual articles were loaned to the museum or a gift. I did not think that they were necessarily owned by the County. I do not know if it is true or not but when I read in the paper that you are thinking about selling off the artifacts then I am concerned that it could be the truth.

Ms. Seward – I do not know where that came from. Nobody has talked to me. I cannot speak to that.

Councilman Smith – I thought that when you donated something that it was a loan so that everyone could look at it. Is it a real situation that these artifacts can be sold?

Ms. Seward – I have never heard that until you said it. No one has discussed it. I have never had that discussion with anyone. It has never been a thought in my mind. I do not believe that but I cannot speak for other people. It is certainly not our intent to sell off anything. I want this museum back open.

Councilman Smith – When I go in there it is amazing to me. I get a lot of comments from people out of town and family members they think it is a great place. I think about the threat of losing all of that.

Ms. Seward – I can only tell you that I share your sentiment. Again, I thought I came into a balanced budget. I did not. It is just that simple. I just do not know what else to tell you. Just as you would do with the town budget you would have to prioritize. It is not that museum services are not important. We have put the funding into hold everything safe. As soon as we have funding to put back in for personnel I can assure you that is what we intend to do but I have to make my debt payments. I have to maintain my facilities. I have to run Social Services, health and welfare, the court systems, and the school systems. Those have to be done first. It is not that we do not think that museum services vital because we do. It is simply about what are we required and mandated to do. This is a pause button unless those that want to partner and assist are willing to step up and assist. I do not believe that it is something that should be the sole responsibility of the County. I think everyone loves the museum. I do not understand that if everyone loves it then why we are all not clamoring to come to the table and fix it. I reached out and communicated as quickly as I could. I know that things work slowly in government but it was my hope that we could avoid all of this.

Councilman Smith – I think that we are working towards that. I appreciate your time and efforts. I know things have been difficult.

Ms. Seward – Thank you.

Vice Mayor Gregory – In Ms. Seward's defense, she serves at the pleasure of her Board of Supervisors. She does the best that she can to make recommendations to

them. Ultimately, the decision making falls to her five voting members. I agree with you Ms. Seward that the artifacts belong to 35,000 people. I also believe that the entire museum belongs to those 35,000 people. I think all 35,000 people should share equally in the sacrifice that it takes to keep it open. If that meant adding one more penny then maybe it meant adding one more penny which is not easy but it would be a shared sacrifice by every single one. Everybody shares in that museum. It is not Smithfield's museum or Isle of Wight County's museum. People in Zuni, Windsor, Carrsville, and everywhere else share in that history and heritage. I know you want this to be a new partnership. I want us to forge new ground where trust can be built. The problem for us is the partnership in the past with tourism meant that we would fund more than half of the budget. Then we hear that there is a spending freeze three quarters of a way through the year and we are told that our money was spent first. That is not a partnership. It is the taxpayers of Smithfield losing their voice with all of the money that they put into tourism. They do not get a voice anymore. It does not matter how mad I get. It does not matter how mad all seven of us get. It does not matter if you agree with us and not with them. The power lies with them. This is where we have the issue from a partnership stand point and saying here is a \$100,000 dollars so make it work. It is why you are hearing the same sentiment from almost everyone. We are willing to dedicate treasure, time, and effort but we also have to have some type of control mechanism in place because that is what our constituents need and demand from us. They have been burned somewhat in the past. I know that you cannot control that but it is what it is. It is where we find ourselves. We have to go a little bit by the history.

Ms. Seward – I can only tell you that I have struggled a lot with the history. I am working hard to move it forward. I spent a lot of time in conversations with people about the past, contracts, history, and who did what to whom. I just cannot stay there. I have to move it forward. I can promise you that I am going to be fair and as honest as I can be. I am going to say what I mean and mean what I say. I cannot speak to spending your money first. I clearly would not agree with that. If it is a partnership then it is a partnership. I heard some of the commentary earlier. I will tell you that I would like to spend some time talking. I think education is important. I remember from when I was here before there was always a tussle between the town and the county and who benefitted the most. We have to get beyond that. I think that there are a lot of numbers

that we can throw around. The town does not pay twice because 38% of real estate and personal property is the whole budget. When you look at the whole budget it is not a matter of duplication there. I do not disagree that we need to have fairness but we also need to have some understanding of how that works. We are very different animals. I believe that we can live and cohabitate well together. I think that we can come up with some great partnerships and services but we have to let go of what is behind us. I am willing to work with you to move forward.

Councilman Dr. Cook – It is obvious listening to you talk that we have a lot to discuss at our Intergovernmental meeting. I have my fingers crossed that it is going to actually happen.

Ms. Seward – It is on the 28<sup>th</sup>. It will happen. I heard some concerns about it. I had to deliver a budget by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I am not blaming you. There is a lot for us to discuss contrary to what you read in the paper about the Board of Supervisors saying that we really do not have anything to talk about. I disagree. I want to let you know that my personal opinion is that I really do not want the town to own or run the museum. It is not my intent. I do not want a museum. It is just that contrary to what you just said I think we are trying our hardest to work together with the county. I am sorry that you feel like you are the whipping post. You were sent here. Your supervisors did not to come conveniently tonight. I sympathize with you. I think we are trying to work together. We are faced with funding the lion's share of this budget for at least in your words the next three years and who knows how much longer. The Mayor's proposal was a two or three year contract and then we will see where we are. I have no doubt where we will be in three years. I know we will still be funding the museum. I have no idea where the end date is but I know it will not be in three years. I am a realist. I think we are trying to work with you contrary to your statement. The only issue is who is running it. Personally if I am spending \$100,000 dollars or more of the town's money then I want the town's constituents to be represented here. The county is putting in some money for the museum. It will be needed for the maintenance of the building. I think that we are trying to work a partnership here. We are just discussing who is going to be babysitting the artifacts in the meantime. I will finish with my initial statement. I do not want a museum. I do not want to own the artifacts. I do not think we own them I just think we are

caretakers of them. I think that is the County's job. I am merely offering a solution where we can babysit these things until you all are on a better foothold to be able to take care of it.

Councilman Pack – Are there any other quick questions? Ms. Seward, obviously we still have quite a ways to go with this tonight. I would propose that before our next Committee meeting that you and I talk to try to figure out some of these things then we can bring it to the Committee meeting. Time is certainly of the essence here. This Council wants to save the museum. Listening to you tonight is different from what we read in the papers. It is really nice to see you. We appreciate your sentiment and your desires to do so. We will see if we can come up with some sort of partnership that we can present to the Committee at our meeting on May 19th.

Councilman Dr. Cook – When is your Board of Supervisor's meeting in May?

Ms. Seward – I think it is on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I just wanted to make Council aware of the timelines. If you meet this month then we come back to Committee then they would have already had their Board of Supervisor's meeting for May. We only have one more Town Council meeting before the closure of the museum after today. Right now it is funded until June 30<sup>th</sup>. On July 1<sup>st</sup> the museum will be closed unless we can come to an agreement.

Councilman Pack – Time is of the essence.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Yes.

Vice Mayor Gregory – Will you have a special Budget Work session somewhere toward the end of May?

Ms. Seward – We have already adopted our budget. I would like to add one thing. I care about the three employees that are there. I committed to them that I would hold positions for them in an effort to keep them employed. I am certain that as time goes on they will get more and more concerned. I am certainly still holding those positions. If I were them then I would want some sort of resolution. The sooner we can talk the better.

Councilman Pack – Thank you, Ms. Seward. We really appreciate it. For the folks that came out this evening I think you heard from Town Council that we are here to support the museum. Unfortunately, we were not able to nail that down tonight. We are working towards it. The museum has the full support of the Town Council. We are

actually going to table this and bring it back to committees on May 19<sup>th</sup>. We do have public comments if you want to comment or just listen to what we talk about then you are more than welcome. The Finance Committee meeting is the third committee meeting. We start at 4:00 p.m. Finance generally starts a little bit before 5:00 p.m. I will make a motion that discussion on the Isle of Wight Museum funding to be tabled until our next Committee meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Smith – Second.

Vice Mayor Gregory – Did we resolve the issue that we are going to discuss this on May 19<sup>th</sup> but the Board of Supervisors will have already met on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Pack – The Board of Supervisors will meet on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We cannot do anything before they meet.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Yes we can.

Councilman Pack – What do you suggest?

Councilman Dr. Cook – We can come up with our plan. This is what we want to do. We can discuss it and let them know what we are willing to do. Ms. Seward can then go to the Board of Supervisors meeting and say this is what they want. Mr. Riddick has something to say.

Town Attorney – I would like to point out Mayor that you will meet again in June and the Board of Supervisors is going to meet again in June. The Town Council has a continued meeting at the end of June to discuss the budget. There are two opportunities for Town Council to meet. There are also two opportunities for the Board of Supervisors to meet before the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. There will also be an Intergovernmental meeting stuck in between there. We will have Council Committee meetings at the end of May. There are ample opportunities to study this and work it all out. I think I have some really good ideas that I would like to discuss with you all later.

Vice Mayor Gregory – It seems reasonable to table this then.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Ms. Seward's comments about the employees. It really does stink for the employees. They will be held in limbo but it is kind of out of our control. We cannot make an informed decision which is going to be a significant financial impact to the town. It is unfortunate that they will not know what is going on until the eleventh hour. It is just the way it has to be.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded to table this until May 19<sup>th</sup>. I would like to add to the motion that we contact the Foundation Board whether they want to or not to get some answers from them. Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Our Town Manager has the results of the campaign that was just held.

Town Manager – The unofficial results were received online. I apologize because typically in the past the local Election board has come in physically with the results. It did not happen this evening. Everything is done electronically these days. The unofficial results that we received here electronically and I will read it in terms of the top number of votes to the least. We had 613 votes for Ms. Connie Chapman, 602 votes for Mayor Williams, 574 votes for Dr. Cook, 528 votes for Vice Mayor Gregory, 408 votes for Mr. Jett, and 325 votes for Ms. Evans. The total voting number again unofficially was 896.

Mayor Williams – Thank you, Mr. Stephenson. I want to thank everyone that participated in this campaign. It was a long day at the polls. At this time, we are going to take a five minute break.

Mayor Williams – I would like to bring the meeting to order. The next item on our agenda is a Proposed Shed for Kayak Storage and Rental Office. Councilman Pack will give us a report.

Councilman Pack – A proposed shed for kayak storage and a rental office was discussed in our Committee meeting last month. Ms. Amy Musick, Smithfield Center Director, has provided us with some temporary barn type shelters like you might see in your backyard. There was quite a bit of discussion. Councilwoman Chapman will take over from here.

Councilwoman Chapman – I will let Ms. Musick describe the shelters. It is a kayak storage shed and rental office space that staff could work out of it.

Ms. Musick – The kayak rentals started this past weekend at the Windsor Castle Park's kayak launch. We currently have the kayaks connected to the trailer. We work out of the Smithfield Center van to do the rentals and store the life vests and paddles. I

am hoping for is a temporary structure down there so we can store the kayaks safely and securely. Chaining a kayak is not the safest thing to do. It would also have a front porch for the kayak clerks to operate from.

Councilwoman Chapman - We are hoping to provide a professional and safe building for the town employees to work out of. We will also have a safe storage where the kayaks can be secured along with the other equipment. We would like to bring that item up for discussion. There was some feedback at the Committee level about the type of shed that we were looking at.

Mayor Williams – There was some discussion about the shed being temporary. The maintenance department would take it over. If it was a permanent shed then Councilman Pack was looking at painting it red to match the barns. It would be preferable for it to be out of brick. I thought about a custom shed the same size and having the windows, doors, overhang and eaves built out further. We would put it on a solid footing that would protrude far enough out. When money became available then we could brick it. We could go ahead put the shed there with those alterations to it and paint it to match the barns. I think that would be permanent. I think the Foundation Board wants to weigh in on this. The maintenance department would really not be needed. I think that would be a win, win situation.

Councilman Pack – It sounds perfect to me.

Councilwoman Tynes – It would save money that we were going to have to duplicate.

Ms. Musick – Absolutely. The Foundation has agreed to contribute half of the cost for this wooden structure.

Councilwoman Chapman – Does anyone else have any input or questions? I will make a motion that we approve for Ms. Musick to proceed with selecting and ordering the shed. It takes about three weeks.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion? Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman

voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Next we have Stormwater Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Isle of Wight County. The Public Works Committee Chair, Michael Smith, will give us a report.

Councilman Smith – This is a Stormwater Memorandum of Agreement with Isle of Wight County. We still have some unfinished business with it. I will make a motion to table it until our Committee meetings on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams– A motion has been made and properly seconded. Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Next we have the Public Buildings and Welfare Committee Chair, Dr. Milton Cook, with a Subordination Agreement for 117 North Church Street.

Councilman Dr. Cook - Our agreement is to enter into a Subordination Agreement with them when they get a loan. I will have our Town Attorney update us on this.

Town Attorney – We entered into an agreement with them to ensure that certain improvements were made. It was secured by a deed of trust on their property. The agreement at the time that you sold the property was that if they were to get a loan for financing the improvements that the town would subordinate a performance deed of trust for financing for the improvements. They have a \$250,000.00 loan from the Towne Bank. They are anxiously waiting to close this but they cannot do so until the Subordination Agreement is approved. I have prepared the agreement and would recommend that you authorize the Town Manager to execute the Subordination Agreement on behalf of the town.

Councilman Dr. Cook – They would like to close tomorrow. I will make a motion that we authorize the Town Manager to enter into the Subordination Agreement.

Councilman Smith – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Next we have a Motion to Approve the Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

Town Attorney – I have read the minutes and found a few minor corrections. I would recommend that the minutes be approved with the corrections.

Councilwoman Chapman – So moved.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – Next is New Business. We have Appointment of a Nominating Committee to Fill the Unexpired Term of Virginia Smith on the Planning Commission. I am selecting Councilman Dr. Cook and Vice Mayor Gregory.

Councilman Pack – Ms. Smith resigned immediately due to work commitments.

Mayor Williams – I have heard that there is a person of interest that has come forward and would like to work with the town. We do not need to table this. We will go ahead and make the recommendation and vote on it.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I have been approached many times in the past that if there were an opening available that Dr. Thomas Pope is interested in being on the Planning Commission. He has some very good ideas and insight. I think he will add a strong component to our existing Planning Commission. I would like to nominate Dr. Thomas Pope to fill Virginia Smith's unexpired term.

Councilwoman Tynes – Second. I had also talked to Dr. Pope a few years back when he and his wife first opened their business. I approached the two of them. At the time he was a little too busy but wanted his name kept on the roster.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – The Town Manager will call him first thing tomorrow morning and let him know because he has a meeting next Tuesday? The Town Clerk can follow it up with a formal letter.

Town Manager – Yes.

Mayor Williams – Next is Amend Public Notice for Future Town Council Committee Meetings.

Town Attorney – We had committee meetings last week. As a result of the advisory opinion as to the Freedom of Information Act we were deemed to be in technical violation. We changed our format for Committee meetings. If you like the Committees as structured last week then you do not have to do anything. If you want to return to the way that you have done things in the past, where full Council is in attendance and may participate in the meetings then you would have to direct staff, myself, or the Town Manager to revise your public notice as to Committee meetings. I would recommend that you also adopt tonight a policy. The Town Council has never in the twenty years that I have been here acted illegally. Votes are never taken at Committee meetings. I would think that it would be appropriate to reinforce that it is the policy of the Town Council to not transact business in the form of voting on measures at any committee meeting. It would be your policy. You would direct staff to change the notice to comply with the directions and guidance of the Freedom of Information Act.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I will make a motion to change our notice to comply with the legal opinion as our Town Attorney advises.

Vice Mayor Gregory – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion? Roll call vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Smith voted aye, Councilman Dr. Cook voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Chapman voted aye, Vice Mayor Gregory voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Mayor Williams – The next item is Riverview Campus – Rick Bodson, Smithfield 2020.

Mr. Bodson – I would like to congratulate the incumbents on your re-election. I thank you for your commitment to the community. Due to the accelerated schedule of your committee meetings which will happen before the Riverview Campus working group I will waive the opportunity to speak tonight. I will speak to everyone at the next Committee meetings under the old format or I can speak tonight. I was concerned to do it tonight because I have a working group committee meeting that I need your feedback on. I had forgotten about Memorial Day.

Vice Mayor Gregory – I would like to make a motion to table this item until the Committee meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Dr. Cook – Second.

Councilwoman Tynes – Could you tell us real quickly what the Riverview Campus is?

Mr. Bodson – People refer to the location of the old high school where the YMCA and library are as the Riverview Campus. The Riverview Campus Working Group is the idea to bring all of the organizations together to work together more formally than they have in the past.

Mayor Williams – Mr. Bodson, we thank you for all that you do for the town. You are very important to all of us. Is there any further new business?

Councilman Pack – I have one item. I spoke with our Town Manager and our Town Attorney about the name and address when someone speaks at the podium. It could potentially be a privacy thing. You started it this evening. The speaker only needs to leave their address if they want us to get back in touch with them. I think we should continue to do it like you did tonight.

Mayor Williams – It is a good idea. Next we have Old Business.

Councilman Dr. Cook – I do not think that we spent enough time on it last week. I wanted to discuss the photo book that was brought up to present to Mr. Joseph Luter III about Windsor Castle Park. It has come to my attention that a photo book has already been done about four or five months ago. It has already been delivered to Mr. Luter. Mr. John Payne put together a collage of pictures for all of the events that have happened. He put together a photo book for a group that gave it to Mr. Luter. I do not think that we

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need to duplicate efforts especially if it is going to cost the town money to do so.

However, if there is a group of individuals who want to put together another book then there is nothing stopping them from creating their own photo book to give to Mr. Luter.

Mayor Williams – Is there any further discussion? Is there any other old business? We do not have a closed session tonight. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for being here. We are adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.



T. Carter Williams  
Mayor



Peter Stephenson, AICP, ICMA-CM  
Town Manager