

The Smithfield Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Members present were Mr. T. Carter Williams, Mayor; Mr. Michael Smith, Vice Mayor; Mrs. Denise Tynes, Mr. Randy Pack, Mrs. Valerie Butler, Mr. Wayne Hall, and Ms. Beth Haywood. Staff members present were Mr. Brian S. Thrower, Town Manager; Mrs. Lesley King, Town Clerk; Mr. William G. Saunders IV, Director of Planning, Engineering and Public Works; Ms. Ellen Minga, Town Treasurer; Mr. William H. Riddick, III, Town Attorney; Mrs. Ashley Rogers; Director of Human Resources, Mrs. Amy Novak, Director of Parks and Recreation, Ms. Judy Winslow, Director of Tourism; Mr. Bill Davidson, Planning Commission member; and Mr. Alonzo Howell, Chief of Police. There were approximately three (3) citizens present. The media was represented by Ms. Diana McFarland of the Smithfield Times.

Mayor Williams – Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Smithfield Town Council meeting of December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. It is now 7:30 p.m. Christmas is twenty-one days away. Thank you all for coming out tonight. We have the Boy Scouts with us tonight that will lead us in the Pledge.

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

Mayor Williams – Thank you. We appreciate you coming tonight. I would like to welcome Miss Anna Eng who is with us again tonight and former Council member, Dr. Milton Cook. We also have another former Council member, Mr. John Graham, as well. The first order of business tonight is our Informational Section starting with the Manager's Report with Mr. Brian Thrower.

Town Manager – Honorable Mayor and Council, the November Activity Report is in your packet. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have regarding that.

Mayor Williams – Are there any questions for the Town Manager? Hearing none, thank you Mr. Thrower. We will now move to Public Comments. The public is invited to speak to Council on any matter except for scheduled public hearings. We have one this evening. Comments are limited to five minutes per person please. Any required response from the town will be provided in writing following the meeting if you so desire. Please state your name and address as you come to the podium. Do we have anyone who would like to come up for public comments?

Mr. John Graham – I live at 113 Jericho Road in Smithfield. I do not want to steal anyone's thunder with a briefing on Windsor Castle but it was brought to my attention

that it looks like the project in the manor house is going to get completed; perhaps within the year since the project is under budget. I heard there may be a couple of suites upstairs. I have talked to my neighbors and I can tell you that we are enthusiastic about the project. Everything that has been done to date with events has been done so professionally. We assume everything will be the same in the future. We think it is great that you are able to complete the project. Even if someone stays there every night, it will only be a couple of cars. It is no big deal. One thing I would like to mention is the sunflowers which is a different situation. It is a great idea but the traffic is phenomenal. We counted fifty cars in ten minutes going just one way. It means that we cannot come and go. I know there are a lot of parking problems. It is such a traffic issue that I ask you to consider any other neighborhood in Smithfield. If I wanted to bring a circus to the vacant lot in your community, or cul de sac, for two weeks, parking will work out but it will be great for the community, I think you would throw me out of here and you should. I ask you to hold yourselves to the same standard. There are people living over there. All of the events that you have done have been so great. I like the sunflowers too but I do not know the answer. It is a tough one if you are going to do that. The unregulated traffic that it brings for two to three weeks is really an issue. Thank you very much. Congratulations on Windsor Castle.

Mayor Williams – Thank you John. We are aware of the issue and we have been working on a solution. Our Chief of Police knows all about it. Are there any other public comments?

Mr. Matt Wright – I live at 503 Virginia Avenue. I came to speak tonight since I heard you were going to vote tonight on Smithfield Recreation Association keeping Beale Park and paying over ten years. I wanted to give you a little bit about my story. I was born and raised in Newport News. My wife and I started our family about five years ago. We decided we wanted to move somewhere with a better community. I have been in Newport News my whole life. I have seen that community crumble. When I drove down John Rolfe Drive by Beale Park, I saw the ball fields and the community. I saw girls playing softball, boys playing T-ball and baseball, and the crowds gathering and supporting that community which is something I have not seen in a long time. We saw the house on Virginia Avenue. It was not much but it was enough for us. We fell in love with it. Shortly thereafter, we found out that there was a plan to sell the park. We have

been involved with SRA and our son playing ball for the last two years. I just hate to see something so great go. I love what you all have done at the sports complex. I think it is a great facility but the one thing that towns and cities all across America need is safe havens for their children to play. We cannot have too many parks. There is no such thing. I would just hate to see it go. I just wanted to come to you all today and hope that you will approve that amendment to fundraise the money. We have already come together with several people in the community to help raise money. I am willing to do anything that I can to help save that park not just for me but for the future. I want to see more parks, more green space, and more places for kids to play. I ask all of you to vote to approve the deal for the lease for ten years. I promise I will be here at least until my children have graduated from high school. I will do anything I can to help. I have talked to Chris Kennedy and all the folks there and let them know that I will do anything to be involved. I will never forget, about thirty years ago, my Mom and I helped save Deer Park. They wanted to take that down. I want to do whatever I have to do to keep Beale Park. Thank you.

Mayor Williams – Thank you. Are there any other public comments? Hearing none, we will move to a Briefing by Mr. Dick Grice, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, Smithfield District.

Supervisor Grice – Good evening. I represent the Smithfield District. I only have one Board meeting to report on this evening as the town's meeting in November fell after the November 1<sup>st</sup> Board of Supervisors' session. Tonight's report is for our November 16<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Please remember that my report is only a summary of the meeting. If you need additional information, the entire meeting is available in video format on the county website. During the attorney's report at our meeting several items were addressed. The first was that, going forward, there will be an inclusion of a citizen's comments time put into the bylaws of all county Commissions and Boards to ensure that our citizens always have the opportunity to voice their concerns and recommendations. The next item was an issuance of a deeded piece of property for 1.9 acres of county school land to either Smithfield or VDOT to be used for the turn lane for Joseph W. Luter, Jr. Sports Complex. The Board approved the transfer and is in the process of working with the Town Attorney to ensure that goes through successfully. The county and the Fire and EMS Association has reached an agreement and

established organizational guidelines for a formal Fire and EMS Advisory Board. This Board is to provide a formally documented, functional structure. In the past, it has just been an association. This will ensure that the input from volunteer and career stakeholders is considered during the policy making and review processes for all fire and EMS systems related to items, policies, equipment, and training. It keeps the stakeholder representatives engaged in an integrated countywide fire and rescue system and is the pathway for continued success of our Fire and EMS Volunteer Career programs meeting the highest standards of service for our community. We continue to work with Kimley Horn and the Army Corps of Engineers to resolve wetland issues for the Phase III Shirley Holland Industrial Park. There is now a second party interested in a site adjacent to another party. While information on the interested party remains confidential, their interest has progressed to the point where we have assigned a project name to this organization. It is called Project Bolt. The Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to meet at the site this week to complete the site review and set limits. We are hoping to have a report from them no later than January 2019. The new 800 MHz, eight million dollar, 911 system is nearing completion as we conduct final testing with the goal of occupying the new Command Center on December 18<sup>th</sup>. I believe the plan calls for the Smithfield Police Department to be the first group of responders to transition to the new system. I wish you well. The Board of Supervisors closed their November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting by officially announcing that Mr. Bobby Jones has accepted the Board's offer to become the new county attorney effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. He is currently the interim attorney and a partner in the local firm of Jones & Jones. Are there any questions or comments?

Mayor Williams – Hearing none, thank you Mr. Grice. We will now move to Council Comments. Does any Council member have a comment they would like to make?

Councilman Pack – Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for this opportunity to speak to Council. Typically, I speak from notes and my heart but tonight what I have to say is a pretty serious matter. I have written my speech tonight so please bear with me while I read it. It is not what I like to do or what I was trained to do but I will proceed. What happens behind closed doors in our Town Council meetings is always a point of public interest as it seems to have a cloak of mystery shrouding it. Afterall, it is a “closed

session.” Too often the public feels that certain deals are being made and that the Council is hiding something that makes them richer and somehow profits them individually. Unfortunately, this assumption by the public was founded on some truths over the years in different levels of government. There has always been a level of distrust by the public of what their government does when no one is watching. The state of Virginia allows for closed sessions where the public is not involved and the press is removed from the room under Virginia Code 2.2-3711 and under very strict circumstances. Generally, the circumstances have to do with buying or selling property, contract negotiations where negotiating in public would tip your hand, or items which require legal counsel. During these sessions, the Council as a whole, the Town Manager, and any appropriate staff as well as the Town Attorney is able to openly discuss the pros and cons of the item in question without being in the eye of the public. They are able to ask questions and go through possible scenarios without tipping their hand. For example, if the town were willing to buy a piece of property for up to \$100.00 but wanted to make an offer at \$70.00 with the hopes of negotiating a lower price it would not be very wise to make this known in a public format as their power to negotiate would be withdrawn. It is important that all members of the Council are aware of their obligations of what they can and cannot discuss in closed session and it is the duty of the Town Attorney to shut down any discussions that are not appropriate for closed sessions for the reasons with which we publicly acclaimed to enter a closed session. The Town Council of Smithfield is not one that has a history of nefarious activity behind closed doors; although we have been accused of it at times. Another role of our Council members is to keep the discussions of a closed session in confidence. They are not to be discussed with any others outside of closed session until the item has been brought public by the Council. This allows confidence between Council members to grow and allows Council members to express their true concerns and feelings about any closed session topic without fear that their opinions will be shared. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. Recently, the Smithfield Times reported that a Smithfield Town Council member approached them with information on a subject that came up during a Council closed session. It was a topic this Council member did not view as a closed session issue as it was characterized as a loan from the town to a private organization. This Council member not only violated the rules pertaining to closed session items, but

PURSUED the press with information they had obtained during this closed session.

There are no physical consequences for a Council member to do so. There is no punishment that this Council can dole out or legal ramifications for these actions. However, it has shaken up the trust amongst our Council members. Like it or not, closed session is a necessary tool for government use. Certain items need to be negotiated behind closed doors and when the negotiating is done the public needs full transparency. My fellow Council members, I simply ask of you to follow the agreed upon rules of closed session. Speak your mind in closed session; but when we are out of closed session, items discussed remain in closed session until brought to the public by the Council as a whole. It is important that we stand as a unified Council. It is more than okay to disagree or vote against an idea you disagree with. This is the heart of democracy and what we have been elected to do. However, rules are in place to protect our town and our Council so we can best do our job as elected officials and serve the public in the best way we know how. It will take some time for this breach of trust to be healed and I am afraid some will continue to worry about expressing their true feelings on a given topic. However, if we can simply agree to keep closed session items out of the public and ESPECIALLY out of the paper then we will all be better off for it. Thank you.

Mayor Williams – Thank you Councilman Pack. Are there any other Council members with any comments? I have one item. Friday night was a really big night in the town with the Christmas tree lighting. I believe Connie Chapman came up with the idea. She and Judy Winslow took it a step further and had drummers from the Smithfield High School band to come down each side of the street from the 300 block to the 100 block. As they went by each building, the building would light up for Christmas. It was very, very well received. The Smithfield Women's Club has been doing the tree lighting every year since 1966. This is the first time for the drummers and lights at the businesses. It was a little chaotic in that we were not expecting such a huge success. People were all over everywhere and cars were still coming through. Chief Howell, the Town Manager and I have already talked about this. We will make some really good improvements for next year. In saying all that, I want to thank Connie Chapman and Judy Winslow very much for what they did. I have heard nothing but outstanding praise for it. People are looking forward to it again next year. Thank you both so much. I also want to thank

Chief Howell for really trying to get everything in an orderly fashion. He and his crew did a fantastic job too. Are there any other Council comments? Hearing none, we will move to our Summary of the Consent Agenda Items. We have nine items tonight. Councilman Pack will explain what a consent agenda item is for the Boy Scouts who are here.

Councilman Pack – Thank you, Mr. Mayor. You will see on our agenda tonight that we have nine consent agenda items. Each of these items has been discussed at length at our committee meetings. The meetings are the third Monday and Tuesday of each month. During that time, the Council can discuss these items in a little less formal meeting. We come to a general consensus on how we want to vote. We are not allowed to vote at the Committee meeting. We bring all of the items to the consent agenda for our monthly Town Council meeting. We kind of have an idea of how we feel about each item. Each Chairman of each committee will give a brief summary of each item and then we will vote on all nine items as a whole unless someone wants to pull an item. If that happens, we make it an action item where we can have further discussion on it. This is the basic explanation behind the consent agenda items this evening.

Mayor Williams – We have nine items tonight. We will start off with our Police Committee Chair, Mrs. Denise Tynes.

Councilwoman Tynes – Police Committee Summary. Thank you, Mayor Williams. Item C1 is a resolution to approve the street closure request for the BOB Festival on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This is an annual event in the town. When I say annual it is because we have had it previously. There are no changes.

Mayor Williams – I am sorry. I forgot to ask if any Council member would like to pull any item for further discussion. Hearing none, we will now move to our Water and Sewer Committee Chairman, Mr. Michael Smith.

Vice Mayor Smith – Water and Sewer Committee Summary. We have a motion tonight to approve Option #1 from Draper Aden Associates to rebuild the outfall at the Reverse Osmosis Plant. The outfall has failed. It also needs to be improved. We are trying to get all of this done in a timely manner and bring it up to speed. It also protects the adjacent property owners from the outfall.

Mayor Williams - We will now move to the Finance Committee Chairman, Mr. Randy Pack.

Councilman Pack – Finance Committee Summary. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Tonight, we have four invoices in excess of \$10,000.00 which require Council authorization. We also have one additional set of invoices to Blair Brothers, Inc. The first is to Core and Main which was formerly HD Supply for \$24,000.00. This is for one hundred water meters. These are the water meters that go to your house that we have to repair and replace occasionally. They are \$240.00 each. The second item is to Wood Equipment Service for \$26,743.72. These are for pumps for three of our sewage pumping stations. A nice one to report this evening is for the Isle of Wight County General Obligation Bond for \$503,569.05. It is the final payment on the buildings for the Smithfield Police Department and the Town Manager's office. We will not see this again because this payment pays it off if we approve it tonight. The next item is to Blair Brothers, Inc. This is the money that we withheld for the chip and seal on Main Street. It is the opinion of staff that it has been done adequately and according to the contract. We are recommending approval on it tonight in the amount of \$9,627.00. Even though it is under \$10,000.00, we asked to bring it back because we had held it previously. We also have various paving projects around town that we approved in July with some of our highway fund money to Blair Brothers, Inc. for \$139,570.00. We are recommending approval of all of these bills this evening.

Mayor Williams – We will now move to our Parks and Recreation Committee Chairman, Mr. Wayne Hall.

Councilman Hall – Parks and Recreation Committee Summary. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We have an amendment for the Smithfield Recreation Association lease agreement. Basically, the amendment only applies to paragraph 6B of the original lease agreement. It strikes the provision for a lump sum payment of \$300,000.00 to be paid at the sale of Beale Park. It is amended to read as follows: "the tenant agrees to make a payment to the landlord in the amount of \$300,000.00 without interest. Payment shall be made in ten equal annual installments of \$30,000.00 each." It is the completion for the lease agreement between SRA and the town.

Mayor Williams – We are skipping around a bit and going back to item C3 with our Water and Sewer Committee Chairman, Mr. Michael Smith.

Vice Mayor Smith – I skipped over this one. It is a motion to approve the proposal from Draper Aden Associates for the stormwater improvements at the Reverse Osmosis Plant in an amount not to exceed \$26,200.00.

Mayor Williams – We will now move to Public Buildings and Welfare Committee Chair, Mrs. Valerie Butler.

Councilwoman Butler – Public Buildings and Welfare Committee Summary. Item C6 is a motion to accept the deed for Lot 34 as part of the Pinewood Heights Relocation project. The next item is a motion to approve the subdivision agreement for Phase 7B & 7C of the Cypress Creek subdivision. Item C8 is a resolution to support the Fair Housing Act as part of the Pinewood Heights Relocation project. This is something that we do on an annual basis.

Mayor Williams – Thank you. Item C9 is a motion to approve the 2019 meeting schedule. It has been presented to you. I hope everybody had a chance to look over it. It will be our schedule for 2019 which is just around the corner. Is there any further discussion on the consent agenda items?

Councilman Pack – Mr. Mayor, I make a motion that we approve the consent agenda items as submitted.

- C1. Resolution to Approve Street Closure Request for BOB Festival on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- C2. Motion to Approve Option # 1 from Draper Aden Associates to Rebuild Outfall at the Reverse Osmosis Plant.
- C3. Motion to Approve Proposal from Draper Aden Associates for Stormwater Improvements at the Reverse Osmosis Plant in an Amount Not to Exceed \$26,200.00.
- C4. Invoices Over \$10,000 Requiring Council Authorization:
  - a. Core and Main (Formally HD Supply) \$ 24,000.00
  - b. Wood Equipment Service Co. \$ 26,743.72
  - c. Isle of Wight County General Obligation Bond \$503,569.05
  - d. Blair Brothers Inc. (balance due on Chip & Seal work) \$ 9,627.00
- C5. Motion to Approve Smithfield Recreation Association (SRA) Lease Amendment.
- C6. Motion to Accept Deed for Lot 34 as Part of the Pinewood Heights Relocation Project.

C7. Motion to Approve Subdivision Agreement for Phase 7B & C of the Cypress Creek Subdivision.

C8. Resolution to Support Fair Housing Act as Part of the Pinewood Heights Relocation Project.

C9. Motion to Approve the 2019 Meeting Schedule.

Councilman Hall – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, roll call vote.

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

Mayor Williams – We will now move to the Action Section of the agenda. The first item is a Presentation of the Windsor Castle Restoration Project – Phase III and Endorsement of Proposed Use Plan with our Public Buildings and Welfare Committee Chair, Mrs. Valeria Butler.

Councilwoman Butler – The Windsor Castle Restoration Phase III Committee will give us a presentation.

Ms. Sue Ivy – I am President of the Windsor Castle Park Foundation and managing member of Windsor Castle Restoration, LLC. I wanted to come and give you an update as to where we are with the project right now. Through a lot of dedicated people, we have made it through Phase I which was the rehabilitation of the barns and the caretaker's house. Phase II is currently going on and includes the outside of the manor house including the roof. It should be done by the end of the year. Windsor Castle Park Foundation has enough money left to go ahead and do the interior of the manor house. We were at a phase where we did not quite know what it was going to be at the end of the day. We wanted to come up with a committee that was going to give some guidance on how it was going to be self-sustaining after we turned it back over to the town. We came up with a committee of people. I am on it and it included Randy Pack, Valeria Butler, Milton Cook, Gina Ippolito, Judy Winslow, Mark Hall, Rick Bodson, Amy Novak, Brian Thrower, Martha Russ, and Jennifer England. We also had a facilitator, Renee Roundtree, who did a wonderful job in helping us gather ideas for

what Windsor Castle could be to be self-sustaining. We threw everything out on the table with all of our options. How would we do the interior so that it was everything we needed it to be going forward? We had our first committee meeting in October with all twelve people. We had four meetings. They were two and a half hour meetings. We reviewed all possible plans for the manor house and the ground space. We desire to keep the project moving. There are people out there working right now who want to stay on. We wanted to keep the project moving once the outside of the house is done. We have a plan for how to move forward for January as to how we will outfit the interior of the manor house. We agreed upon the highest and best use. I am going to let Ms. Roundtree talk for a bit about what we decided.

Ms. Renee Roundtree – It was my pleasure to lead this distinguished group through this process. We employed multiple different tools. We used several facilitation practices. We did a stakeholder analysis. We used focus group/nominal group process etc. One of the first things we did together as a group was to ask what we were shooting for. We came up with an elevator speech so if someone ask what was going on we were all equipped to say the same thing. Together, we came up with our elevator speech which is like a thirty second commercial. Something so everyone could be on the same page. We came up with the fact that we were creating a proposal to present to Town Council; a realization of the highest and best use plan for the historic easement of Windsor Castle. We wanted this plan to promote a revenue producing, self-sustaining asset for the Town of Smithfield and its taxpayers. We understood that which was always the goal. It is what we kept in mind as we worked. Again, it was a very short time. These are all busy, busy, smart, great people. We worked hard to be ready to present to you all this evening. We did a lot of research of similar venues and discussed past events that have happened at the site and all the things that could be possibilities there. In the basement, we envision a gaming room that may be rented for a variety of functions and events. It could also serve as a grooms dressing area or for cocktail parties. We, obviously, have in mind to rent the entire property including the outbuildings and the house for a weekend if possible. We talked in the committee about the fact that when it gets up to six months from a certain date then we would allow a la carte rentals. Of course, all of this will be determined by town staff at a later date. We figured that the best way to earn revenue and to make this property self-sustaining

would be to rent the entire property. It is what we are going to go for. There are obviously key weekends and times that are the most popular and we are going for whole site rental to include the house. We have brainstormed an appropriate budget. We know that it can be self-sustaining when you balance the revenue and expenses. It is popular these days with other venues that we researched where there could be a bride area as well as a groom area on the same property. In keeping with the Victorian era, we would like the first floor to be a high end event and meeting space. We want to make the town proud and make this an asset for everyone to be proud of. It would not just be for wedding use and rentals but also for corporate businesses and to support our partners there, obviously, with a catering kitchen that could support these types of activities. This space could be rented for cocktail parties, business meetings, showers, etc. We believe this is a beautiful space that can be open if you are familiar with the house. You have probably toured it many times. You open the doors in the middle of the first floor and there is a large space to work with there. Each floor of the three has four rooms that are all the same size. On the second floor, we felt those four rooms would make an excellent bridal dressing suite. We envision a large en suite bathroom, bridal sitting room, and lounge area. Again, to support the goal of renting the entire site, we envision this to be a resource that is needed; especially on a hot day when a bride is trying to get ready. It would be nice to have something air conditioned. The outside could be used to. The outdoor area could be an ideal place for wedding receptions, cocktail parties, and festivals just as it is used three times per year now. We would like to really bring the focus of the property back to the manor house. It is a beautiful property. To speak briefly to historical interpretation, we had Jennifer England on the committee. She agreed that the farm office could be used for interpretative signage and could tell the story of the whole grounds. We kicked around a lot of ideas there. In addition, the old kitchen, the smokehouse, and maybe some of the other outbuildings could be interpretive displays with signage included. It would probably require some electrical wiring. It would give people the opportunity to do a self-guided tour as well as guided tours on the site.

Ms. Ivy – Thank you Renee. In conclusion, the key points that we wanted to bring to you were that we do have a reasonable confidence that the project will break even on an annual basis. We ran a lot of numbers. We think enough rental income can come in

to offset any expenses out at the house. Mrs. Novak has done a wonderful job coming up with different things. There will be staffing that will be needed out at the house. She will discuss that with you for the fiscal year 2020 budget cycle. She will also bring you the rental fee schedule. We came up with some things but it may need to be tweaked. We will need a special use permit out there. We will go to the Planning Commission early in 2019 as we see that the site will be ready for rentals; maybe by the end of 2019. There will be limited historical interpretation out there. I am happy to answer any questions that you have.

Councilwoman Butler – If there are no questions, I want to congratulate you on the job you have done. I thoroughly enjoyed being part of that committee. It gave me a deeper insight on Windsor Castle Park other than walking the trail out there. I would like to make a motion to acknowledge and agree with the presentation by the Windsor Castle Restoration Committee for Phase III to renovate the manor house for use as an event space and authorize you to proceed.

Councilman Pack – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, roll call vote.

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

Mayor Williams – Thank you everyone for doing a wonderful job.

Ms. Ivy – Thank you all very much. We are excited. It is going to be great.

Mayor Williams – Our next item is a Motion to Approve the Town Council Meeting Minutes of November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Town Attorney – Mr. Mayor and members of Council, I have reviewed the minutes and made a few minor corrections and would recommend the minutes be approved as revised.

Vice Mayor Smith – So moved.

Councilman Pack – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, roll call vote.

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

Mayor Williams – Item 3 in the action section is a Motion to Appoint a Nominating Committee for the Expiring Terms of Julia Hillegass, Thomas Pope, and Michael Torrey on the Planning Commission. We have three at one time. I would like for Councilman Hall and Councilman Pack to handle that please and bring it to the next Council meeting in January. The next item is a Motion to Appoint a Nominating Committee for the Expiring Terms of Gary Hess and Russell Hill on the Board of Historic and Architectural Review. I would like for Councilwoman Butler and Councilwoman Haywood to handle that and bring it to the January Council meeting. We will now move to New Business. Is there any new business to come before Council? Hearing none, we will move to Old Business. Is there any old business? I have two things I would like to reiterate. I want to keep the ball rolling so that it is in the minutes. It is the future elimination of straws with drinks in restaurants in the town. We talked in committee about looking at other localities and see what they are doing. At least we can get started on the restaurants asking the people if they would like to have a straw. I get a straw at every restaurant and never use a straw. It is one thing we can do to save the environment. Also, you get plastic bags at the grocery store. Several years ago, we talked about trying to get the grocery stores to go to paper only. Around here, on the way to the landfill, you will see plastic shopping bags all up and down the road. One bag will contaminate a whole bale of cotton. The bales of cotton that you can see in the fields are worth between \$8,000.00 and \$10,000.00 each. One plastic bag in a bale will contaminate it and make it worth about \$3,000.00.

Councilman Pack – Mr. Mayor, if I may, at 5:15 p.m. this afternoon I received an email from Tim Underwood. He wanted to know if I had entertained the possibility of garnishing your beverages with hay straws. He said he would be happy to go over the details and send some samples today. Would you like me to forward this email to you for consideration?

Mayor Williams – I really would like for you to but I think I know somebody at the restaurant you are alluding to. I think I will go down there and talk to them myself. The

other thing I talked about was the future of our recycling program. I have received an email today. Under China's new rules, U.S. recycling will suffer. I have asked the Town Manager to see if he can get our recycling contract company to come up here and talk to us. We need to talk to them anyway. The article says that some cities are closing recycling plants all together. Other companies are ending curbside pickup. It states: "for recycling to be substantial, customers must learn to sort their trash better." It is one thing we need to look at in our town. We need to get the word out to our recycling customers and have them recycle better. In the case of my neighbor down the street, they had a whole bathroom that they renovated, including the toilet, which they stuck in the recycling bin to be picked up. Toilets and grab bars are not recyclable. They just need to be educated. That is my song and dance for old business tonight and I thank you for putting up with it. Is there any other old business to come before Council? Hearing none, we have a very short Closed Session tonight.

Town Attorney – Mr. Mayor, we need a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of the discussion of the disposition of publicly held real property and consultation with legal counsel as to actual pending litigation pursuant to 2.2-3711A. 3 & 7 of the Code of Virginia.

Vice Mayor Smith – So moved.

Councilman Hall – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. All those in favor say aye, opposed say nay.

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

*Town Council went into closed session at 8:15 p.m.*

*Town Council went back into open session at 8:41 p.m.*

Mayor Williams – We need a motion to go back into open session.

Councilman Hall – So moved.

Councilwoman Butler – Second.

Mayor Williams – A motion has been made and properly seconded. All those in favor say aye, opposed say nay.

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

Town Attorney – This is something that the county does. The Mayor has asked me to read this. All of those that participate in the closed session at this meeting are reminded that all matters discussed in closed session are to remain confidential as provided by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Such matters discussed in closed session should not be acted upon or discussed in public by any participant unless and until a public formal action is taken by the Town Council on that particular subject matter pursuant to 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia. A motion certifying that to the best of each members knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as identified in the motion to move to the closed session were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed session. That motion is in order and I will accept a motion.

Vice Mayor Smith – So moved.

Councilman Pack – Second.

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

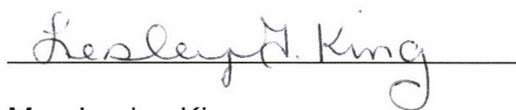
On call for the vote, seven members were present. Vice Mayor Smith voted aye, Councilwoman Tynes voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilman Hall voted aye, Councilwoman Haywood voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion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

Mayor Williams – Is there any further business to come before Council tonight? Hearing none, we stand adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.



Mr. T. Carter Williams  
Mayor



Mrs. Lesley King  
Town Clerk