

MINUTES BRIDGEWATER TOWN COUNCIL

July 12, 2022

Present: Mayor Ted W. Flory Council: Steven A. Schofield, William D. Miracle, Travis L. Bowman, A. Fontaine Canada, James M. Tongue.

Absent: Dillina W. Sticklely

The Bridgewater Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at Sipe Center, 100 North Main Street, Bridgewater, Virginia.

Oaths of Office: Chaz Haywood, Rockingham County Circuit Court Clerk, was present to administer oaths of office to: Rodney Hildebrand (Board of Zoning Appeals), William "Bill" Wood (Planning Commission), and Jeff Carr (Industrial Development Authority).

Call to Order: Mayor Flory called the Council to order at 7:04 p.m.

Invocation: Dr. Miracle gave the invocation.

Minutes: Ms. Morgan Shirkey

June minutes were approved as presented.

Finance: Dr. William D. Miracle

1. **June Treasurer's Report (Attached).**

Dr. Miracle moved that the June 2022 Treasurer's Report be accepted for submission to audit. Seconded by Mr. Schofield. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Schofield, Miracle, Bowman, Flory, Canada, Tongue. Those voting nay: None. Absent: Sticklely.

2. **June Bills (Attached).**

Dr. Miracle moved to appropriate and authorize the payment of June bills in the amount of \$731,401.28 and to ratify the earlier payment of bills totaling \$807,498.62, all as reviewed and approved by Town staff and the Finance Committee Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Bowman. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Schofield, Miracle, Bowman, Flory, Canada, Tongue. Those voting nay: None. Absent: Sticklely.

Ordinance: Mr. Steven A. Schofield

1. **SVEC Franchise.**

Mr. Schofield moved to approve the franchise agreement with Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (O2022-12), as presented. Seconded by Mr. Canada. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Schofield, Miracle, Bowman, Flory, Canada, Tongue. Those voting nay: None. Absent: Sticklely.

Administrative Report: Mr. J. Jay Litten

1. **Grocery Store Feasibility Study.** A USDA grant for a grocery store study was acquired and our highest hope was to find one with a pharmacy. We hope to find out our strengths and weaknesses in this study, and shore up those weaknesses.

Mr. Canada moved to approve "A Resolution Selecting Hafezi Capital for Grocery Store Feasibility Study" (R2022-8), as presented. Seconded by Mr. Tongue. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Schofield, Miracle, Bowman, Flory, Canada, Tongue. Those voting nay: None. Absent: Sticklely.

2. New Help Desk. The old treasurer's space is now a lobby or help desk area. The help desk will be manned for half the day to help citizens with a number of things including B-Rec cards, park shelters, basic zoning questions, et cetera. We are starting with a half day for staffing purposes, but hope to have it staffed all the time someday.

Public Works: Mr. A. Fontaine Canada and Ms. Megan S. Byler

1. Drainage on West Bank and Holly Hill. We are actively working to correct a couple of drainage issues. The one at Holly Hill and Pope is a simple solution involving an existing storm structure and piping the water. The second concern, on West Bank Street, will involve some milling and paving. The first solution will be handled by Town employees, whereas the second will be contracted out.

2. Completed Renovations. The renovation is just about complete with a few cosmetic things being addressed still. Final inspections are upcoming. Photos were shown of the renovations.

Recreation Commission: Ms. Dillina W. Stickley and Ms. Megan S. Byler

1. Sipe Center. Sipe Center has had a wildly successful weekend with Top Gun, and was sold out every show but one so far, and people seem interested in buying concessions. Lots of happy movie-goers.

Community Relations: Mr. Travis Bowman

1. Eve of Independence Recap. Mr. Bowman said that Generations Park was packed on July 3, and that Eve of Independence assures everyone that the town is alive and well. People were scattered throughout town for the fireworks, which did begin promptly at 9:25.

Economic Development Committee: Mr. Jim Tongue

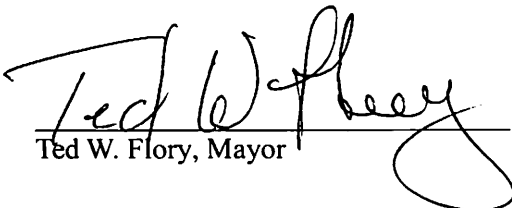
1. Carlyle Whitelow Portrait. Mr. Tongue said that Mr. Jim Harris was donating a portrait to the Town that he painted of Mr. Whitelow. Copies of the portrait are being sold through the rotary as a fundraiser for the Whitelow scholarship at Bridgewater College.

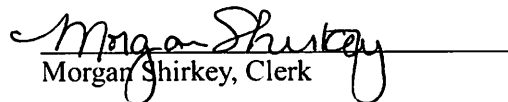
Mr. Tongue moved to accept the portrait of Carlyle Whitelow from Mr. Jim Harris. Seconded by Mr. Schofield. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Schofield, Miracle, Bowman, Flory, Canada, Tongue. Those voting nay: None. Absent: Stickley.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Flory

1. Monthly Police Report. Chief Read reminded everyone that the police department is gearing up for the lawn party this week and trying to keep everyone safe, including extra help.
2. Mr. Litten and the Mayor received an email that Council member Dillina Stickley was absent due to a COVID exposure and was quarantining, but is just fine.

Adjournment – 7:31 p.m.


Ted W. Flory, Mayor


Morgan Shirkey, Clerk