

MINUTES BRIDGEWATER TOWN COUNCIL

August 9, 2022

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

Absent: None.

The Bridgewater Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at Sipe Center, 100 North Main Street, Bridgewater, Virginia.

Call to Order and Invocation: Mayor Flory called the Council to order at 8:24 p.m and gave the invocation.

Mayor Flory noted that Mr. Steven Schofield requested permission to participate in the Town Council meeting in accordance with the Remote Attendance Policy due to a medical concern. Mayor Flory granted Mr. Schofield's request and declared him officially part of the meeting. Due to technical difficulty, participation was via speakerphone.

Visitors: Mr. Lee Armbuster of Earlysville, owner of Bridgewater Foods, presented his concerns about the grocery store feasibility study and provided information he had gathered to support his concerns.

Minutes: Ms. Morgan Shirkey

July minutes were approved as presented.

Finance: Dr. William D. Miracle

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

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

2. **July Bills (Attached).**

Dr. Miracle moved to appropriate and authorize the payment of July bills in the amount of \$143,774.76 and to ratify the earlier payment of bills totaling \$339,327.56, all as reviewed and approved by Town staff and the Finance Committee Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Tongue. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Schofield, Miracle, Bowman, Stickley, Flory, Canada, Tongue. Those voting nay: None. Absent: None.

Ordinance: Mr. Steven A. Schofield

1. **Water Intake Ordinance.** Mr. Schofield introduced the ordinance and Mr. J. Jay Litten explained it is to protect our water intake from possible oil and gas getting into our water supply. There will be a ten-foot zone for motorized vehicles to pass the area at a no-wake speed.

Mr. Schofield moved to approve "An Ordinance Creating a Protected Zone Around the Town's North River Water Intake" (O2022-13), as presented. Seconded by Mr. Canada. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Schofield, Miracle, Bowman, Stickley, Flory, Canada, Tongue. Those voting nay: None. Absent: None.

Administrative Report: Mr. J. Jay Litten

1. **Sale of 425 North Main Street.** Rite Aid has issued a letter-of-intent to purchase part of the former Sergio's property for the purpose of running a pharmacy there. This gives us permission to enter into a contract with Council approval.

Mr. Canada moved to approve "A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Approximately 0.4 Acres of Land at 425 North Main Street" (R2022-9), as presented. Seconded by Dr. Miracle. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Schofield, Miracle, Bowman, Stickley, Flory, Canada, Tongue. Those voting nay: None. Absent: None.

2. **Tourism Grant.** Staff recommends using the grant funding offered by Rockingham County to put tourism signage on Interstate 81 advertising Sipe Center as an attraction. Funds would go toward the purchase of four signs: two informational along the highway and two directional at the exits going north and south.

Mr. Canada moved to use the grant funds from Rockingham County for the purpose of highway signage. Seconded by Mr. Bowman. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Schofield, Miracle, Bowman, Stickley, Flory, Canada, Tongue. Those voting nay: None. Absent: None.

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

1. **DORM Update.** Today is DORM day and the stoplight is now functional. Mr. Canada and Mr. Flory noted the quality of the intersection. Mr. Flory asked about intelligence added to the lights, and Ms. Byler said it is still in the works and the software will be installed as soon as possible to get the lights to work in conjunction.

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

1. **Summer Camp Recap.** The Bridgewater summer camp was a success, and we had our first theatre camp at Sipe Center this year as well. Bright Star Touring Theatre helped facilitate the theatre camp. A video was shown of summer camp photos highlighting the activities.

Community Relations: Mr. Travis Bowman

1. **Summer's End Celebration.** Mr. Bowman noted that the celebrations begin at 8 a.m. on September 5 with the Race to the Bottom 5k starting at Sandy Bottom, continue with the Leaderboard Tournament at Sandy Bottom Mini-Golf, followed by live music and the festivities at Oakdale, and capped off with fireworks at 8:30 p.m.

2. **Christmas Parade Revival.** Santa arrived, interrupting Mr. Bowman, and said he had landed at Dynamic Aviation the other day and they'd had a great idea about starting the Christmas Parade back up to spread Christmas cheer to the Town of Bridgewater. The parade will be December 10th at 2 p.m. and coordinated by Dynamic Aviation.

Economic Development Committee: Mr. Jim Tongue

No report was submitted.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Flory

1. **Monthly Police Report.** Sergeant Will shared that National Night Out was last week and was held at Smiley's this year. Attendance was high, and they handed out 184 free kid scoops of ice cream, nearly doubling last year's total. With included adults the attendance was much closer to 500.

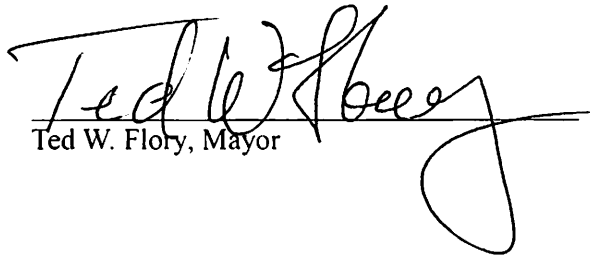
Planning Commission Recommendation:

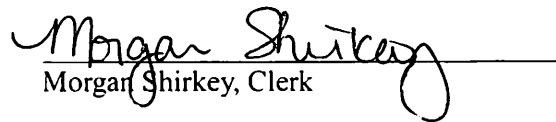
The Planning Commission, which met separately throughout the meeting after the joint public hearing, arrived back to Council with a recommendation to approve the special use permit for the planned unit development.

Consideration of the SUP: Mr. Canada asked about adding a tree buffer to the plans where appropriate, and Mr. Litten suggested if that was desired it could be added into the motion as a condition. Mr. Canada also questioned whether we could restrict semis from using the new road to cut down on that issue, and Mr. Litten suggested looking at that over the next 42 months. Mr. Bowman stated that he was grateful for this plan, as it could have been much worse, and for the owners not chasing the highest bidder. Dr. Miracle made a motion to table the vote for another month, but it was not supported.

Mr. Bowman moved to approve "An Ordinance Granting a Special Use Permit for a Planned Unit Development" (O2022-14), with the consideration given to adding a tree barrier where possible, and the conditions noted in Appendix B. Seconded by Ms. Stickley. The motion carried as follows: Those voting aye: Schofield, Bowman, Stickley, Flory, Canada, Tongue. Those voting nay: Miracle. Absent: None.

Adjournment – 9:15 p.m.


Ted W. Flory, Mayor


Morgan Shirkey, Clerk