

MINUTES

BRIDGEWATER TOWN COUNCIL

January 10, 2023

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

Absent: None.

The Bridgewater Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at Sipe Center, 100 North Main Street, Bridgewater, Virginia.

Administration of the Oath of Office: Mr. Chaz Haywood, Clerk of the Rockingham County Circuit Court, was present to administer oaths to Mayor Ted Flory, Mr. James M. Tongue, Mr. A. Fontaine Canada, and Ms. Stephanie L. Curtis.

Call to Order and Invocation: Mayor Flory called the Council to order at 7:18 p.m.

Organizational Meeting: Mayor Flory noted the only changes seemed to be the dates and no election needed for Vice Mayor this year. Mr. Litten clarified that we also updated the Remote Attendance to follow code, and made a correction to the order of the Pro Forma Agenda.

Mayor Flory moved to approve "An Ordinance Establishing Certain Logistics Arising in the Council's Organizational Meeting" (O2023-1), as presented. Seconded by Mr. Bowman. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Schofield, Miracle, Bowman, Flory, Canada, Tongue, Curtis. Those voting nay: None. Absent: None.

Invocation: Mr. Schofield gave the invocation.

Visitors:

Mr. Bucky Berry updated the Council on the progress of the Brent Berry Food Drive for the year and expressed his disapproval of a new grocery store.

Mr. Darrell Spitler, manager of Bridgewater Foods, spoke about the importance of Bridgewater Foods in the community, their number of products available, and how they meet the needs mentioned in the feasibility survey.

Mr. Lee Armbuster, owner of Bridgewater Foods and former CEO of multiple Fortune 500 companies, spoke at length about the faults of the feasibility study, the merits of Bridgewater Foods, and offered his assistance to Council to help them interpret the study properly.

Mr. Litten clarified after visitor comments ended that the Town is not full steam ahead on a grocery store, and in fact are not currently looking for one and the study is just public information. Mr. Tongue noted the feasibility study was commissioned when the Town was still looking for a pharmacy, and by the time a standalone pharmacy was found the study was already contracted, and no one on Council is in search of a store.

Minutes: Ms. Morgan Shirkey

December minutes were approved as presented.

Finance: Dr. William D. Miracle

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

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

2. December Bills (Attached).

Dr. Miracle moved to appropriate and authorize the payment of December bills in the amount of \$148,933.37 and to ratify the earlier payment of bills totaling \$486,410.97, all as reviewed and approved by Town staff and the Finance Committee Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Schofield. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Schofield, Miracle, Bowman, Flory, Canada, Tongue, Curtis. Those voting nay: None. Absent: None.

Ordinance: Mr. Steven A. Schofield

No report submitted.

Administrative Report: Mr. J. Jay Litten

1. Consideration of the SUP, 506 East Riverside Drive.

Mr. Canada moved to approve "An Ordinance Granting a Special Use Permit for an Accessory Dwelling Unit" (O2023-2), as presented. Seconded by Mr. Tongue. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Schofield, Miracle, Bowman, Flory, Canada, Tongue, Curtis. Those voting nay: None. Absent: None.

2. Welcome Signage. We budgeted \$90,000 for the welcome signage project, but in the RFP process we received 8-10 good proposals far below this amount. Eddie Edwards Signs was chosen, and for \$40,000 we can get two signs, with one being placed at the Turner Ashby crosswalk when it's complete and one on Dinkel Avenue. A photo of the sign was shown from the mock-up done by Eddie Edwards Signs in their proposal.

3. Big Block of Cheese Day. Andrew Jackson had a giant block of cheese at the White House and encouraged citizens to come and ask questions and express concerns. The concept was made famous by *The West Wing* on TV, and we're doing our own Big Block of Cheese Day on Charter Day, February 7, from noon to 6 PM. Department heads will try to be available; Council members are welcome to come by, and we hope people feel free to come in and tell us their ideas, their concerns, or ask questions. There will be cheese, but less by far than the 1400 pounds President Jackson provided.

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

1. Completed Shelter 1 Renovation. The renovation of shelter 1 at Oakdale is complete, with new ceiling, picnic tables, and lighting so that people using the shelter can control the lights, rather than having them on timers. The new picnic tables are a composite material that we hope will be easier to keep clean. Shelter 2 is next on the renovation schedule. Later, mention was made of Wildwood shelter needing more extensive renovations, and the possibility of adjusting the location of that shelter now that the park is expanded.

2. Expansion of Recyclable Materials. Our recycle center will now be accepting batteries—single use batteries, rechargeable batteries, and cell phone batteries. The batteries must be less than eleven pounds. We have a program where we collect and ship filled boxes to Michigan, and the batteries are recycled into golf clubs, asphalt, and sunscreen.

Recreation Commission: Ms. Stephanie L. Curtis and Ms. Megan S. Byler

1. Shufflecurl. Thursday, January 12 at 11 a.m. is the scheduled time for the inaugural Shufflecurl game at Generations Park. Shufflecurl is a hybrid of Shuffleboard and Curling, is scored similarly to Bocce, does not require skates, and does not require having your feet directly on the ice. Participants are encouraged to sign up to play, and the game is suitable for all ages.

Community Relations: Mr. Travis Bowman

1. **MLK Day Ceremony.** The MLK Day ceremony will begin at Oakdale on Monday, January 16 with speeches, and then the march will begin and proceed down Main Street back and back to the College.
2. **Charter Day.** Tuesday, February 7 after Big Block of Cheese Day at the town office, come out to Sipe Center for a trivia competition and prizes. Desserts will be provided, and concessions available. Categories for trivia include Rivers, 1835, Bridgewater, Turner Ashby and Bridgewater College, and movies. There will be prizes for anyone who shows a receipt to a Bridgewater restaurant marked February 7 and prizes for the winning player or team.

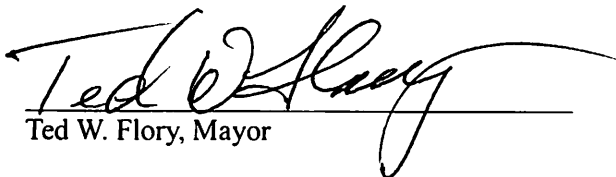
Economic Development Committee: Mr. Jim Tongue

While there was no formal report, Mr. Tongue mentioned the February 1 sunset ceremony being held for Officers Painter and Jefferson coming up at Oakdale in the memorial garden. There is a new monument there for the officers.

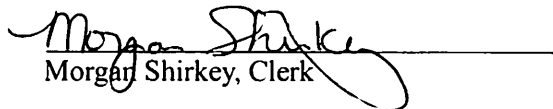
Mayor's Report: Mayor Flory

1. **Welcome.** Mayor Flory welcomed Stephanie Curtis to Council and said he looked forward to working with her.
2. **Monthly Police Report.** There were no questions concerning this report.

Adjournment – 8:20 p.m.



Ted W. Flory, Mayor



Morgan Shirkey, Clerk