

# MINUTES BRIDGEWATER TOWN COUNCIL

December 13, 2022

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

*Absent: William D. Miracle.*

The Bridgewater Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at Sipe Center, 100 North Main Street, Bridgewater, Virginia.

**Call to Order and Invocation:** Mayor Flory called the Council to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Invocation:** Mr. Canada gave the invocation.

**Visitors:** Mr. Babak Hafezi of Hafezi Capital gave a summary of results from the Grocery Feasibility Study commissioned several months ago, noting that the goal was to add value to the area and not compete with current businesses, and noting several viable small-format store options for good fits in the area.

**Minutes:** Ms. Morgan Shirkey

November minutes were approved as presented.

**Finance:** Mr. Steven A. Schofield

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

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

2. **November Bills (Attached).**

*Mr. Schofield moved to appropriate and authorize the payment of November bills in the amount of \$441,110.13 and to ratify the earlier payment of bills totaling \$224,360.98, all as reviewed and approved by Town staff and the Finance Committee Chairman. Seconded by Ms. Stickley. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Schofield, Bowman, Stickley, Flory, Canada, Tongue. Those voting nay: None. Absent: Miracle.*

**Ordinance:** Mr. Steven A. Schofield

No report submitted.

**Administrative Report:** Mr. J. Jay Litten

1. **Oakdale Pond.** Mr. Litten said that we had put the Oakdale Pond project to bid and had one very attractive offer. He noted that with some changes to the pond's design plan, the Town Engineer thinks the pond alone can meet the majority of the TMDL requirements without needing to purchase the credits previously discussed. This resolution would allow us to award the contract to Commonwealth Excavating and begin the process, as well as appropriate the \$699,064 for costs. Mr. Flory noted that this saves the town a great deal of money by not needing to construct the pond and purchase credits both.

*Ms. Stickley moved to approve "Resolution Authorizing Approval of Bid to Construct Oakdale Park Pond" (R2022-16), as presented. Seconded by Mr. Canada. The motion carried unanimously as follows:*

*Those voting aye: Schofield, Bowman, Stickley, Flory, Canada, Tongue. Those voting nay: None.  
Absent: Miracle.*

2. **Buzz Branding.** Due to the success of the Bridgewater Buzz managed by Alex Wilmer sharing news about the town on a daily basis, the website [bridgewater.buzz](http://bridgewater.buzz) will now be reserved only for our Bridgewater Buzz and the Town Welcome information has been moved to [welcome.bridgewater.town](http://welcome.bridgewater.town).

3. **Police Career Progression.** Mr. Litten stated that Chief Read has a new program beginning for the police. Chief Read elaborated that there would be certain criteria in place for moving up and officers would have the chance to earn more rank—police officer, senior police officer, master police officer—to retain good officers and make the department even better. The same can be said for the sergeants as they may now work toward senior sergeant and master sergeant distinctions with leadership trainings. Each increase also comes with a pay increase to aid retention. All criteria focus on fitness, training, leadership skills, certifications, and so forth.

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

1. **Recycling.** Ms. Byler announced that to be more available for those families who work the hours the recycle center is open, the recycle center would now be open on Thursdays until 7:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. She also let everyone know that Mr. Dennis Huffer retired from the recycle center and was replaced by Mr. Wayne Woolf. It was hinted that a new material may be recyclable at our center very soon and more would be known in January.

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

No report submitted.

**Community Relations:** Mr. Travis Bowman

1. **Parade, Tree Lighting, Santa at Sipe.** Mr. Bowman thanked Dynamic Aviation for the parade on December 10<sup>th</sup> and said he had gotten a lot of good feedback and participants noted how well-organized it was, and how wanted it had been in town. Mr. Bowman concluded with reminding everyone that Santa will be at Sipe Center on Saturday, December 17. Mr. Flory mentioned the success of the tree lighting in November and Mr. Bowman agreed it was a lot of fun and maybe his favorite one so far.

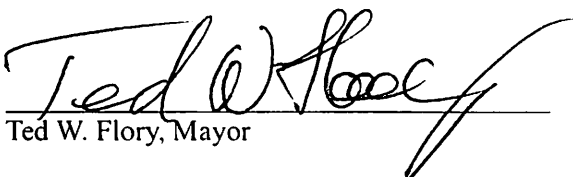
**Economic Development Committee:** Mr. Jim Tongue

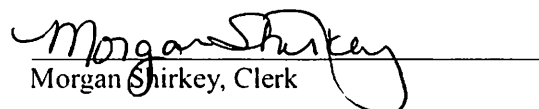
1. **Business Christmas Decoration Contest.** Mr. Tongue ask Gwen Gottfried to give an update on the competition. Voting ends Wednesday evening at 11:59 p.m. and there are over 300 votes already. We've seen a lot of positive feedback and there are businesses that decorated and are not included in the contest so we're hoping in future years to have some more good participation.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Flory

1. **Monthly Police Report.** There were no questions concerning this report.
2. **Special Presentation.** A special video was shown for the retirement of Councilwoman Stickley, including photos of her with other council members and participating in various town events. A beautiful lamp with her name and town seal etched into the base was presented by the Manager and staff, and Mayor Flory thanked Dillina for her many years of dedicated service for the betterment of the town. Ms. Stickley said it had been an honor and a pleasure and thanked everyone.

**Adjournment – 7:52 p.m.**

  
Ted W. Flory, Mayor

  
Morgan Shirkey, Clerk