

# MINUTES BRIDGEWATER TOWN COUNCIL

February 14, 2023

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

*Absent: Steven A. Schofield.*

The Bridgewater Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at Sipe Center, 100 North Main Street, Bridgewater, Virginia.

**Call to Order and Invocation:** Mayor Flory called the Council to order at 7:15 p.m.

**Invocation:** Dr. Miracle gave the invocation.

**Minutes:** Ms. Morgan Shirkey

January minutes were approved as presented.

**Finance:** Dr. William D. Miracle

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

*Dr. Miracle moved that the January 2023 Treasurer's Report be accepted for submission to audit. Seconded by Mr. Bowman. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Miracle, Bowman, Flory, Canada, Tongue, Curtis. Those voting nay: None. Absent: Schofield.*

2. **January Bills (Attached).**

*Dr. Miracle moved to appropriate and authorize the payment of January bills in the amount of \$297,374.54 and to ratify the earlier payment of bills totaling \$249,500.70, all as reviewed and approved by Town staff and the Finance Committee Chairman. Seconded by Ms. Curtis. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Miracle, Bowman, Flory, Canada, Tongue, Curtis. Those voting nay: None. Absent: Schofield.*

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

No report submitted in Mr. Schofield's absence.

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

1. **Budget Amendment FY23.**

*Mr. Canada moved to approve "An Ordinance Enacting Budget Amendments for Fiscal 2023" (O2023-3), as presented. Seconded by Mr. Bowman. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Miracle, Bowman, Flory, Canada, Tongue, Curtis. Those voting nay: None. Absent: Schofield.*

2. **Zoning Ordinance Decision.** Mr. Litten noted that the ordinance changes nothing substantively but makes things easier to use for everyone. Chapter 14, the flood ordinance, was the most contested portion with Department of Conservation and Recreation involved. We attempted to adopt the model ordinance from DCR instead and this was objected to as it is not a model but rather an example. Today we got word from DCR they will approve Chapter 14 as we have written it, and as presented in the packet, with a few exceptions that incidentally do not even affect our version. Most of the changes include defining specific terms—terms we do not have in our ordinance anyway—and to correct a date in a definition surrounding Pre-Firm and Post-Firm Structure. Mayor Flory clarified that they would be voting on what was

presented in their Council packets, as well as the terms defined in the changes that are not even in our ordinance, and Mr. Litten said yes.

*Mr. Tongue moved to approve "An Ordinance Amending Title Six of the Town Code" (O2023-4), as presented. Seconded by Mr. Bowman. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Miracle, Bowman, Flory, Canada, Tongue, Curtis. Those voting nay: None. Absent: Schofield.*

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

1. **Oakdale Pond.** Ms. Byler showed a photo of the pond's progress at Oakdale. Initially we were told there would be several weeks of blasting, but it's been less rocky and only required one day of blasting. There have been no complaints and we've moved into the construction phase. The final pond will be 10 feet deep and contain about 1.9 million gallons of water.

2. **Gen Oak Connector.** This project, to construct a sidewalk connecting Generations Park and Oakdale Park, went out for bid on January 31. All bids are due by February 28. Hopefully we will be able to get the project started in the spring.

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

No report submitted.

**Community Relations:** Mr. Travis Bowman

1. **February 1 Ceremony.** The sunset memorial for Officers Painter and Jefferson was an exceptional evening. The Chief of Police and Town Manager had excellent remarks, the plaques are tastefully done, and it was an overall great experience.

2. **Charter Day Recap.** The festivities kicked off with Big Block of Cheese Day at town hall earlier in the day with a decent turnout of residents sharing their thoughts, ideas, and concerns with members of staff, and consuming part of a genuinely big block of cheese. The festivities continued at Sipe Center with a truly entertaining trivia contest with fun door prizes. Families and friends were competing as groups, and everyone seemed to have a great time.

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

No report submitted.

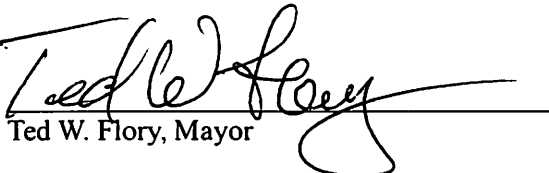
**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Flory

1. **Appointments to Boards & Commissions.** Mayor Flory noted that these terms for our boards and commissions are relatively short due to filling vacancies left by others, one such being Ms. Curtis' empty IDA seat left vacant after her election to Council.

*Mayor Flory moved to approve "A Resolution Filling Various Boards and Commissions" (R2023-1), appointing Mr. Kevin Kunowsky to the Planning Commission, and Mr. Nicholas Koger to the Industrial Development Authority. Seconded by Mr. Bowman. The motion carried unanimously as follows: Those voting aye: Miracle, Bowman, Flory, Canada, Tongue, Curtis. Those voting nay: None. Absent: Schofield.*

2. **Monthly Police Report.** There were no questions concerning this report, but Chief Read noted upcoming events for police department outreach.

**Adjournment – 7:41 p.m.**

  
Ted W. Flory, Mayor

  
Morgan Shirkey, Clerk