

MINUTES OF THE TIMBERVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

September 9th, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Timberville Council was held Thursday September 9th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town's council chambers with Mayor Donald Delaughter presiding.

MEMBERS: Carl Turner-Present Sharon Jones-Present
Clarence Fox-Present Natalie Sherlock-Present
Debbie Jessup-Present Ned Overton-Present

PRESENT: Austin Garber, Town Manager
Melinda Hooke, Clerk/Treasurer
JR Dodd, Chief of Police
Quinton Callahan, Town Attorney
Beverly Garber, Town Historian

GUESTS: Randy Andes Vianey Hernandez
Christian Herrick Jessica Showalter
Sarah Berry Luke Nelson
Angely Hernandez

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Donald Delaughter led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Clarence Fox and seconded by Debbie Jessup to approve the August Council Minutes. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Roll Call Vote:

Ned Overton-Yes Debbie Jessup-Yes
Natalie Sherlock-Yes Clarence Fox-Yes
Sharon Jones-Yes Carl Turner-Yes

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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|----------------------|----------------|
| General Fund | \$60,003.23 |
| Water/Sewer Acct. | \$189,228.34 |
| Loan Balance | \$921,208.14 |
| CAT Financial | \$9,740.44 |
| American Legion Park | \$180,000 |
| Money Market Acct. | \$1,254,167.23 |
| ARPA Funds | \$812,218.39 |

BILLS FOR PAYMENT: A motion was made by Debbie Jessup and seconded by Sharon Jones to pay the bills as presented. The motion carried with all members voting in favor.

Roll Call Vote:

Ned Overton-Yes Debbie Jessup-Yes
Natalie Sherlock-Yes Clarence Fox-Yes
Sharon Jones-Yes Carl Turner-Yes

RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION: Town Manager Austin Garber read the Certificate of Recognition for Randy Andes and Randy's Do-It-Best Hardware. The award was received in recognition of their 20th anniversary. Mayor Delaughter presented the award to Owner Randy Andes and Christian Herrick.

POLICE REPORT: Chief Dodd stated the Axon body-worn cameras were deployed last month. The new tasers have come in and officers were in training today.

Chief Dodd explained that there weren't any applications received in the first five weeks of advertising for an officer. He then thanked Council for working hard to make the vacant position more attractive. Seven certified applications were received and interviews have been done. The chief was not releasing the name of the person who the job offer is being made to until he contacts the other applicants who interviewed.

PUBLIC WORKS: Town Manager Austin Garber gave the council a list of the jobs completed by the maintenance crew. A copy will become part of these minutes.

Austin Garber gave Council a list of infrastructure projects to be paid for with ARPA funding. The Public Works Committee met yesterday and went through the list that was compiled by Maintenance Supervisor Chris Coffman, Mayor Delaughter, Town Manager Austin Garber and the engineer. These projects were based off of Chris Coffman's 5-10 year plan. Mayor Delaughter explained each item on the list, which will become part of the minutes. Clarence Fox made a motion to approve the list as presented. Ned Overton seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Ned Overton-Yes | Debbie Jessup-Yes |
| Natalie Sherlock-Yes | Clarence Fox-Yes |
| Sharon Jones-Yes | Carl Turner-Yes |

The Occupancy Limits ordinance will need a public hearing before it can be voted upon, since a change will be made in the Land Development Regulations. The public hearing will be set up for the next council meeting.

The chicken ordinance was reviewed by Planning Commission. They looked at different ordinances that other localities have in place and modeled one after Grottoes. Town Attorney Quinton Callahan also reviewed it and made some modifications. The Planning Commission recommend for Council to approve. Sharon Jones made a motion to approve the chicken ordinance. Natalie Sherlock seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Ned Overton-Yes | Debbie Jessup-Yes |
| Natalie Sherlock-Yes | Clarence Fox-Yes |
| Sharon Jones-Yes | Carl Turner-No |

A couple of years ago, Delegate Tony Wilt sponsored legislation that amended Code of Virginia §15.2-1127 which was passed and specifically authorized Timberville to be able to require registration of vacant buildings. Any owner in town who has a vacant property will need to fill out a form. By adopting this ordinance, the hope is to encourage property owners to do something with the property, instead of sitting vacant. Town Manager Austin Garber stated that there is demand for property in this area. He reported that the 2020 Census numbers came back with Timberville having a 17.5% increase, the highest percentage increase in Rockingham County. Natalie Sherlock made a motion to approve the Vacant Property Registration. Ned Overton seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Ned Overton-Yes | Debbie Jessup-Yes |
| Natalie Sherlock-Yes | Clarence Fox-Yes |
| Sharon Jones-Yes | Carl Turner-Yes |

Town Manager Austin Garber stated that Rockingham County is talking with the contractor about the demolition at 157 N Main Street. He states that the project is moving along. The house on Montevideo Street has been demolished and another house may be built.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY: Mayor Delaughter stated that things are proceeding on the Walgreens move. Town Manager Austin Garber said that the town's second round of comments have been sent back over. He stated that Rockingham County has sent over their first round of comments.

ZONING ACTIVITY:

-360 N Main Street – New Deck

PARKS AND RECREATION: Mayor Delaughter stated the maintenance crew is working on getting the pavilion updated and finishing the walking path at Plains District Memorial Park. Austin Garber is close to submitting the plans for the Boat Launch. The mayor stated that when the Sports Complex Project and Phase 1 of the Park Project is complete, there will around \$70,000 leftover. He would like for the Park Committee to have a meeting, around the first of the year, to discuss what to spend the remaining funds on. The mayor also said that the town has made the budgeted amount of \$140,000 go along way, thanks to the town crew who did a lot of the work themselves.

FINANCE: Town Manager Austin Garber stated that Sarah Berry from the Planning Commission would be willing to serve on the EDA. He asked Council to consider appointing Sarah Berry. Natalie Sherlock made a motion to appoint Sarah Berry to the EDA. Ned Overton seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Ned Overton-Yes | Debbie Jessup-Yes |
| Natalie Sherlock-Yes | Clarence Fox-Yes |
| Sharon Jones-Yes | Carl Turner-Yes |

Town Manager Austin Garber stated that the annual review was completed by the auditors and the report should be ready for Council by November.

PERSONNEL: Town Attorney Quinton Callahan prepared the resolution for Kevin Racey to fill the vacant position created on the BZA when Kevin Hinkle resigned. Debbie Jessup made a motion to adopt the resolution. Sharon Jones seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Ned Overton-Yes | Debbie Jessup-Yes |
| Natalie Sherlock-Yes | Clarence Fox-Yes |
| Sharon Jones-Yes | Carl Turner-Yes |

PLAINS DISTRICT MEMORIAL MUSEUM: Sharon Jones reported that Heritage Day has been cancelled. Town Historian Beverly Garber reported on how long different businesses have been around in Timberville.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Randy Andes thanked the town for the recognition and a great working condition with the town for the last 20 years and is looking forward to the next 20 years.

Natalie Sherlock, president of CART, read a letter to Council explaining the reasoning behind the Christmas Village being moved. A copy of the letter will become part of the minutes. Mayor Delaughter stated that he felt communication was terrible between Council and CART. Natalie Sherlock stated that it was a two way street with the terrible communication. Mayor Delaughter stated that he disagreed. Natalie Sherlock stated that a meeting was requested (through text message) with the mayor back on November 21st and the Mayor stated that no one requested a meeting with him. He stated that if he missed a text message that's fine but asked since she saw him every month at council meetings why she didn't request the meeting. Natalie stated that because of being a council member and president of CART she wanted some separation between the two. She also said that CART would like to move forward and are taking partial responsibility. Mayor Delaughter stated that as a councilmember they should take full responsibility. The mayor apologized for missing a text. He asked what happened to the next months after November to talk to him about the Christmas Village. The mayor again expressed how distressed he was and understands the benefits that were received by the upgrades CART helped with, but it was done for a reason. He stated to better this (the stables) so CART and everyone could use

them. He stated that she talked about the town website not having it for rent. He then said that it didn't say it wasn't available for rent. The mayor said there was open communication that the town was providing the stables for free every year. Natalie stated that she was told that CART would have to ask each year to rent it for free. The mayor stated that he was sure they would have got to use it this year for free. He also said that it's done and not happening in town this year and it's time to move on, but there was no part of him that was going to feel good about the decision that was made. Sharon Jones wanted to clarify that Natalie said no taxpayer money was spent. Natalie said that she did not say that. She said that the \$3500 was taxpayer money but CART gave the town back \$24,000 in infrastructure. Sharon said that Natalie said it was volunteers that did the work. Sharon stated that the town employees get a salary and they built the 43 doors. Natalie stated the employees did an awesome job and CART provided the lumber and that the taxpayer money was already allotted to those particular upgrades. Sharon said that Council allowed town employees to do the work like Cecilia and Austin promoting the Christmas Village. Sharon also stated that it's over and done and she would like to move forward. She said she received a lot of phone calls from upset people about the Christmas Village. Mayor Delaughter reiterated again that it was done and it would not be in Timberville this year.

ADJOURNMENT: No further business, the meeting adjourned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Melinda Hooke, Clerk

Donald Delaughter, Mayor