

August 8, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

This meeting was available on Zoom. However the internet connection was not stable and at 6:40 p.m. Zoom was disconnected.

Mayor McPhaul asked everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman T. Jones led the prayer.

Mayor McPhaul called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with all members of Council present. Town Attorney Richard Matthews was absent.

Adopt Agenda:

Mayor McPhaul asked to have the agenda amended to add items D. Trailer for Public Works and E. Vacant Building Registry under New Business. On a motion by Council President Cox, seconded by Councilman T. Jones and carried the proposed agenda was approved as amended.

Presenters:

There were no presenters.

Citizen's Wishing to Appear:

- A. **Jesse Hellyer** – President of the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce came before Council to remind everyone that individuals can be members of the Chamber you don't have to be affiliated with a business. The Chamber has 78 active members currently. Mr. Hellyer also advised of upcoming events through October. On **August 10th** at 5 p.m. there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for Tara-Leigh Photography. **August 21st** a back to school breakfast with Sussex County Public Schools. **August 22nd** a back to school breakfast with Tidewater Academy. On **September 14th** at The Empowerment Temple at 6 p.m. there will be a meet the candidates open to anyone running for political office in and for Sussex County. On **September 21st** evening and **September 22nd** morning Geenex Solar is having a Public Open House, further details will be forthcoming. On **September 23rd** the Chamber in conjunction with the Town of Wakefield is hosting a Peanut Harvest Festival from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. in the parking lot of Virginia Diner. On **October 14th** the Chamber in conjunction with the Town of Waverly is hosting Oktoberfest from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Miles B. Carpenter Folk Art Museum.
- B. **Alfred Futrell** – Mr. Futrell came before Council as he was advised that an owner of property on Meadowview Dr. has done some research and has discovered that Meadowview Dr. and Forestview Dr. are not a private road. Mr. Futrell advised he has asked to have this item added to the Board of Supervisors agenda and have VDOT and Sussex County do something about the roads in that area as the potholes continually get bigger and there has been a report that an emergency vehicle refused to travel down the road because of said potholes.
- C. **Paul Rogers** – A coach for the Southampton Sussex All-Stars Mustang team came before Council to express their gratitude to the Mayor and Council for their generous donation to the All-Stars team as the Mustang team traveled as far as High Point and Currituck, NC where they stayed overnight for tournament games. The Mustangs were in 6 tournaments and played in 5 championship games.

Clerk's Report:

- A. **Reading/Approval of July 11, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes** – On a motion by Councilman T. Jones, seconded by Councilman K. Jones and carried the reading of the July 11, 2023 meeting minutes were dispensed with as they are a

matter of public record and previously provided to Council and were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

- A. **Treasurer's Report** – Mrs. Morman gave a brief update on the status of the general operating fund as of August 1, 2023. Mrs. Morman advised that she is currently still working with the auditors to correctly close out the prior year's audit. Mrs. Morman also advised contact has been made with the auditors and they are prepared to schedule our next audit in November 2023. Mrs. Morman advised that the Water Sale money that was transferred to the VIP Fund in earlier in July saw an interest deposit of over \$6,000 in the three weeks from opening the account. On a motion by Councilman Bernstorff, seconded by Council President Cox and carried the Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.
- B. **Bills Paid and Presented for Payment** – On a motion by Councilman Bernstorff, seconded by Council President Cox and carried the Bills Paid and Presented for Payment were approved as presented.

Sussex Service Authority Report:

No one was present to give a report. However, Mayor McPhaul did advise that at their last meeting the board did pass the proposed \$2.50 sewer rate increase. Mayor McPhaul also mention that Waverly Representative Fitz McPhaul voted against the rate increase.

Planning Commission Report:

Ms. Yvonne Williams advised the Commission did not have a meeting in July and therefore no report was available.

Zoning Administrator:

Mayor McPhaul advised Mr. Copeland is continuing to have violation letters sent based on tall grass and inoperable motor vehicles. Mr. Copeland has been working in conjunction with Public Works either taking down or cleaning up properties to include Robert Wilkins and W. Main St and New St.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor McPhaul mention there were 150 – 200 people in attendance for the Miss Sussex County Pageant that was held on July 15, 2023. Mayor McPhaul advised the next pageant will be held the weekend before Easter in March 2024. Mayor McPhaul advised that the Town hosted a water day on July 21 for small children from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. using the water slide that was recently purchased, she also noted that the Sheriff's Department was able to use the slide as well for National Night Out. The Town plans to host more water days on Friday's in August.

Departmental Reports:

- A. **Police** – Sheriff Giles went over the July stats report. Sheriff Giles advised the department has received complaints in reference to 4-wheelers and those individuals were given warning the previous weekend. Sheriff Giles advised that he has received a grant in order to implement Flock System Cameras – infrared, license plate reader and detects gun shots. Sheriff Giles advised of their Faith & Blue event on October 21, 2023 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. this will be held at the Sussex School Complex. Sheriff Giles thanked the Mayor, Council and the citizens of Waverly for their donations and support for National Night Out. Sheriff Giles also advised that the department was awarded a grant and he plans to start a Regional SWAT team that includes members from departments in Southampton, Surry and Greensville counties.
- B. **Public Works** – Councilman K. Jones advised per Supervisor H. Jones everything is working fine.

Standing Committee Reports:

- A. **Health & Safety** – Councilman T. Jones advised that Amanda has applied for a grant to have an AED purchased and installed in Town Hall. Councilman T. Jones advised he would like to initiate a “Know Your Numbers” initiative where individuals are knowledgeable about their blood pressure, resting heart rate, cholesterol, body mass index, and blood sugar numbers. Councilman T. Jones advised that in order to obtain some of these numbers you must go see a doctor and ask for screenings. Councilman T. Jones advised he will follow up with additional information next month.
- B. **Finance** – Councilman Bernstorf advised no report.
- C. **Memorial/Beautification** – Councilwoman Norris commended Sheriff Giles on how great National Night Out was and also Public Works for their clean-up efforts throughout the town. Also Councilwoman Norris thanked the Mayor and Tiasha as well as Public Works for their efforts in helping clean-up and haul away debris from arrangements at the cemetery that have outstayed their display time.
- D. **Public Property** – Council President Cox advised that since taking over the Museum the Mayor, Tiasha, and Amanda have spent a considerable amount of time working on straightening up some things and organizing files. All this in order to determine what needs to be repaired and replaced to get the museum up and running again in the future.
- E. **Streets** – Councilman K. Jones advised there was no new update from the Railroad reference to previously stated issues. Councilman K. Jones advised that today Public Works cleaned the streets and curbing downtown. Council President Cox added to the citizens please be careful and pay attention when driving, the intersection of Rt. 40 and Rt. 35 has had 2 accidents resulting in 3 fatalities in the last week.

Old Business:

- A. **Carpenter Museum** – Mayor McPhaul advised the Museum has been taken over by the Town, but no Town money will be used as a new 501c3 has been established as “Friends of the Museum” and they will decide how the money is spent in regards to the Carpenter Museum.
- B. **Industrial Revitalization Fund Grant** – Mayor McPhaul stated all the paperwork has been signed except one piece that Mr. Morrison needs to get to Mr. Sheldon and hopefully within the next few weeks things will start progressing on the brewery.
- C. **Economic Development Authority (EDA)** – Mayor McPhaul advised there is no new update.
- D. **Update to Town Code** – Mayor McPhaul advised there is no new update.

Mr. William Ricks was present and gave an update regarding the Pool. Mr. Ricks advised that water has been put in the pool and sanitized. There are a few things that still need to be completed before the next phase of the project begins. Mr. Ricks advised that the contractor should be sending weekly reports with updates as well.

New Business:

- A. **Schultz Proposal – Pruning at Cemetery & War Memorial** – Mayor McPhaul presented a proposal to have 28 Crape Myrtles at the Cemetery and 5 Crape Myrtles at the War Memorial pruned. On a motion by Council President Cox, seconded by Councilman Bernstorf and carried the proposal from Schultz Lawscapes was accepted as presented.
- B. **AED Quote** – Mayor McPhaul presented Council with a quote from AED Brands and advised the Town has applied for a grant for this equipment, but on the off

chance the grant is denied would Council be willing to purchase and have the AED machine and cabinet installed at Town Hall. On a motion by Councilman T. Jones, seconded by Council President Cox and carried it was approved to give the Mayor authority to spend \$2181.37 on an AED machine and cabinet to be installed at Town Hall in the case that the applied for grant is denied.

- C. **USDA - Rural Business Development Grant** - Mayor McPhaul advised that The Town has been awarded a \$150,000 USDA grant for Rural Business Development that is geared towards new start-up businesses or enhancing established businesses.
- D. **Trailer for Public Works** - Councilman K. Jones spoke on the condition of the current trailer Public Works uses to transport equipment and how there is a need for a newer trailer. Mayor McPhaul presented Council with a sales quote from Mack's Auto Sales in Disputanta for a new trailer for Public Works. On a motion by Council President Cox, seconded by Councilman T. Jones and carried it was approved to spend \$3,998.00 for a new Public Works Trailer.
- E. **Vacant Building Registry** - Mayor McPhaul asked Council to think about the idea of starting a Vacant Building Registry, where owners would list their vacant house or business and pay a yearly fee in order to avoid selling the property. Mayor McPhaul advised that this would need to be brought before legislation if this is something the Council decided to enact.

As there was no further business to come before Council the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m. on a motion by Council President Cox, seconded by Councilman T. Jones and carried.


Clerk of Council


Mayor