

**DUMFRIES TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009
7:00 PM**

Present: Mayor Yohey, Vice-Mayor Washington, Council Lady West,
Councilman Toney, Council Lady Cornell, Council Lady Barr,
Councilman Brewer

Also Present: Tom Huggard, Interim Town Manager; Chief Calvin Johnson,
Cathy Holtzlander, Director of Community Services; Greg
Tkac, Director of Public Works; Donna Johnson, Town Clerk;
4 citizens

Mayor Yohey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of
Allegiance was recited followed by the invocation given by Vice-Mayor
Washington.

Mayor Yohey asked if anyone had changes to the agenda and Mr. Huggard
requested that item #8 be deleted as well as item #12, as Ms. Hipski was
absent due to illness.

Mayor Yohey added Museum foundation repairs as item e under Action
Items.

Citizen Comments

None

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Yohey went over the meetings he had attended during the month of February. He also discussed the budget. He said citizens and businesses are encouraged to come to the meetings and the public hearing to offer their opinion and suggested changes. He said this information is on the Town of Dumfries website (www.dumfriesvirginia.org). He said anyone with questions could contact him at 703 221-3400 X120 or the Interim Town Manager at 703 221-3400 X113.

Mayor Yohey also said that talks continue regarding the future of the General Heiser Boys and Girls Club in Dumfries. A meeting is scheduled between the Prince William County Boys and Girls Club and the Greater Washington Boys and Girls Club officials on March 5th in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Toney asked for a name and number of someone from the General Heiser Boys and Girls Club Executive Board. Mayor Yohey said he would see that Mr. Toney received the information. Mr. Toney asked that this information be emailed to him.

Mrs. West made a motion that a meeting be scheduled for 7:00 PM on March 10th to discuss the budget. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Yohey. Ayes: Barr, Cornell, West, Yohey. Nay: Brewer, Toney, Washington. Motion carried.

Ms. Barr made a motion to change the date of the budget meeting to the 17th to be discussed at the regular work session. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Toney. Ayes: Washington, West, Toney, Cornell, Barr, Brewer, Yohey. Motion carried.

Mayor Yohey said there was one additional issue he wished to discuss. He said the Dumfries Business Association wanted to hang banners on the poles in town to recognize Cancer Awareness Month in May. He said they wanted to have 50 made and they would be paid for by the DBA. Mrs. Holtzlander

and Mrs. Johnson told the Mayor that they had spoken with Mrs. Bradley and she would be presenting this at the March work session.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Huggard reported that during the month of February he and the Town Staff had been very active supporting many activities, but for the most part working on the FY2010 Budget. He said in addition he had been assisting Council as it moved forward in meeting with citizen neighborhood and volunteer boards groups.

Mr. Huggard also stated that he had spoken with Mr. John Anzivino, from Springsted earlier in the day regarding the search for a new Town Manager. Mr. Anzivino reported that by the end of the application period in late February, Springsted had received 117 applications from around the country and the state. He said they were currently reviewing these and planned to have it down to 16 or 17 candidates within a week. From that number, they would present, per their contract, a list of the ten best qualified candidates for Council's review and subsequent interviews. Mr. Huggard said that later in the week Mr. Anzivino would be calling him with more details on the scheduling.

Mr. Huggard also reported that he and the staff had met with Council twice to discuss the draft FY2010 budget. In developing the budget, he said he used a revenue picture based on a projected real estate assessment decrease of a "minimum of 20 percent". After the budget work sessions, the Council agreed to advertise an equalization rate of 24 cents to account for the decrease in assessments. Also, Council provided additional direction on reducing FY 2010 projected expenditures. The net result was a decrease in both revenues and expenses of approximately 8% over FY09, for a balanced budget of \$3,984,544. Unfortunately, later in the month, the Mayor received further word from the County that our assessment decreases would be much greater than projected earlier. It was now nearly 44%.

This would require a further review of our budget, with decision by Council to either increase the equalization tax rate from 24 cents to 30.1 cents per hundred dollars, or to further reduce Town expenditures, or some combination between the two.

Mr. Huggard advised the Council that if they wished to re-advertise the full equalization rate of 30.1 cents tomorrow, they could hold a work session on March 10th to decide what other measures may or should be taken aside from just going forth with full equalization. The only restriction would be that Council would not be able to increase the tax beyond the full equalization rate. He also suggested that a public hearing could be advertised for April 7th, prior to the Council's regular meeting with budget approval planned for the following Tuesday, April 14th.

Mayor Yohey said that based on the 44% decrease in total assessments from January of 2008 to January of 2009, the assessments would be down from 529 million dollars to 285 million. He said to get the additional \$865,000 we needed we would have to raise the tax rate to 30.1 cents per hundred for equalization. He said we could advertise this rate or alternatively we could take other items out of the budget before we advertise. He said there are expenditures that we would have to cut.

Mr. Huggard also reported that in early February he and Council Ladies West and Barr attended the Legislative Day in Richmond. The Council Ladies were able to meet with Delegate Frederick and Mr. Huggard said he was able to get updates from other jurisdictions at the VML reception for member towns. The following day he attended a daylong workshop on managing the 2010 budget. At the meeting he met with representatives for Davenport & Company, one of the four sponsors for the workshop. He said this is a very old relatively conservative financial consulting firm that specializes in working with towns/cities in Virginia. He said he subsequently had another

discussion with one of their representatives. He further stated that this may lead to a presentation by them on how they may be able to assist the Town to develop a stronger financial picture.

Mr. Huggard expressed a hearty thanks to Cathy Holtzlander for acting as the Interim Town Manager during his absence the last two weeks of February. He said she did a great job assuming these duties in addition to her own full plate of activities as the Director of Community Services.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Johnson reported that Officer Humphries had returned to work that day. He said Officer Humphries would be undergoing approximately 2 months of physical therapy and would be on light duty. He said he should be able to return to full duty sometime in May or June.

Chief Johnson also reported on a wanted suspect from the state of Connecticut. He said they received a phone call that the suspect was a location in Williamstown. After receiving the call Sgt. Evans ran a check on the suspect's name and it confirmed he was wanted in Connecticut. Sgt Evans sent a warrant to Garfield Sub-station as soon as possible. Once the warrant was complete and due to the seriousness of the charges (Double Homicide) the subject was considered to be armed and dangerous and a decision was made to call out the Prince William County SWAT Team.

After several failed attempts to have the suspect exit the residence, the decision was made to fire tear gas into the home. Shortly after this procedure, the suspect exited the residence and was taken into custody.

Chief Johnson also reported that they had met with the webmaster to begin setting up the Police Department's website.

Chief Johnson also went over the calls for service for the month. He also gave a visual presentation on Crime Reporting. He said this was a good tool for the Mayor and Council. The cost for this program would run about \$100.00 a month. Ms. Barr said she was supportive of this program and she also thought the Chief could find \$100.00 a month in his budget for this.

Mrs. West asked Chief Johnson about the training for the auxiliary officers. He said this was being administered by Officer Humphries and since he was out they had not been able to have training. He said the General Orders stated that the auxiliary officers had to have 80 hours of training with an FTO Officer. He said the FTO Officers were Officer Humphries and Detective McCoy. He said the personnel records for the auxiliary officers were locked up and Office Humphries had the only key so therefore they were not able to access the information until his return.

Mayor Yohey had a question about e-ticketing and the process that was used while using the system.

Director of Public Works

Mr. Tkac reported that he had spent a great deal of time on the President's Stimulus Package.

Mr. Brewer told Mr. Tkac that the Public Works Department had done a great job cleaning the streets during the snow storm.

Ms. Barr brought the topic of the sound wall in the Knolls of Dumfries. She told Mr. Tkac that VDOT has given her some information on equipment that could be rented to do a study on the noise from I-95. She said we needed a 7 day study.

A very lengthy discussion took place regarding the sound wall. Mr. Huggard said he had talked with Susan Roltsch about this and it was on the agenda to discuss with Mrs. Caddigan.

Ms. Barr said she is very upset regarding the lack of the sound wall and someone needs to push this issue. She said now is the time to issue your complaints and to try to get the wall. She said if you don't complain you will never be heard.

Mrs. Cornell suggested sending a letter to VDOT.

Ms. Barr made a motion to file a comment with VDOT and other involved agencies regarding the need for a 7 day study. Her motion was seconded by Mrs. Cornell. Ayes: Washington, West, Toney, Cornell, Barr, Brewer, Yohey. Motion carried.

Mayor Yohey said we need to find out about the cost of the study. If the cost becomes an issue we will bring it up later.

Mrs. West asked Mr. Tkac about the White Haven project. Mr. Tkac said he has not come up with a definitive date yet. He also said he has had some problem with the Leonard Street project and has not had the time to figure out the cost as yet. He said he will bring this information back to Council at the work session.

Mrs. West also asked about the drop inlets in Williamstown. Mr. Tkac said he would check into this.

Mr. Toney expressed concern about the electric bills. He said several of his neighbors as well as himself were concerned about the steep increase in their bills.

Director of Community Services Report

Ms. Holtzlander said she planned and organized the Annual Black History Celebration held on Saturday, February 21, 2pm at Little Union Baptist Church. She said Mrs. Fannie W. Fitzgerald was well received as the guest speaker at the event. She said her presentation was very moving as she detailed her experience as one of the first African American teachers to help integrate the Prince William County Schools in 1964.

Ms. Meredith Lopez led the students of the Dumfries Elementary School chorus in their performance at the event. Mrs. Holtzlander said the performance was wonderful. The attendees were also treated to an inspiring performance from the Little Union Male Chorus.

Mrs. Holtzlander also thanked Council for supporting the event with special thanks to Vice Mayor Washington, Councilman Toney and Council Lady West for their assistance the day of the event.

Mrs. Holtzlander said March was going to be a busy month and she told of the following events:

Sat. March 7th - HDV Paranormal Presentation - 7pm Council Chambers

Sat. March 14th - Akeru Women's Urban Self Protection Seminar 2-4 pm

Fri. March 20th - Seniors/Retirees Mtg. 1pm Community Center

Sat. March 21st - Spring Festival 10am-1pm Merchant Park

Fri. March 27th - Sun March 29th - HDV Civil War Encampment Merchants Park

Sat. April 4th - Quantico Creek Clean-Up 8am - 12pm.

Mr. Washington told Mrs. Holtzlander that she did a beautiful job on the Black History Month Celebration.

Mayor Yohey asked Mrs. Holtzlander if she was aware of a second performance of the HDV Paranormal Presentation. He said there was a second presentation at 8:30pm.

Mrs. West and Mr. Toney both complimented Mrs. Holtzlander on the wonderful program at the Black History Presentation. They thanked her for all that she did.

Mr. Tkac said he would volunteer to operate the camera for the HDV Paranormal Presentation on Saturday.

Mrs. West also said that she would be happy to help with the creek cleanup on April 4th.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

Mr. Brewer made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda with second by Mr. Washington. Ayes: Washington, West, Toney, Cornell, Barr, Brewer, Yohey. Motion carried.

Information Items

None

Action Items

Approve Sponsoring Boys State Delegate in the Amount of \$225.00

Mr. Brewer made a motion to not approve this item. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Mrs. West made a motion to sponsor a local boy from within the Town limits to attend Boys State at a cost to the Town in the amount of \$225.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Toney. Ayes: Barr, Cornell, Toney, Washington, West, Yohey. Nay: Brewer. Motion carried.

Ms. Barr said she felt we needed some type of system to support this type of request in the future. Mrs. Holtzlander agreed and said we need a set amount.

Mr. Huggard recommended that a scholarship program be set up for this type of situation. Ms. Barr said she would volunteer to help Mrs. Holtzlander establish a set of guidelines. It could even be set up with a scholarship line item.

Approval of Community Grant Funding Application

Mr. Brewer made a motion to approve the Community Grant Funding Application. His motion was seconded by Mr. Washington. Ayes: Washington, West, Toney, Cornell, Barr, Brewer. Nay: Yohey. Motion carried.

Denial of Release of E&S Control Bond TDSP-07-001 for the Town Center in the amount of \$25,109.10

Mr. Washington made a motion to deny the release of the E&S Control Bond in the amount of \$25,109.10 for the Town Center. His motion was seconded by Mr. Brewer. Ayes: Brewer, Barr, Cornell, Toney, West, Washington, Yohey. Motion carried.

Approval of partial release of Performance Agreement Bond TDSP-07-001 for the Town Center in the amount of \$764,000.00.

It was Mr. Tkac's recommendation that \$664,000.00 be released and \$100,000.00 of the performance bond be retained to accommodate outstanding punch list items.

There was a great deal of discussion as some Council members thought releasing this was tied to the money that involved the recreation facilities that were removed when Mr. Singh's building and the parking lot were put in. It was explained that that this money was in no way connected to the recreation issue. Mr. Brewer made a motion to approve the partial release of the Performance Bond in the amount of \$664,000.00 as presented by staff. His motion was seconded by Mrs. West. Ayes: Washington, West, Cornell, Brewer. Nays: Toney, Barr, Yohey. Motion carried.

Discussion Items

None

Council Members Time

Mr. Brewer said he would like to send condolences to the Bray family on the loss of their daughter Jackie.

Mrs. West said her trip to the landfill was a wonderful experience. She said she would never feel the same way about the landfill again. She said to stand up there is totally different and it certainly was an education. She was truly amazed. She said she would like to thank Mr. Reed and Mr. Leake for the time they took with them. She said she encourages everyone to take the tour if they have not been to the landfill.

Mrs. West also encouraged everyone to attend the 40th anniversary celebration for ACTS which is being held at the Marine Corp Museum. She said Mrs. Harris was recently presented with plaques, one by the county and one by her congressman. She felt that the town should do something to honor Mrs. Harris and ACTS as well.

It was the consensus of Council to invite Mrs. Harris to the April meeting for a presentation on behalf of the town.

Mr. Toney said he has attended a Solutions Summit meeting sponsored by the Prince William NAACP. He said in attendance was Dr. Michael Otaigbe and Mrs. Denita Ramirez from the Prince William County Schools, Mr. Dave Cline, Assoc. Supt for Finance and Sup. Serv., and Mrs. Allison Nourse-Miller, Associate Supt. for Western Elementary Schools. Mr. Toney said that in addition to information on purchasing foreclosed homes, Prince William County is hosting two job fairs for youths 16 or over who are interested in working in the PWCS Summer-hire program. They will be held at the following places and times:

Tuesday, March 24, 2009 @ 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Freedom High School (15201 Neabsco Mills Road, Woodbridge), and

Tuesday, March 31, 2009 @ 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Hylton High School
(14051 Spriggs Road, Woodbridge, Va)

Applications can be completed online at www.pwcs.edu/humanresources/ then select the "Summer Hire" tab for more information. Summer jobs will be posted in February. You must obtain two completed references and attend one of the two Summer Job Fairs.

Volunteers are also needed to conduct interviews.

Mr. Washington - expressed condolences to the Bray family and he said the Porter Family also lost an aunt.

He also said that he had been to the landfill in the past.

Mr. Brewer - said he can assure you that there have been no improvements at the landfill. He said all you have to do is come to his pool in the summer time and you would know there have been no improvements.

Mr. Toney made a motion to adjourn with a second by Mr. Washington. Ayes: Brewer, Barr, Cornell, Toney, West, Washington, Yohey. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Donna A. Johnson, CMC
Town Clerk

Fred E. Yohey, Jr.
Mayor

