

MINUTES OF REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
2009

OCTOBER 6,

Present: Mayor Yohey, Councilors Washington, West, Toney, Cornell, Barr, Brewer

Others Present: Kim Alexander-Town Manager, Greg Tkac, Chief Johnson, Cathy Holtzlander, Yolanda Hipski, Teresa Johnson, Linda Frye, Patty Degraw, Garnetta Rodriguez, Capt. Mackey, Retta Ladd, several citizens and business owners

Mayor Yohey called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM, the Pledge of Allegiance was given followed by the Invocation given by Vice-Mayor Washington.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Stephanie Bradley said that since people were present if it would be possible to move item 10a to 5a.

Mr. Chris Brown and Conrad Holtzlag echoed Mrs. Bradley's comment.

Mr. Milton Webb – Bassett Court, said that he hasn't seen any of the high paid employees over in his neighborhood.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Yohey reported on the meetings he had attended the previous month. He also reported that the Dumfries Business Association business directory for the Town of Dumfries and the surrounding area was underway. He said the distribution started in late September and will hopefully be completed by mid-October. He said a directory will be delivered to each home, trailer, and apartment as well as all businesses in Dumfries. He said approximately 1,500 directories will be delivered.

COUNCIL MEMBERS TIME

Vice-Mayor Washington thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. He said their comments were very helpful and he is very concerned with the citizen's outlook on the town police department, versus the County police.

Chief Johnson commented on the calls handled by the town versus the County. He said the report will clearly show that is county is the town's dispatch.

Mrs. West thanked all the citizens for coming out to the meeting. She said she needs to think about all of the citizens comments. She said Ms. Alexander is a great asset to the Town of Dumfries and she is willing to cut her salary considerably. She said the Council needs to work this budget out.

Mr. Toney said he had discussed having a part-time attorney, years ago. He said he had also presented in the past a committee structure which would keep the Council in check and it would give Council oversight. He said the Council needs to be more about the business of the Town. He thanked everyone and asked that they please come again.

Mrs. Cornell said having an in-house attorney had been discussed with VML. She also commented that she was happy that Ms. Alexander is here. Mrs. Cornell said that it does not bother her to lose her pay or part of it.

Mrs. Cornell apologized to the citizens of the Town and said she also had not looked at the budget. She further stated that the Council is really going to have to bite the bullet.

She thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting and she hoped they would come to other meetings.

Ms. Barr thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She reminded them that elections would be coming up in May. She said being on Council is not glamorous. She also told the businesses they need to advertise on the Town's website and in the quarterly news letter. She further stated that there needed to be further reductions in the budget line items. She also encouraged everyone to come by and meet the Town Manager.

Mr. Brewer expressed condolences to his wife's family. He also said he was glad to see everyone come out to the meeting. He said that the comments made by the citizens to turn the town back over to the County really disturbed him. He said he likes living in the town. He also announced that he will be giving up his pay during the remainder of his tenure effective immediately.

TOWN MANAGER/STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Alexander reported that she was drawing up a contract for Mr. Singh to sign which would formalize issues relayed in Council in Closed Session at the previous meeting.

She also reported that she had submitted an application to Prince William County for \$270,000 in CDBG funds for acquisition of real estate for the purpose of a public park/playground in the area of Williamstown, South Cove, and Port of Dumfries.

Ms. Alexander stated that she and Linda Frye had met with Mr. Campbell, Mr. Nat Turner, and the Town Attorney to work through outstanding issues. She reported that they should have everything resolved by the end of next week.

She also reported that the contractor had finished in the basement and the Town Staff is in the process of reviewing the contract and developing a punch list for the contractor.

Ms. Alexander also listed the many meetings she had attended and conference calls she had dealt with.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Washington moved for adoption of consent agenda, seconded by Mrs. West, all ayes, motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

b. Consider donation of space in town hall basement to ACTS for food pantry storage – Mr. Washington stated he thinks the town itself may be in need of that space and he would not want to donate the space if the town needs it.

Ms. Alexander stated the space, at this point, is not ready to be used by the town, for storage or anything else. Ms. Alexander stated ACTS would prefer something long term, but right now needs the space to get through the holiday season.

Mr. Washington stated he wouldn't mind that.

Mayor Yohey asked if that was the consensus of Council.

Ms. Barr and Mr. Brewer stated no.

Mr. Brewer stated he could not support it, it's too much of a liability issue.

Ms. Barr stated she is all for helping out, but the area is not presentable and the storage of food brings its own problems.

Mrs. West stated she went downstairs to the basement yesterday, it's clean, and the storage is not for fresh foods, it would be more for can goods. Mrs. West stated she feels the town needs to support organizations, such as ACTS, that are in the town.

Mrs. West moved to allow ACTS to use the town hall basement on a short term basis, seconded by Mayor Yohey.

Mrs. Cornell stated what about the people coming and going, and their access to the building.

Ms. Alexander stated it would only be ACTS workers, it would only be for storage, not distribution.

Mr. Brewer stated the town is not in the business of storing food, and would like to know how ACTS "was informed", according to their letter of request, "that the old Dumfries Police Department site may be available."

Mayor Yohey stated he received a call from _____, and locations were looked in the Dumfries Shopping Center, Mr. Campbell's property, and a warehouse area in Woodbridge, with no success, and at that point he advised Mrs. _____ to speak with the Town Manager.

Mr. Brewer asked if the Methodist Church still has their food program.

Mrs. West stated yes, Dumfries Methodist Church has a program called "Bread & Fishes".

Mrs. Cornell asked Mrs. West if she would amend her motion to state "only non-perishable foods" to be stored.

Mrs. West stated yes, she would amend the motion to include "only non-perishable foods".

Ms. Barr asked Mrs. West if she would amend her motion to state "a three month time frame".

Mrs. West stated yes, she would amend the motion to include "a three month time frame".

Mr. Toney stated he would not be supporting the request because he saw a mother and child put out of the shelter.

Mrs. West stated if that happened she is sure there were circumstances that lead to such action. Mrs. West stated the shelter is only one of several services that ACTS provides and would hope this discussion does not tarnish the wonderful services that ACTS provides to this community.

Mayor Yohey called for the vote: ayes: West, Cornell, Barr, Yohey; nays: Washington, Toney, Brewer, motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

- a. Consider adoption of amended FY10 budget, including real estate tax rate of .4173 for at least 2 billing cycles – Mr. Washington moved to schedule a work session for Friday, October 9, 2009 at 6:00 PM to discuss and consider the adoption of amended FY10 budget, including real estate tax rate of .4173 for at least 2 billing cycles, seconded by Mr. Toney, all ayes, motion carried.

- b. Consider accepting employment contract for part-time Town Attorney – Mr. Toney so moved, seconded by Mr. Brewer, all ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Yohey asked for a motion to adjourn. Numerous motioners, consensus of Council to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 PM.