

**DUMFRIES TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2009  
7:00 PM**

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

Absent: Councilman Brewer

Also Present: Kim Alexander, Town Manager; Kristi Caturano, Town Attorney; Donna  
Johnson, Town Clerk; Greg Tkac, Director of Public Works; Cathy Holtzlander,  
Director of Community Services; Yolanda Hipski, Director of Community  
Development, Chief Calvin Johnson, 5 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.

**Citizen's Comments**

Former Woodbridge Supervisor, Hilda Barg told the Council and audience about the cookbook  
that was recently published. The cookbooks sell for \$20.00 a copy and the proceeds benefit the  
Hilda Barg Homeless Shelter.

Mrs. Barg said she sympathizes with everything that the Council is trying to do. She said now is  
the time for Council to sit down and think about an incentive package to attract businesses to the  
town. She said perhaps a new business could be given a tax break for a year. She said now is  
definitely the time for the Council to put their differences aside and to come together. She said  
any arguing or disagreeing should be done behind closed doors. Again, she stressed the  
importance of the Council to come together and to look at everything.

She said she felt there were too many police officers and she felt that perhaps an assessment  
needed to be done to determine what is actually really needed.

Mrs. Barg said she owns two properties in the town and now is not the time to be raising taxes  
when the values are way down. She said when the taxes go up she has to pass this on to her  
tenants and they cannot afford it either

## **Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Yohey said he had attended 13 meetings during the previous month. He also said comments on the FY10 real estate tax rate and recommended actions made by him at the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were discussed on October 20<sup>th</sup>. He said it was his recommendation to lower the rate from .3533 to .3033 but only he and Mrs. West were in favor of doing so. He said there was a reporter present at the meeting but there was no story on this meeting in the local News and Messenger newspaper.

Mayor Yohey also reported that the Dumfries Business Association's business directory was delivered to all residents and businesses in Dumfries. He gave a special thanks to the Dumfries police auxiliary, Bob Price, Mr. Wheeler, Walter and Jennifer Stringfellow, Donna Hancock, Joann Dent, Patty Degraw, Bob Muhl and Gary and Council Lady Nancy West for helping him distribute the directories. In all about 1,500 directories were hand delivered.

The Mayor spent a great deal of time going over the difference between the calls for service counted by the Prince William County police department dispatch office and the statistics reported to the Town Council by Chief Johnson on his monthly reports.

He said he had tried to work these differences out without success. He said he felt this data was very important because it should accurately measure how busy the 12 -14 member police department is from month-to-month.

He told the Town Manager he wanted her to find out why there were no figures reported from the police department for the months of January, May, November and December of 2008. He also wanted to know why there was such a difference between what Chief Dean was reporting vs. what Chief Johnson is reporting.

## **Councilmember's Time**

**Washington** – no comment

**West** – no comment

**Toney** – congratulations to Mr. Torian for his win in the election. He also congratulated Rafael Lopez for a race well run. He welcomed Kristi Caturano and said he said he looked forward to a very productive association.

**Mrs. Cornell** - expressed condolences to the Bushey family, welcomed Ms. Alexander back from being out sick and she also welcomed Ms. Caturano.

**Ms. Barr** - said the budget process had been long and arduous and she thanked all of the citizens for attending the meetings. She said she hoped they continued to show up.

## **Town Manager's Report**

Ms. Alexander reported that she had attended meetings with Mr. Ducette from DEQ and with Mr. Dennis Leake from Potomac Recycling.

Ms. Alexander said when she met with Mr. Leake she broached the subject of the MRF and Mr. Leake indicated that they would not be interested in a MRF at this time.

Ms. Alexander said she also met with the Hashimi's and in addition she met with Frank Miller and Wendy Pope from the Port of Dumfries. Chief Johnson and Captain Ron Mackey also attended the meeting with Port of Dumfries, concerning problems they were having and she said the citizens may be seeing more foot patrol as it would address some of the problems they were experiencing in that neighborhood.

Ms. Alexander reported that ACTS would be moving their items into the basement of the Town Hall the following day. She also stated that she hoped to have some resolution on the Campbell issue by the time of the work session.

## **Police Chief's Report**

Chief Johnson extended his condolences to the Bushey family on the passing of Danny Bushey.

Chief Johnson also reported that the first soccer clinic was held and they had a wonderful turn out.

The date for Christmas in Dumfries will be on Saturday December 19, 2009. If anyone is interested in being a chaperone, please contact Chief Johnson at (703) 221-1111.

The Chief also reported that he had 364 calls for service for the month. Chief Johnson said that there are certain calls that Dumfries counts as a call for service that Prince Williams does not. He also noted that when both the Town and the County respond to the same call it is counted as the County's call.

Mayor Yohey commented on the accreditation. He said there was less than 2 months left to go. He said this is probably a "no go" as the Town Manager cannot justify the continuation of the program.

## **Director of Public Works**

Mr. Tkac thanked Ms. Hipski for loaning one of her employees to do the work downstairs. Mr. Pat O'Flinn did the electrical work and not only was it a lot of work but he did a great job.

Mr. Tkac said he wanted to make everyone aware that no one downstairs is able to access the town hall from there.

Mr. Tkac also commented on the following:

- He thanked the crew for supporting Mrs. Holtzlander at the Fall Festival
- Completed the audit report for the Urban Initiative Program
- Said he is making headway on Tripoli Boulevard

Mr. Washington asked about the stop signs on Van Buren and Mine Rd. Mr. Tkac told him that the person responsible for doing the design was laid off. He said he is having a difficult time with VDOT at the present time.

Mrs. West asked about the sign in front of the Dumfries Coffee Shop. She said the sign is totally obstructing the entrance. She asked if there was anything that could be done about the sign. Mr. Tkac said he is working with VDOT to have the sign removed, as it is a VDOT call.

Mrs. Cornell asked again about the Dumfries sign on Rt. 234 and Mr. Tkac said that VDOT said they did not destroy the sign and we would have to prove that they did.

### **Director of Community Development**

Mrs. Hipski gave her report and reported on the following:

- The Planning Commission met on October 19<sup>th</sup> and items for discussion included the Dumfries Elementary School Site Plan and ECOD
- She has initiated meetings in response to the recent fiscal situation. Meetings are initiated once every two weeks to discuss:

Reduction in costs  
 Increase user generated revenue  
 Improve services to citizens and Council and,  
 Better communicate findings and programs to citizens

Staff will soon bring new initiatives to Council for review and discussion.  
 Current initiatives under consideration include:

- Rental Program, currently in the Town Code Chapter 14,
- Special Conservator of the Peace
- Economic Development Initiatives

Mrs. Hipski also reported that the Codes Compliance Officer re-wired the basement area. She said he is a Certified Master Electrician through the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulations. As a Licensed Electrician, this employee saved the Town a minimum of \$5,000 since there was no need to contract an electrician.

### **Director of Community Services**

Mrs. Holtzlander submitted her report to the Council and verbally reported the following:

- Hosted the monthly Seniors/Retirees meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

- Hosted the annual Fall Festival on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The event is a collaborative effort between the Town and the Dumfries-Triangle Rescue Squad and grows each year.
- Is beginning preliminary planning for the 35<sup>th</sup> Christmas Parade to be held on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. This year's theme will be "Celebrate the Season of Giving". Mrs. Holtzlander also reported that she had received confirmation from the base that Quantico Marine Band will be joining the celebration.

Mrs. Holtzlander also thanked Tuck and Hugo for preparing Merchant Park for the Fall Festival and she also thanked the Department of Public Works and her family for all of their hard work the day of the Fall Festival.

### **Adoption of Consent Agenda**

Mrs. West made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda with a second by Mr. Washington. Mr. Toney asked that a change be made to the minutes of October 6, 2009 on the last paragraph of the first page. Mrs. Johnson told Mr. Toney that she would make the correction he requested. Ayes: Barr, Cornell, Toney, West, Washington, Yohey. Absent: Brewer. Motion carried.

### **Information Items**

None

### **Action Items**

#### **Approval of Temporary sign permit for Dumfries Car Wash at 17651 Main Street**

After some discussion the sign permit was approved for 25 square feet on each side of the street. The motion to approve the temporary sign permit was made by Ms. Barr with a second by Mr. Toney. Ayes: Washington, West, Toney, Cornell, Barr, Yohey. Absent: Brewer. Motion carried.

#### **Release of Irrevocable Letter of Credit for Capital Automotive Services**

Mr. Tkac reported that he had received a letter from Mrs. Ramzea Hamidi requesting the release of the Maintenance Bond/Letter of Credit for \$5,000.00 with Access National Bank. In accordance with the agreement, Capital Automotive Services guaranteed satisfactory condition of all required public improvements for a period of one year.

Mr. Tkac said he had reviewed the project and had concluded that the project has been properly stabilized and recommended the release of the bond in full.

Mrs. Cornell made a motion to release the Letter of Credit with a second by Mrs. West. Ayes: Barr, Cornell, Toney, West, Washington, Yohey. Absent: Brewer. Motion carried.

**Closed Session**

Mrs. West made a motion to enter closed session citing Virginia Code §2.2-3707 under Virginia Code §2.2-3711 A (1) Personnel. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cornell. Ayes: Washington, West, Toney, Cornell, Barr, Yohey. Absent: Brewer. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

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Donna A. Johnson, CMC  
Town Clerk

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Fred E. Yohey, Jr.  
Mayor