

Pearisburg Town Council met jointly in Regular Session with Pearisburg Planning Commission on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Pearisburg Town Council Chambers. Present for the meeting was Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Clark, Harrell, Journell, Ballard and Williams; Town Attorney Hartley; Town Manager Meredith; Town Clerk Harless; Assistant Town Clerk Williams; Building Official Wilson; Police Chief Martin; and Treasurer Hope Harrell. Also, present were citizens Dr. Noell Bissell of the New River Health District; and Virginian Leader reporter Amelia Whittaker.

Clark made a motion that Council approve the Regular Minutes to the February 12, 2019 Council Meeting. Journell seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Ballard, Journell, Harrell, Clark and Eaton. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Dr. Noell Bissell of the New River Health District presented the Council with information about the health department and its initiatives. She informed Council that sexually transmitted infections are a leading illness in the US. Most of the infections are treatable and curable with medication. The health department is exploring the possibility of providing a mobile unit to serve more remote areas that are in high need. They will provide testing, education, and treatment for Giles County residents. The Health Department is encouraging people to get tested. The department currently uses a three-prong approach which includes prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. Dr. Bissell informed Council about an event being held on May 29th for Dope Sick. Council will receive an invitation to this event, and she encouraged Council to attend. Mayor Dickerson and the Council thanked Dr. Bissell for attending the meeting and keeping them updated on current and future services provided to residents in Pearisburg.

Journell reported on the Public Safety Committee. She stated that Chief Martin informed the Committee that trash was not being cleaned from the office effectively. Williams inquired about the cause of the issue. Meredith stated that he had already addressed the issue with staff, and this will not be an issue moving forward. Effective immediately, staff will keep a log showing when they clean the building every Monday and Thursday. This log will be made visible and available to the Police Chief and other management staff.

Journell also reported that some issues have recently come up regarding the Fire Department Facility and those renting it. She stated that a flat screen television had been broken while it was rented for an event. Eaton inquired about the issues and Meredith replied that some water and sewer classes had been held there recently. Chief Martin stated that the TV in the media room was broken during one of the fireman rentals. Meredith stated that he would ask Fire Chief Scott to review the calendar to see who rented the facility that day. He stated that if a fireman is renting the facility, it would be best practice to be present during the rental. Chief Martin stated that the rentals are approved during the

business meetings by the building manager. Harrell stated that she had the calendar checked at the Town Hall and that in the last six months there were only four rentals by citizens, that staff were aware of being booked. Eaton asked if Chief Scott plans to address this matter. Meredith stated that he plans to speak with Chief Scott about the matter and agreed that someone needs to be accountable. Harrell stated that the only areas that citizens should have access to are the meeting room, kitchen and bathrooms. She was of the understanding the doors down the hallways would be locked. Meredith stated that one set of doors are not latching and will be repaired soon. Clark asked about the rental agreement and fees. Clark assumed janitorial services were included in the fees. Clark suggested a checklist be handed out to renters of their responsibilities. Hartley asked if there was any written policy for the fireman. He suggested staff do a comprehensive look at the whole situation.

Ballard reported on the Property and Recreation report. Clark asked about the downtown streetlamps and if there was a problem with the sensors. She asked if they come on at different times. She stated the lights appeared to be lit sporadically at night. Wilson replied that the lights have ballasts. He is scheduling an electrician to examine the lights and explore switching to LED lights. Clark asked about a missing globe on one of the poles. Wilson answered that it's scheduled for replacement.

Harrell asked about the heat not working at the Town Shop. Wilson stated that staff have been using a backup gas furnace. He plans to request funds to repair the old system in the new budget year.

Eaton reported on the Finance Committee. She stated that plans are being developed to repair the mural on the Ingram Furniture building this spring. Staff and the Giles Arts Council are reviewing a plan to construct the Living Mosaic near the LOVE sculpture in the downtown. Meredith briefed Council on the Budget Amendment. He stated that the amendment includes budgeting for a PC Technician for approximately two days per month. Meredith updated Council on the rental agreements for Shelton Place. Buzz Johnson has opened a bike shop in the former Dodson building and suggested Council waive the rent from December 2018 to May 2019 and June 2019 be set at \$250. This will provide him with six months occupancy at no rent. He stated that Josh Hollie will be opening a Barber Shop and suggested Council waive the rental fees from April to September 2019 and then from October to December 2019 set the rent at \$250. He stated that both tenants will receive six months occupancy at no charge, then rent will be increased to \$250.

Harrell made a motion that Council approve the Finance Report for February. Clark seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Ballard, Journell, Harrell, Clark and Eaton. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Harrell made a motion that Council approve Budget Amendment 2019-01. Williams seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Ballard, Journell, Harrell, Clark and Eaton. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

BUDGET AMENDMENT FY 2019-01

	Current Budget	New Amount	Difference
EXPENDITURES			
10.2900.8900 GENERAL	\$ 10,214.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 9,786.00
10.5000.1510 CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
21.3000.0200 PART TIME PC TECH	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
10.1100.0300 PART-TIME PC TECH	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
10.1000.1010 TRAVEL	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
10.5000.1504 POLICE RADAR	\$ 1,895.00	\$ 1,957.00	\$ 62.00
22.2100.9400 DEQ PERMIT	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 3,173.00	\$ 473.00
10.1000.4160 MASTER GARDENER PROJECT	\$ -	\$ 141.00	\$ 141.00
		Total	\$ 31,462.00
			0.73%
REVENUE			
10.0370.7250 SALE OF PROPERTY	\$ -	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 38,000.00
10.0340.4300 STATE ROAD AID	\$ 510,000.00	\$ 516,704.00	\$ 6,704.00
10.0340.4700 STATE FIRE AID	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,648.00	\$ 648.00
10.0370.8030 MASTER GARDENER PROJECT	\$ -	\$ 475.00	\$ 475.00
		Total	\$ 45,827.00
Current Amended Total	\$ 4,327,055.00	\$ 4,327,055.00	\$ -
	\$ 45,827.00	\$ 31,462.00	\$ 14,365.00
	\$ 4,372,882.00	\$ 4,358,517.00	\$ 14,365.00

For Council Action on March 12, 2019

Williams made a motion that Council approve the two rental agreements for Shelton Place for Ronald "Buzz" Johnson and Josh Hollie as presented to Council. Journell seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Ballard, Journell, Harrell, Clark and Eaton. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Meredith briefed Council on New River Eye Care concerning the recent Business Incentive Grant awarded to them. He stated that the applicant will not be using the grant funds on the current grant application proposal, but desires to use them for a sign to be moved later to a new facility located adjacent to the McDonalds. Hartley stated that the purpose of the grant was to improve the existing building. Meredith suggested the applicant could re-apply next year. Hartley felt Council should withdraw the grant since it will not be used as previously approved.

Ballard made a motion that Council withdraw the previous grant for New River Eye Care and deny the current application that was submitted for a sign that would be moved to the new location. Clark seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Ballard, Journell, Harrell, Clark and Eaton. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Eaton asked for further clarification about available funds in the budget for refinishing the gym floor at the Community Center. Meredith answered that in the Capital Project line item for the Community Center, the Town had budgeted to replace the guttering system. He stated that staff have not replaced the guttering system and that there are enough funds in the line item to repurpose the funds for refinishing the floor. After discussing the floor concern with staff, he recommended using the Capital Project funds to refinish the flooring and procure for a new guttering system in the next budget year.

Williams reported on the Public Works Committee. The Committee discussed recent water leaks and repairs, upcoming paving for spring, and testing of backflow preventers on County property.

Clark reported on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council. She stated the Advisory Council felt the basketball nets at the ball field need repair. Meredith discussed how much the basketball court was used and suggested raising the hoops to regulation height and replacing the nets. This item could be added to next year's budget. Meredith updated Council on the Creative Communities Partnership Grant (CCPG). Meredith recommended that Council award the Sub-Grant to the Giles Arts Council (GAC) in the amount of \$7,000. The Town matches \$3500 and the CCPG awarded \$3500. Clark stated that the Living Mosaic concept has been relocated near the LOVE sculpture downtown. Meredith is working with the County to assess the possibility of utilizing the location. Clark stated that the GAC suggested doing a winding concrete path with rocks made of river glass and rocks like the LOVE sculpture. Harless stated

that funds for the Music at the Market and Kids Art Program would be taken out of the \$7,000 budgeted funds. Meredith stated that the CCPG did not fund \$1,000 for music at the Pearisburg Festival. He thinks that Council should not consider applying for the grant next year until some of the other art projects have been completed. He also stated that other grants may exist that are more suitable for musical performances for which he could explore applying. He stated that the purpose of the grant was to support small Arts 501 C organizations. He spoke several times with the grant organization contacts concerning the grant process and how they fund the projects. He will research more about the musical performances grant.

Clark made a motion that Council release the funds for the Creative Community Partnership Grant in the amount of \$7,000 to Giles Arts Council. Eaton seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Ballard, Journell, Harrell, Clark and Eaton. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Meredith discussed Town Code Section 46-3 Inoperative Motor Vehicles on Private Property with Council. He stated that when reviewing the code, it appeared to be a contradiction between sections of the Town Code. In section 46-3 (a) of the Town Code, it states that an inoperable vehicle must be screened from view. In subsection (b), it grants the Police Chief authority to enforce the removal of inoperable vehicles that are not kept within a fully enclosed building or structure. He stated that further clarification from Council and the Town Attorney was needed. He felt that further clarification was needed to assist the police in their efforts enforcing the code. Hartley stated that the Town needs to decide how much notice to provide the property owner. Clark asked what the Town would do with the vehicles that were removed from the property. Hartley stated the Town could sell it as scrapped metal. Council discussed the proper way to shield a vehicle from public view if an inoperable vehicle is not enclosed in a building. Eaton asked what the Town considers to be shielded from view. She felt questioned whether utilizing a tarp to cover a vehicle satisfied the requirements of the Code. Chief Martin stated that officers require them to be covered with a car cover when the Code is being enforced.

Chief Martin stated that the Officer gives the citizen a generic letter with 30 days to comply before receiving a summons to appear in court. He stated the Judge normally fines the citizen and requires them to dispose of the vehicle. Chief Martin stated that his department looks for a fitted vehicle cover, and a tarp is not acceptable. The cover should not flap in the wind. Harrell asked about the time frame that is typically given to citizens to properly cover the vehicle or get it in working order. Chief Martin stated that if the custom vehicle cover meets their satisfaction it can sit there forever.

Ballard stated that the Virginia State code states the same for Section A and B. Hartley stated that the code sets out options for the Town and is contradictory and Ballard agreed the sections were contradictory. He suggested Council set a limit on how many vehicles could be shielded per resident. Clark asked if this included businesses. Meredith stated it could be enforced town wide. Ballard felt Council needed to clean up the definitions as to whether a vehicle needed to be completely enclosed or not; screened or covered; number vehicles allowed; partially or totally disassembled and license plates or inspection required or not. Hartley stated Council needed to decide what is considered operating conditions. Harrell asked about vehicles being used for parts. Hartley stated they would be considered salvage vehicles. Clark asked why this subject has recently come up. She asked if the Town was looking to make improvements or had complaints as to the reason to take this drastic step. Eaton felt that the town should either have the code and enforce it or remove the wording. Ballard stated that Chief Martin is already enforcing the current code. Hartley stated that the change was needed if the Town wanted the cars removed, then the ordinance would need to be changed. Meredith suggested staff tighten up enforcement. Chief Martin stated that Officers have already been meeting with citizens and handing out letters. He stated that they are very fair with citizens and inform them about what is not in compliance and how to correct the problem. The citizen has 30 days to comply before a summons will be issued.

Meredith stated that there are some businesses that have inoperable vehicles that have been sitting there for a significant number of years. There are some sections in Town where the cars have been there since the 80s or 90s. Journell asked if we have the ordinance to correct that concern. Hartley stated that the Chief is comfortable with the code and enforcing it currently then no changes are needed and if Council wants to go a different route, then the ordinance would need to be changed for the Chief to enforce.

Meredith felt there were some areas that were developing into a graveyard. Hartley stated they could potentially be charged with a misdemeanor. Hartley stated that it was a criminal penalty and that the judge normally gives 30 days to comply or be fined. Hartley suggested leaving the ordinance as is and have staff enforce it. He stated that Council might want to direct staff to proceed with the current policy and notify the businesses that the Town will be enforcing the code. Eaton asked if Council should add a limit. Ballard suggested including language in the code that the vehicle must be screened and shielded and add a limit on number of vehicles. Hartley stated that current code has no limit. Ballard felt that "shielded" or "screen from view" are both open to interpretation. Chief Martin stated that the officers inform the resident and give them 30 days to comply. Meredith asked if the Town would follow

the state code. He stated that businesses could then have inoperable vehicles for 30 days and after that it must be screened. Hartley suggested staff use administrative discretion. Eaton asked about the definition of "shielded from view." Hartley answered that if you can see the vehicle from anywhere on the property its within view. Meredith stated that he would work with staff and present a plan for Council in April. He felt that good enforcement would require the full support of Council. Ballard felt that Council should change paragraph B to match A. Chief Martin asked if we could put an article in the next newsletter. Meredith answered that we could do that and put it in the Virginian Leader, on our website and Facebook pages to educate citizens.

Meredith briefed Council on the need for to increase the amount of Interim Financing for the RD/UV Sewer Project to gain an additional \$88,000 due to meet the needs of the updated project budget. Meredith recommends the financing proposal from National Bank to ensure the town has funds readily available until we receive reimbursement from Rural Development on the project. He asked for permission from Council to advertise for Public Hearing to obtain Interim Financing.

Williams made a motion that Council direct the Town Manager to advertise for a Public Hearing for Interim Financing in the amount of \$1,625,000 for the RD/UV Sewer Project. Eaton seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Ballard, Journell, Harrell, Clark and Eaton. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Meredith updated Council on the status of the Parks and Recreation Revitalization Project. He stated that he had met with County staff on site the proposed new design by Council. They measured the baseball field using survey equipment and planted flags in the ground to reflect the potential repositioning of the baseball field. After doing the assessment, County and Town Staff concurred that the repositioned field would fit into the space as projected. Meredith stated that he felt the grading was feasible. There would be no need for a retaining wall. The current concession stand will need to be removed for the ball field green space. At this time, Meredith could not provide a cost estimate. Clark asked if there would be a drawing of the new layout. Meredith will get with Dennis Amos of Hurt & Proffitt on the plans. Meredith stated that County staff has a rough draft of the field and that he would ask for cleaned up image of the drawing. Meredith stated that up to four light poles would need to be relocated. Journell asked what the distance between stakes and PATS building was. Meredith stated they estimated a 30-foot backstop. Harrell asked what the advantage was of turning the field. Ballard answered that it would make it regulation size. Meredith stated that he was working on plans to add lights on the small field and repair drainage issues on both fields. Meredith will provide a cost estimate during the budget process.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

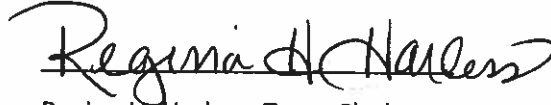
APPROVED:



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert L. Dickerson", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Robert L. Dickerson

ATTEST:



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Regina H. Harless", written over a horizontal line.

Regina H. Harless, Town Clerk