

The Pearisburg Town Council met in Regular Session on February 11, 2020 at 7:30 pm at the Pearisburg Municipal Building. Present for the meeting was Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton, Ballard and Journell; Town Attorney Hartley; Town Manager; Town Clerk Harless; Police Chief Martin; and Town Treasurer Harrell. Also present was citizen Lee Wheeler; and Amelia Whittaker, Virginian Leader.

Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular January 14, 2020 meeting as written. Ballard seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton, Ballard and Journell. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Journell reported on the Public Safety Committee. The Committee discussed the possibility of Pearisburg Public Works employees providing assistance to the Volunteer Fire Department on calls. The Fire Department struggles to provide coverage during the daytime. Meredith stated that new members are joining, but they are not yet trained to drive the trucks. Hartley felt that Town employees would be covered under insurance driving a fire truck. Meredith stated that the Town has employees that are members of other local fire departments. These employees are trained to drive the fire truck. The issue is that they live outside the eligible area. Meredith stated that the Town could work with the fire department to change the by-laws. Hartley asked if the Town insurance had advised us of any concerns. Meredith stated that Town employees who are qualified to drive the Fire Department vehicles are authorized by the Town of Pearisburg to drive the public works vehicles. Eaton inquired as to what consisted of the Pearisburg service area. Hartley stated that the Town has a primary service area and could change the bylaws as needed to increase the area. The Police Chief discussed applying for the COPS Hiring Program Grant and the benefit of adding an additional officer to the department. The grant would pay up to 75% of the salary and at the end of a three-year period the Town would be obligated to continue funding the position for a full year. Eaton stated that a crosswalk at the Library was very needed. She asked about a flashing crosswalk ahead type of sign. Meredith will work to identify options for Council's consideration.

Ballard reported on the Property and Recreation Committee. He stated that the weather has been an impediment to finishing the small ballfield. The Committee discussed property maintenance issues in town and the potential demolition of four vacant structures.

Eaton reported on the Finance Committee. Meredith stated that Hartley had reviewed the Granicus agreement for Agenda Management Software. He stated that the contract will renew along with a long-term financial commitment unless the Town notifies Granicus prior to the end of the 60-day trial period. Hartley stated that the contract is a standard one-sided contract and to put a reminder in place to notify Granicus within 90 days before the end of the 3-year if the Town if the Town wished to end the long-term agreement. The Committee discussed the transition to the new Edmunds Financial Management Software and how the conversation process was progressing.

The Committee recommended that Council approve the agreement with Granicus for the sixty-day trial period. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton, Ballard and Journell. The recommendation carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Eaton reported on the Public Works Committee. Staff are continuing to visually inspect each individual meter box in town and complete listening efforts for leaks. Town Public Works staff members will be assisting VDOT in maintaining corridors along Main Street and Wenonah Avenue when stormwater rises on the roadway. VDOT lacks the manpower and asked the Town to assist in the future. An easement was received from Mr. Pinter for the construction of the new sewer line on North Main Street.

Clark reported on the Library Advisory Board. She informed the Council of an effort to lobby State of Virginia officials for the Library to be fully funded and receive \$33,696 extra funding. Hartley asked what the Bill Number was and if it had passed. If so, it needs to go to the House. Hartley mentioned to Meredith that he could get the Bill Numbers and look up on the website or could check with Chris Hurst. Clark felt it would be great if we could receive the extra funds. Council agreed for Meredith to send letters of support to Senator Edwards and Delegate Hurst.

Meredith updated the Council on the UV/Sewer Project. He reported that test results on the UV disinfection system were collected in October 2019 and indicated that the system was operating effectively. He stated that last month some of the tests revealed levels of e coli that exceeded the mandated limit. The Town was still compliant with the mandated limit for the month because staff switched back to the chlorine gas disinfection system. The monthly average cannot exceed 125. Some samples had come back with readings in excess of 300, 300, and 500.

Staff immediately switched to operating with the chlorine method. The manufacturer of the new UV Equipment observed the sampling methods of staff and took samples of the flow coming into the trough and samples after exposure to the UV light. The test measured 2400 going in and 18 going out. Meredith stated that staff switched back to the new UV System after the better test results. He reported that the latest reading, after switching back to the UV system, was back to 517. Meredith stated that he had received a request for him to sign a document of Substantial Completion on the UV disinfection system portion of the RD UV/Sewer Project. He stated that he preferred not signing until the UV System concerns have been resolved. Staff are looking at the sampling methods and whether the dippers and containers are clean along with other parts of the sampling process.

Hartley advised staff to get the engineer and contractor together to discover the cause of the problem. Meredith stated that a technician mentioned the concrete could be an issue. Hartley felt that something on the surface could be causing the excessive contamination. Meredith stated there was a trough and it goes through the UV light. This is where the sample is taken. Staff have disinfected that area. Hartley asked if a sample could be obtained any closer to the UV lights. Wilson stated that the manufacturer watched staff take the samples and felt they were doing them accordingly. He stated that staff was equipped with metering equipment to monitor the intensity of the lights. He stated the lights were very clean and measuring accordingly. Eaton asked who had looked at the issue. Meredith stated that Dennis Amos and a technician from Hurt & Proffitt, the manufacturer of the UV equipment, Meredith, Wilson and Plant Operator Kast. They all felt fine with the turbidity of the inflow. At this point, all technicians have been unable to determine the problem.

Meredith outlined a proposal to create the Town of Pearisburg Beautification Advisory Committee. Pearisburg has a lot of potential and it's an entry point for citizens to develop ownership in Town beautification projects. Meredith stated that he believes a significant number of citizens are interested in helping Council and staff work on improvements. He would like to see citizens get more involved in Town projects in ways that are constructive. He stated that he felt it would be important for the Committee to begin with small successes that turn into larger ones. He also stated that it would create an opportunity for citizens to learn how to deliberate more effectively about public issues and make proposals that are based on good reasoning. He

believes the Committee could do a lot of good work that leads to positive outcomes for the Town. The Committee could help with better signage, flowers etc. Meredith proposes Council create this committee and begin to recruit members.

Williams made a motion that Council approve of the creation of a Pearisburg Beautification Advisory Committee and recruit members. Clark seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton, Ballard and Journell. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Eaton suggested that Council recruit a Councilmember liaison and reach out to individuals that have connections to civic groups and organizations to assist in supporting the committee.

Meredith discussed a letter received from the Virginia Department of Corrections stating their interest in using the old Lutheran Church facility located at 1701 Wenonah Avenue for the purpose of housing the Probation and Parole District #16 sub-office. He stated that they are asking the Council if they would require a Public Hearing for this use. He stated that the public hearing was not required but the Council could elect to have them hold a hearing. He asked how the Council felt and whether they wanted to require a hearing. Ballard asked if all the public in the surrounding area was properly informed. Meredith stated that he will contact the agency to see if citizens in the area were notified. Council tabled the item until the next meeting.

Meredith updated the Council on the Small Baseball Field Renovations. He stated that County Administrator McKlarney, County Public Works Director Williams, and County staff have worked well with Town staff. He stated that they have done a wonderful job. He explained that the infield is scooped out for the placement of infield mix. When complete, the infield will be raised several inches. The County Administrator and Staff recommended not putting the drainage on the infield because of its lack of utility and possibility of killing the grass in the area. The infield drainage goes to the sidelines and drains to the outfield through a ditch. He stated that Clark had asked if it would be prudent to go ahead and install the drain in the infield while the field is torn up and still needs finishing work. He stated that the Town had the drainage pipe in stock. He stated that he shared the concerns of County staff regarding the grass in the infield. He stated that the drain could make it difficult to grow grass directly on top of the drain. The field has been graded to drain water away from the field toward the edge. The outfield drains are placed just inside the fence. The plan is to keep the water from ponding, so it

dissipates quickly. He stated the concept was to grade the area that allows the water to drain to the outfield where the drainage system is installed.

Meredith updated the Council on a grant opportunity that Chief Martin presented to him. He stated that Martin would like to apply for the COPS Hiring Program Grant. According to Chief Martin, the proposed grant would pay 75% of the salary and benefits for 3 years. At the end of the three-year period, the Town would be obligated to fund the position for 1 additional year. Meredith stated that Chief Martin believes that it would be beneficial for the Police Department to increase its numbers to 8 Police Officers. The deadline for the grant is March 11, 2020. Meredith recommends submitting the application and budgeting for the Town's share of the additional officer. Clark felt that Pearisburg is changing, and it would be nice having two officers on duty at a time. Eaton asked if we currently had an additional cruiser for the proposed officer. Martin stated that he was scheduled to take one fleet vehicle out of service this year. He could keep this vehicle for the COPS Grant Officer. Ballard asked if the Town was obligated to accept the grant if it is awarded. Meredith answered that he felt that the Town may be obligated to participate if awarded. He stated that if the Council approved of submitting the application, he would like a motion to approve applying for the grant contingent upon Hartley's review. He answered that if he had to guess, then yes if the town applied and was awarded, they would have to participate. Ballard mentioned the grant was up to 75% and wanted Council to consider being awarded less. Ballard stated that he supported submitting the grant application. Chief Martin stated that based on history, he didn't think the Town would receive reduced funding. Hartley stated that he would need to look over the SF-424 Form and review it. Ballard asked if the Town was willing to do whatever maximizes the award amount by hiring a veteran. Chief Martin would be fine with this provision.

Eaton made a motion that Chief Martin apply for the COPS Hiring Program contingent upon Hartley's approval of the SF-424 Form prior to application submittal through COPS. Clark seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton, Ballard and Journell. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

On a motion by Williams, seconded by Ballard, passed by the following recorded vote, Mayor Dickerson, yes; Council Members Williams, yes; Eaton, yes; Ballard, yes; Journell, yes; Clark, yes; and Harrell, yes; Council went into Executive Session as permitted by Virginia Code §

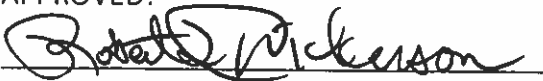
2.2-3711(A) (1), for discussion, consideration or interviews of candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the Town of Pearisburg and 2.2-3711 (A) (7) for consultation with legal counsel, and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Town; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the Town regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

On a motion by Williams, seconded by Ballard, passed by the following recorded vote, Mayor Dickerson, yes; Council Members Williams, yes; Eaton, yes; Ballard, absent; Journell, yes; Clark yes; and Harrell, yes; Council returned to regular session.

On a motion by Journell seconded by Ballard, and passed by the following recorded vote, Mayor Dickerson, yes; Council Members Williams, yes; Eaton, yes; Ballard, absent; Journell, yes; Clark yes; and Harrell, yes; Council certified that the subject discussed in this Executive Session was the subject identified in the motion to go into Executive Session and only that subject, and that Council discussed no other subject while in Executive Session.

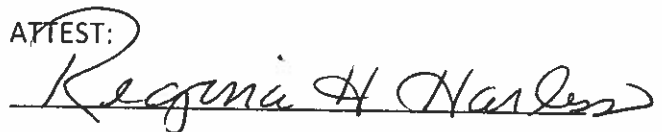
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:



Mayor Robert L. Dickerson

ATTEST:



Regina H. Harless, Town Clerk