

Pearisburg Town Council met in Regular Session on January 14, 2020 at 7:30 pm at the Pearisburg Municipal Building. Present for the meeting was Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton and Journell; Town Manager Meredith; Town Clerk Harless; Police Chief Martin; and Town Treasurer Harrell. Also present was Wayne Lucas, DJ Lucas, James Savesky, Linda Candelieri, Jeff Morris citizens; and Amelia Whittaker, Virginian Leader.

James R. Savesky representing the United States Census Bureau presented Council with information concerning the upcoming 2020 Census. Part of his job assignment is to recruit US citizens to go door-to-door to gather information needed for census data. He needs to hire 70 to 80 individuals from Giles County. The wage will be \$16 an hour with \$.58 per mile paid for travel. Job candidates must be at least 18 years of age, have access to a computer and transportation, and be able to work 20 to 40 hours a week. He encourages all interested candidates to visit his agency's website online at [2020Census.gov/jobs](https://2020Census.gov/jobs) in order to apply. It normally takes about 2 weeks for applicants to hear back regarding their application. If hired, applicants will be finger printed. Local citizens are especially needed. He asks that Council assist him in spreading the word. The Census may be completed by late June 2020. All residents will receive a postcard in the mail with 9 questions. He stated that filling out the survey is very simple. Residency is based on where the person lays their head on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The Census may be done electronically as well. Mr. Savesky is attempting to organize a Community Census Committee (CCC) that would be made up of key figures of the Town/County to help get the word out. He indicated that the Library played an important role by providing access to internet for workers and citizens to fill out census data surveys. When there is a low response rate the CCC will provide assistance informing the citizens of Giles about the importance of completing the Census Data Survey. He stated that government funds are based, in part, on area and population size. Therefore, it's imperative that the Giles communities assist the United States Census Bureau. He recommended Council adopt a Proclamation on census awareness. Savesky thanked Council for allowing him to present. Council thanked Savesky for providing important information on the Census for 2020.

Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular December 10, 2019 meeting as written with corrections noted by the Town Manager. Eaton seconded the motion.

Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton and Journell. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Mayor Dickerson opened the Public Hearing for a Conditional Use Permit Request by DJ Lucas. Meredith stated that Lucas has an agreement to purchase property from the IDA contingent upon the conditional use permit being approved. The applicant is requesting a permit to conduct business at the Mountain View Industrial Park (Tax Map # 40-9A & 40-9B). The property is zoned M-1. At the location he plans to store and sell landscaping materials, firewood, and provide a holding lot for timber being scaled, graded and sold. Meredith stated that he had received a call from Shirley Martin. She would like the area to be screened from view and kept in good order. DJ Lucas shared his plans and a picture of the proposed shop that would be constructed on the property. The shop would be a 50'x80' industrial tin structure. Meredith stated that the Planning Commission has recommended approval based on the following conditions: 1) Sign placement and size meet the requirements of the Sign Ordinance; 2) Building setbacks meet the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance; 3) Security lighting be installed; and 4) Fencing, landscaping, and screening be placed as shown on the site plan. After hearing no further comments, Mayor Dickerson closed the Public Hearing.

Williams made a motion that Council approve the Conditional Use Permit request by DJ Lucas to conduct a business at the Mountain View Industrial Park (Tax Map # 40-9A & 40-9B) with the following conditions:

- Sign placement and size meet the requirements of the Sign Ordinance
- Building setbacks meet the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance
- Security lighting be installed
- Fencing, landscaping, and screening be placed as shown on the site plan

Eaton seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton and Journell. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Mayor Dickerson opened the Public Hearing for an Abandonment of Right of Way by Robert & Linda Candelieri. Meredith stated the applicants are requesting the Town consider abandonment of an undeveloped portion of Walnut Road. The property lies between Orchard Drive and Willow Circle. The Candelieri's own both properties (Tax Map # 40A-4-8 & 40A-4-6A) abutting the proposed abandonment. Ms. Candelieri informed Council she had been maintaining

the property and would continue to take good care of it. After hearing no comments Mayor Dickerson closed the Public Hearing.

Journell made a motion that Council grant the request by Robert & Linda Candelieri to abandon an undeveloped portion of Walnut Road Tax Map # 40A-4-8 & 40A-4-6A. Eaton seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton and Journell. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Journell reported on the Public Safety Committee. A correction on committee notes was needed on Fire and Police reports. The month should be December on the notes not January. The Committee discussed possible grant for an additional officer. The Town would be obligated to employ the officer 12 months after the grant period ends. Meredith asked if a Police vehicle in current fleet was fully equipped for the officer to use temporarily. Chief Martin answered he would be able to provide the officer with a police vehicle in their fleet.

Journell reported on the Property and Recreation Committee. The Committee recommends the removal of a tree located adjacent to the Eastside Cemetery at a cost not to exceed \$1200. Wilson stated the tree would need to be climbed and topped. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton and Journell. The recommendation carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Eaton reported on the Finance Committee. Councilwoman Harrell would like discussion on payroll to be placed on the agenda for the February Finance Agenda. Eaton briefed Council on Treasurer Harrell's update on the new Edmunds Software. Staff continue to work with representatives from Edmunds to complete the transition from Harris to the new software package.

Eaton reported on the Public Works Committee. Staff informed the Committee that costs are being gathered to remedy a problem with a water line from Elm Street to Birchlawn Cemetery along Wenonah Avenue. Residents in the area have been experiencing sediment and discoloration in their water. Clark asked about the fire hydrant in need of repair at Foodlion. Wilson answered that the parts were ordered and have come in. The original plan was to wait on an easement. Staff plans to have the crew move the hydrant up the hill a short distance. Meredith stated that the Public Works Crew was tied up at the small ballfield assisting the County

on the drainage system. Plans are to finish at small ballfield before placing the hydrant back in service.

Meredith stated that work has begun on the VDHODW Grant and that Town staff have been in touch with Thompson & Litton.

Meredith briefed Council about an individual interested in renting the building located at 110 Elm Street. The renter plans to use the building for storage and pickup only and no other purpose. He set the rent at \$200 a month with a \$200 deposit. The potential tenant, Timothy Dalton, would like to hold auctions in the auditorium. Meredith informed him that it would require reservations and fees that are separate from the rent agreement. Mr. Dalton will place all utilities in their name and pay the providers directly.

Harrell made a motion to approve a lease agreement for 110 Elm Street with Timothy Dalton. Clark seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton, and Journell. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Meredith updated Council about a potential tenant, Hilda Sutphin, who has expressed interest in opening a consignment shop at 109 N. Main Street. Ms. Sutphin is very excited, and the property manager has shown her the property. Meredith proposed the Town offer her a one-year agreement with the first six months' rent waived, then increase the rent to \$250 per month for the remainder of the one-year agreement. He stated that this would be consistent with the initial offers made to others that have located in the buildings.

Eaton made a motion that Council approve a lease agreement between Hilda Sutphin and the Town at 109 N Main Street. Clark seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton, and Journell. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Meredith presented Council with the FY2021 Budget Calendar. Council advised Meredith to move forward on the annual budget process.

Williams made a motion to approve the FY2021 Budget Calendar. Clark seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton, and Journell. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Williams made a motion that Council re-appoint Town Attorney James Hartley, Town Manager Todd Meredith, Town Clerk Regina Harless, and Police Chief Jackie Martin to their respective positions. Journell seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton, and Journell. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Williams made a motion that Council re-appoint the Town Treasurer Hope Harrell to her respective position. Journell seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Clark, Eaton, and Journell. Abstaining: Harrell. The motion carried by a vote of 5 to 0.

Harrell made a motion that Council approve a Proclamation for Healthy Relationships Week. Clark seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton, and Journell. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

### **PROCLAMATION**

**Whereas**, violence in relationships often begins during adolescence creating long-term negative behavioral and health consequences leading to dangerous and unhealthy patterns in future relationships; and

**Whereas**, many young people may be afraid, embarrassed, or may not recognize the severity of the physical, emotional, or sexual abuse; and

**Whereas**, parents and other adults can be uncomfortable or unaware of the occurrence of abuse; and

**Whereas**, technology such as cell phones, email, and social networking sites play a major role in an adolescent's life, but these same tools are sometimes used for control, stalking, and victimization; and

**Whereas**, the Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley is one of hundreds of organizations across America hosting events to promote awareness of violence of any type and to empower the community to take actions to prevent it.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED**, February 2020 is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in the Town of Pearisburg, Virginia and February 10<sup>th</sup> – February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 is Healthy Relationships Week in Giles High School; and March 2<sup>nd</sup> – March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 is Healthy Relationships Week in Narrows High School.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that all men and women, young and old, of the Town of Pearisburg are encouraged to prevent violence of any type by educating themselves and others about the facts and modeling respectful behavior in all their relationships.

This 14<sup>th</sup> day of **January**, 2020.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Robert L. Dickerson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Regina H. Harless, Town Clerk

Meredith briefed Council on the proposed Transfer of Sick Leave Policy for employees. To date, the Town has not encountered any issues with employees exhausting their sick leave because of illness or family. Under the proposed policy, employees could donate unused sick leave to other co-workers with legitimate needs to use additional sick leave. All transfers of sick leave between employees would be subject to Town Manager approval.

Williams made a motion that Council approve the Transfer of Sick Leave Policy for Town Employees. Harrell seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Clark, Eaton, and Journell. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

**TOWN OF PEARISBURG  
TRANSFER OF SICK LEAVE POLICY**

An employee may donate unused sick leave to another employee who has exhausted his/her leave time in all forms (compensatory, sick, vacation) if approved by the Town Manager.

***Adopted by Town Council January 14, 2020 and effective immediately***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor Signature

On a motion by Williams, seconded by Clark, 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 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.

On a motion by Clark, seconded by Harrell, 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 Williams, 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:

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Mayor Robert L. Dickerson

ATTEST:

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Regina H. Harless, Town Clerk

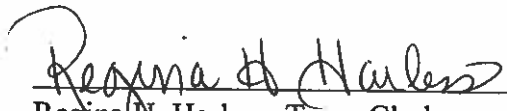
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ATTEST:

  
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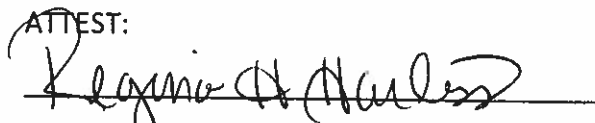
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:



Mayor Robert L. Dickerson

ATTEST:



Regina H. Harless, Town Clerk