

# TOWN OF BOWLING GREEN TOWN COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

#### MINUTES

# Thursday, January 07, 2021 7:00 PM

# CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM ESTABLISHED:

The Mayor called the meeting to order and noted a quorum was present in person and via Zoom. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

#### **PRESENT**

Mayor Mark Gaines
Vice Mayor Valarie Coyle
Council Member Jean Davis
Council Member Deborah Howard
Council Member Jerry Covington
Council Member Tammie Gaines
Council Member Jeff Voit
Council Member Arthur Wholey

## **TOWN COUNCIL 2021 ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:**

## **Meeting and Budget Schedules:**

Motion made by Council Member Voit, Seconded by Council Member Davis to approve the Monthly Meeting Schedule as well as to approve the Budget Calendar.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member T. Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey

Motion passed.

Melissa noted a date was wrong on the Budget Calendar for 2021-2022 and a schedule was put in front of council with the corrected date of April 29, 2021.

Motion made by Council Member Voit, Seconded by Vice Mayor Cole to approve the regular Meeting Schedule and Budget Schedule as amended.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member T. Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey

Motion passed.

#### **Election of Vice-Mayor:**

The nominations for Vice -Mayor were presented before the council were Council Member Howard and Council Member Coyle.

First nominated for the position for Vice-Mayor was Council Member Deborah Howard by Council Member T. Gaines.

Voting Yea: Council Member Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey Voting Nay: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington

Motion failed.

Second nominated for the position of Vice-Mayor was council Member Valerie Coyle by Council Member J. Davis.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member T. Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey

Motion passed

Council Member Valerie Coyle elected Vice-Mayor for a two year term.

## Mayor's Committee Appointments and Adoption of Schedules:

## Policy, Personnel, and Ordinance Committee:

Chair- Council Member Deborah Howard, Council Member Arthur Wholey , Council Member Jean Davis

## Utilities, Streets, Sidewalks, Buildings and Grounds Committee:

Chair-Council Member Jeff Voit, Council Member Tammie Gaines, Council Member Jerry Covington

Motion made by Council Member T. Gaines, Seconded by Council Member Voit with discussion to adopt the Committee Appointments as presented.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey

Motion passed.

#### **Appoint ex-officio member to Planning Commission:**

Motion made by Vice Mayor Coyle, Seconded by Council Member Davis to accept Council Member Jeff Voit as ex-officio to the Planning Commission.

Clarification on terms was requested by Council Member Voit.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member T. Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey

Motion passed.

#### **DELEGATIONS:**

#### **Proclamation:**

Proclamation by Mayor Gaines recognizing the outstanding efforts of volunteer's responsible for organizing holiday festivities has been moved to the February Town Council Meeting.

## Sean Brushett - Atlantic Broadband

Sean Brushett with Atlantic Broadband was not able to attend the meeting. Acting Town Manager Melissa Lewis read a letter with his apologies for missing the meeting and comments from Atlantic Broadband. Mr. Brushett plans to be available for the February Town Council Meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** This will be limited to three minutes per person

<u>James Hanley, 350 N Main Street</u> - Addressed Town Council on his opposition to the proposal to provide Health Care to the Mayor and Town Council.

<u>Jason Satterwhite</u>, 145 S Main Street- Former Mayor, Jason Satterwhite addressed the Mayor and Town Council also opposing the proposal to cover the cost of Health Care for the Town Council.

<u>David Storke</u>, <u>115 Maury Ave</u>- Addressed the Town Council as well, echoing the same thoughts of Former Mayor, Jason Satterwhite against the proposal to cover Health Costs for the Town Council.

<u>Whitney Watts</u>, <u>165 S Main Street</u> - Addressed the Town Council with similar comments and stated she echoed what the others were saying as well.

### **STAFF REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS:**

The following Staff reports were presented to Council:

Police Department Monthly Report - December 2020

Public Works and Utilities Dept. Monthly Report - December 2020

Economic Dev. & Events Coordinator Monthly Report - December 2020

Town Clerk/Treasurer-Acting Town Manager Monthly Report - December 2020

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

The following items were presented to Council:

December 2020 Bills (attached to these minutes)

# O-2021-001 Ordinance Updating 301 Tax District Parcels:

The summary for the O-2021-001 Ordinance updating the 301 Tax District Parcels was discussed. A motion to authorize the Town Manager to advertise a public hearing in the Free Lance Stare on January 19 and 26th was made by Council Member Voit, Seconded by Council Member Davis.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member T. Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey

Motion passed.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **Job Descriptions and Organization Chart**:

Motion made by Council Member Voit, Seconded by Council Member T. Gaines to schedule an additional meeting to discuss the Job Description and Organizational Chart. Work Session set for January 20,2021 at 7:00p.m. to discuss the proposed changes.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey

Motion passed

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Letters of resignation from Planning Commission from Jeff Voit and Arthur Wholey both of who have been elected to Town Council while serving on Planning Commission.

Motion made by Council Member Davis, Seconded by Council Member Voit to accept Jeff and Arthur's letters of resignations.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey

Motion passed

# **Establishing Meeting Rules and Procedures:**

Establishing basic meeting rules and procedures to allow for productive meetings.

Mayor Gaines spoke regarding establishing procedures to properly lead the Town Council Meetings in a timely and orderly fashion. Mayor Gaines stated the meetings should not linger and keep Town Council Members and staff out and away from family. With everyone's cooperation meetings should flow quickly, giving council the courtesy to address all issues and still end at a reasonable time.

# R-2021-001: - Health Insurance Coverage for Council and Mayor

Some members of the Council have shown interest in joining the Town's group insurance policy. Motion made by Council Member Davis, Seconded by Council Member Howard to not approve R-2021-001 Health insurance Coverage for Council and Mayor

Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Voit and Council Member Howard all agreed and voiced their comments to oppose the request for Health Care Insurance Coverage for Council Members.

Motion passed

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey

Motion passed.

#### **Utility Disconnection Moratorium:**

In December the Virginia General Assembly passed a bill putting in place a moratorium for utility disconnections due to non-payment. The bill allows for relief from the moratorium if our total arrearages are 1% or greater than our annual operating revenue.

Motion made by Council Member Howard, Seconded by Vice Mayor Coyle to advertise for a public hearing to be held for House Bill 5005 Utility Disconnection Moratorium.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member Gaines, Council Member Voit Voting Nay: Council Member Wholey

Motion passed.

## **Consideration of EDA Appointment:**

Motion made by Council Member Voit, Seconded by Council Member Wholey to re-appoint David Storke for the Economic Development Authority for the term ending November 03, 2024

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey.

Motion passed

Motion made by Council Member T. Gaines, Seconded by Council Member Howard to elect Jerry Covington to the Economic Development Authority for term ending November 03, 2024

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey.

Motion passed.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

## REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES/MEMBER COMMENTS:

No comments from Council Committee Members

#### **CLOSED SESSION:.**

Motion made by Council Member Voit, Seconded by Council Member Davis to enter into closed meeting pursuant to VA Code section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the discussion or consideration of the performance and employment of the Police Chief

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey

Motion passed.

### **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Motion made by Council Member Davis, Seconded by Council Member Voit to reconvene in Open Meeting.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey

Motion passed.

## **CERTIFICATION:**

Council certified that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were discussed or considered in the meeting by Council.

Mayor M. GainesYes	Vice Mayor CoyleYes
Council Member DavisYes	Council Member HowardYes
Council Member CovingtonYes	Council Member T. GainesYes
Council Member VoitYes	Council Member WholeyYes

Motion made by Council Member Voit, Seconded by Council Member Gaines to approve Justin Cecil as Chief of Police under the employment of the Town of Bowling Green.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council MemberT.Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey.

Motion passed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Council Member Voit, Seconded by Council Member Davis to adjourn.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Coyle, Council Member Davis, Council Member Howard, Council Member Covington, Council Member T. Gaines, Council Member Voit, Council Member Wholey

Motion passed.

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