

TOWN OF BOWLING GREEN

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

03-03-2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor David W. Storke, Vice Mayor Glenn McDearmon, Jean Davis, Otis Wright, Jason Satterwhite, Daniel Webb, Glen Lanford, and Mary Frances Coleman.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Manager Stephen Manster, Treasurer Kathy McVay, Town Clerk Virginia Brooks, Public Works Director William Stanley, Police Chief Steve Hoskins, and Town Attorney Andrea Erard.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Council Member Wright followed with the invocation.

DELEGATIONS:

Susan Sili – Bowling Green Arts Commission Chairperson – Mrs. Sili shared with Council some information about the Town that she had gathered over the last thirty years. She said she had never seen anything like the way the Bowling Green Arts Program has been received by the community. Ms. Sili indicated that it was something that resonates with people in some kind of universal language that made a believer out of her. She said people from many different areas who had never been to Bowling Green, came to the last two art shows. Ms Sili stated that it was no small feat to turn the Town Hall into an art gallery in a couple of hours. She expressed appreciation to Public Works Director William Stanley, Town Manager Stephen Manster, Town Staff and especially Mark Mallin and Hardy Dunnington who through their creativity doubled the number of artists from the previous year by doing a different layout in the Town Hall. She said Mr. Mallin has an artist list with over 100 area artists. She noted that their Bowling Green Art Program is something to be proud of. Mrs. Sili said their next event is an Art Show & Sale in support of an Art & Garden Walk on May 13 & 14, 2011. She said the Art Show and Sale would be held on the Courthouse Lawn and the Courthouse will be open. Ms. Sili said they also have a working date for an event the Council is calling “Art in the Alley” to be held on September 24th with more information to come later. Mrs. Sili said

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April 1st was their deadline to apply for a \$5,000.00 Grant as they did last year from the Virginia Arts Council. She said they were asking for support of their application for that Grant by requesting the \$5,000.00 match as the Town did last year. In answer to a question from the Mayor, Mrs. Sili said they had approximately \$4,000.00 left from the previous grant (including the match). She said the Town is also in partnership with the School System with their art projects. **On motion by McDearmon, seconded by Mr. Wright, the Town Council voted to authorize the Arts Commission to apply for a Virginia Arts Council Challenge Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 with matching funds provided by the Town. Voting Aye: McDearmon, Wright, Satterwhite, Webb, Lanford, Davis, and Coleman.** Mr. McDearmon said the Art Show in December was a quality event and he had heard many good comments about it.

Linda Thomas – HistoryMobile – Ms. Thomas was present to ask Council to adopt a Resolution that had been given to them regarding the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission's HistoryMobile. The HistoryMobile presents a multifaceted, interactive experience of the Civil War in Virginia through the eyes of a soldier, civilian, and slave. Ms. Thomas said the Museum Board of Directors has been working diligently for the last three years to hold a grand opening for the Museum. She said they had always hoped to have the grand opening during the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Ms. Thomas said they just recently found out about this great opportunity to host the HistoryMobile. She said that in order to make the application for this traveling exhibition complete, they would need a Resolution from the Town to get the HistoryMobile. Ms. Thomas said this exhibition needs the support of the Town and the County. The Mayor said this seemed like a wonderful opportunity for this three day exhibit to be held in Bowling Green. **On motion by Lanford, seconded by Coleman, Town Council voted to adopt a resolution expressing support for the HistoryMobile Traveling Exhibit to come to Bowling Green. Voting Aye: McDearmon, Wright, Satterwhite, Webb, Lanford, Davis, and Coleman.**

Dale Brittle – Caroline Museum – Mrs. Brittle stated that the Museum Board had been working very hard to get the Museum ready for public display. She expressed appreciation to the Superintendent of Schools (who was present at the meeting) for allowing the schools to refurbish the display cases. Mrs. Brittle said the Museum Board are very interested in getting signage so people will know where the Museum is and what they are about. She shared with Council some pictures of what the signage they are proposing would look like. Mrs. Brittle said she thought this Museum would be a draw for Bowling Green and Caroline County, economically and the signs would point the way. She said the sign vendor they had chosen was Art & Sign, with whom the Town has worked with on other signs. Mrs. Brittle said the County said they did not have any

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money and therefore, did not obligate any money to help pay for signage. She said she is asking the Town to give some financial support to help with the construction and layout of the signs. She said the cost for the four black and gold signs was \$3,972.99 and Art & Sign was asking for 50% down at the time of the contract signing. Mrs. Brittle said Carolyn Roth and her Committee have been working very hard to prepare materials from the Historical Society for placement in the Museum. The TM said there would be no issues with sign permits from the Town but there may be building permits from the County that need to be secured. Mrs. Sili noted that the County has been super supportive of the Museum in preparing the building for its opening. Mr. Wright suggested Mrs. Brittle talk with the County to see if they will share in the costs of the signs. The consensus of Council was to table the request for financial support for the signs for thirty days until Mrs. Brittle can get with the County to see how much financial support they will give. The Mayor said he is confident that the Town will help with the costs of the signs. In answer to a question from the Mayor, Mrs. Brittle said they decided to approach the County and Town before they reach out to corporate sponsors.

Betty Rae Johnson – Relay for Life Chairman - Mrs. Johnson was present as the Relay for Life Event Chair to enlist Council's help in spreading the word about the Relay for Life event that is scheduled for May 14, 2011 from 10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. at the Caroline County Fairgrounds. She said they would also like Council's permission to "Paint the Town Purple" by placing purple bows around Town and asking businesses to pay \$5.00 each to place a bow on their doors. Mrs. Johnson stated that last year, the Relay for Life raised \$73,780.00 for the Cancer Society and this year their goal is \$80,000.00. She said last year Caroline County was one of the top teams in raising money. The consensus of Council was to allow the Relay for Life Committee to paint the Town purple. Mr. McDearmon stated that Relay for Life has been a great event for the County for a long time and he suggested they get the word out into the community about the purple ribbons. He also suggested they put that information on the Town's government channel and web site.

Dr. Gregory Killough – Caroline County Schools Superintendent – Dr. Killough said he wanted to give Council an update on what the schools are doing and where they are at this point in their budget process. He shared with Council that the school system had received a \$6,000,000.00 Federal Grant for the Bowling Green Schools to create a Pre-K-5 school at the Bowling Green Primary School. He said one of the main reasons they want a K-5 school in Bowling Green is because the principals and teachers at Madison and Lewis & Clark K-5 schools immediately noticed they had better control of their kids because they get to see them from the beginning until they go to Middle School. He said the camaraderie and flow of reading and math scores were stronger. He

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said they needed \$9,000,000.00 for that project so they are still in need of \$3,000,000.00. Dr. Killough said he would be working with the Board of Supervisors and School Board to get that done. Some of the points of his presentation are as follows:

1. The graduation rate in 2008 was the lowest in the State at 75.2% and they now ranked at 78% and they were 105 out of 131 school divisions for on-time graduation for the class of 2010.

2. For dual enrollment, thirty students in seventh grade have been identified that will be in the first cohort in this whole region (including Stafford, Spotsylvania, Fredericksburg) that will graduate with their associate's degree before they get their high school diploma. Dr. Killough said they have all the classes in place with a partnership set up with Germanna Community College. He said they offer the largest number of dual enrollment classes in the State.

3. Many of the people working with kids in Caroline have a salary below the poverty level.

4. All of the nurses employed in Caroline schools are registered nurses, one of the few counties that have all RN's in their school system.

5. Forty five teachers left the School System in 2010 with most of them taking jobs in other localities or moved north.

6. Dr. Killough said he believes what draws people to a community is what the people believe about their educational system.

7. Dr. Killough said the most important thing in education is to build a foundation. He said if a child in second grade is not reading on a 2nd grade level or higher, the statistics show you have about lost that child.

8. Dr. Killough said they were doing homogeneous grouping and they are doing it at an advanced level across the board. He said he wants advanced students pulled together and then pull others up to that level. Dr. Killough said he would like to see people get away from the statement "closing the achievement gap" and let the kids who are high achievers fly and pull the others up and when they are ready, let them fly.

The Mayor said the Economic Development Committee has taken on this issue at their last meeting. He said the schools are the number one reason we don't have more

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businesses and residents because the perception out there is that the school system is second rate. The Mayor said they should have volunteers in the schools tutoring and mentoring kids in grades K-2. Mr. Lanford said he would like Dr. Killough to think about what the Town Council can do to help him help the kids.

William Newborg – General Manager of Metrocast – Mr. Newborg introduced Robert Penbrook, Technical Operations Manager for Metrocast. Mr. Newborg gave Council an overview of what had been done since he was at the last Council meeting about a year ago. He said they have added approximately 400 new homes with Metrocast services. Mr. Newborg said they also have about 59% of their customers subscribing to internet and 41% of them subscribe to telephone. He said they did a rate increase in February due to packaging programming which means they can't just buy the programs that they want. He said the other big driver was gasoline, utility cost, salaries and benefits with the addition of eight new employees. Mr. Penbrook said they were starting to come out with their wireless internet, cordless telephone service and a DVR in a multiple rooms. Mr. Newborg said business customers should have already seen the increase in internet speed and the residents should see it some time in June 2011.

In answer to a question from Mr. Lanford, Mr. Newborg said they basically cannot buy programming ala carte anymore. He said there was a time they dealt with individual programming but they are not in negotiations anymore because there are 8 to 10 large corporations who own 80% of the programming. They tell the cable companies where to put channels and what to buy if they want the best rates. Ms. Coleman said that during the change over to digital, she had found it more difficult to see what channels are available. Mr. Penbrook said she needed to upgrade to the digital box. Mr. Satterwhite said before the Volunteer Fire Department was upgraded to fiber, they had digital service but since then they had been downgraded to extended basic. Mr. Newborg said he would check into that to see if there is anything he could do for them.

CONSENT AGENDA: On motion by Mr. Satterwhite, seconded by Mr. McDearmon, Council voted to approve the following Consent Agenda, as presented.

- A. Minutes - Regular Meeting – 02-03-2011
- B. Bills – February, 2011

A & M Home Center	165.22	Amerigas Fredericksburg	2,636.72
Bennett, Deborah T	360.00	Bowling Green Auto Parts	70.88
Caroline Sheriff's Office	768.00	CE&O Inc.	260.00
CINTA's of Richmond	302.48	ComputerPlus	181.50

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Davis & Associates	2,620.00	Dominion Chemical Co.	281.00
ERA	611.56	Erard Andrea	1,250.00
Food Lion Inc.	52.96	G & G Farm Service	110.40
Hach Company	58.20	Johnson’s Exterminating	190.00
Lakeway Publishers of VA	106.95	Manster Stephen	337.44
Mid-Atlantic Lab	60.00	Millard Juliet	150.00
Miller Foley Group	1,400.00	On Site PC	261.39
Poster Compliance Ctr.	79.00	R K Construction LLC	800.00
REC	610.23	Rudy’s Truck Repair	684.45
SOSMETAL Products Inc	641.02	Stamp Fulfillment Ser.	274.60
Staples Direct	57.33	Streamline Fence Co	475.00
Superior Lamp Inc.	482.53	The Supply Room Co.	181.04
Travelhost of Central VA	200.00	Treasurer of VA	807.77
USA Blue Book	770.56	Verizon Wireless	186.53
VUPS	24.15	VISA	224.35
Wardico	705.84	Waste Management	8,085.03
*Verizon	275.52	*Shell Fleet Plus	972.47
*Dominion VA Power	5,256.82		

***Bills previously or separately authorized by Council.**

C. Authorization to Advertise Ordinance to Change the Date of the Town Elections

Voting Aye: McDearmon, Lanford, Wright, Satterwhite, Webb, Coleman and Davis.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: The following informational items were noted.

- A. Town Hall Rentals – February, 2011
- B. Police Department Report – February, 2011
- C. Public Works Director’s Report – February, 2011
- D. January, 2011 Treasurer’s Report

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Town Manager’s Report

Washington/Rochambeau Victory Park – The Town Manager (TM) reported that

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the Washington/Rochambeau Victory Park was moving forward. He said VDOT had stated that the eight modifications to the drawing that Town Council had suggested could not be added to the project. The TM said the County has submitted the most recent drawing that was reviewed and accepted by Town Council and the County as the proposed project concept. He said VDOT is currently reviewing the proposal and once approval is given, it will be sent back to the County and bid documents will be prepared and construction bids will be solicited.

Plat of Minor Subdivision and Various Easements – Pump Station Property – Route 301 – The TM asked Council to note the plat of a minor subdivision they had received which would ultimately provide Town with an 8,000 square foot lot and related easements on which the Town will place the sewage pump station for the Route 301 water and sewer extension project. The TM said that at their table was a larger version of the plat with a modification. In its review of the Plat, the Planning Commission noted that they wanted an adjustment in the orientation of the plat and some other concerns dealing with the State Grid Coordinate System. He said the note concerning the State System has been added and the Plat has been adjusted as per the Planning Commission's wishes. The TM said the Planning Commission, by unanimous vote, granted preliminary approval of this Plat. He said they are asking that Council grant final approval, and approve the Mayor to sign the Plat. In answer to a question from Mr. McDearmon, the TM said there were not any outstanding issues or ramifications they should be aware of in the Plat. In answer to a question from Mr. Webb, the TM said this Plat meets all the Town's ordinances even though the north arrow on the Plat is not straight up on the page. Mr. Webb added that the Town's ordinance requires the north arrow to be straight up the page. The TM said in talking with the Engineer, the orientation toward the top of the page is the way the presentation will be submitted, and not straight up on the page. Mr. Webb said his company has run into problems where they have had to change a plat because north wasn't straight up the page and he suggested that Planning Commission had identified that as an issue as well. The TM said the Planning Commission has noted that the bigger problem is with the Town's ordinance and not the Plat. Mr. Webb asked if Town Council did not have an issue of approving a plat that does not meet the Town's ordinance. The TM said for this particular item, he doesn't believe there is any issue. Mr. Webb said it concerns him that this is a Town project and they are not going to hold the Town and their engineers to the same standard to which they may or have held other people. He said he wanted to make sure the Town was consistent. The TM said the point that the Planning Commission made is that there is a need to review and possibly revise sections of the Subdivision Ordinance in order to insure that regulations can best be applied to all situations. He said the Planning Commission will work with Staff to review the Ordinance and develop certain potential amendments for discussion and

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consideration. Mr. Webb said the Plat looked good and as long as no one has issues, he will agree with it. **On motion by Mr. Webb, seconded by Mr. Wright, Council voted to give final approval to the Plat of a Minor subdivision on the 301 Corridor. Voting Aye: McDearmon, Wright, Satterwhite, Webb, Lanford, Davis, and Coleman.**

Invitation to Farewell Reception for Caroline County Administrator Percy Ashcraft – The TM reminded Council that they were invited to farewell reception for County Administrator Percy Ashcraft who is leaving to take a job in another locality. He said the reception would be on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 4:00 P.M. at the Community Services Center.

Activity Classes in Town Hall – The TM said they are experiencing success with the classes they are holding at Town Hall, in particular the yoga classes. He said at the present time they have 30 people enrolled in the yoga classes and they are held three times a week. The TM said they would like to look at an adjustment in the rates so that people can be encouraged to attend all three classes at a reasonable cost. He said that of the thirty people, eleven are Bowling Green residents. The TM said they will be working on a fee structure to encourage greater participation.

International Conference – Philip Sheridan – The TM said they had received correspondence from Bowling Green Resident Philip Sheridan, who works at the Meadowview Research Center on Rt. 2, just north of Town. He said Mr. Sheridan has told him of a group called the International Carnivorous Plant Society (of which Mr. Sheridan is a member) who is looking for a place to hold their International Conference which will be attended by 60 to 200 people. The TM suggested they join Mr. Sheridan and invite and encourage the Society to hold its annual international conference here in Bowling Green. He said they could allow this non-profit group to use the Town Hall at no charge and it would be an economic benefit to the Town. The TM said this would make other associations aware that this facility is available for that type of event. The Mayor said there needs to be criteria for use of this Hall but it could be a great economic benefit to the Town. **On motion by Mr. Lanford, seconded by Mr. Webb, Council voted to offer the free use of Town Hall to the International Carnivorous Plant Society to hold their annual conference in June, 2012. Voting Aye: McDearmon, Wright, Satterwhite, Webb, Lanford, Davis, and Coleman.**

Revenue Decrease – Bank Stock Tax – The TM said they had been made aware recently that revenue from the Bank Stock Tax for the current fiscal year will be dramatically lower than the anticipated amount. He noted that because of that, he would

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be meeting with Staff to look at areas where they can save some funds for the current fiscal year. The TM said his greatest concern is the long term affect of this reduction. He said he believes that in the coming budget year this will cause them to look at some very drastic and dramatic changes in the way they do things. He said he would be talking with the Budget and Personnel Committees about these things.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES/MEMBER COMMENTS:

A. Public Health and Safety/Personnel – Mr. McDearmon said they have met and will continue to be in discussions about the utilization and expectations of auxiliary police in the future.

B. Building and Grounds – Mr. Wright said there were three new rentals scheduled for Town Hall in February. He said people are booking ahead for events. Mr. McDearmon asked if there was a count for the number of rentals in the past year. He said he would like to see how that is going.

C. Ordinances, Licenses, Permits – Mr. Satterwhite said their Committee had met to discuss the Golf Cart Ordinance and a draft was included in Council's packet. He said they are also waiting for a response from VDOT. He asked for comments or questions from Council. Council held an extended discussion on issues, such as safety, that may be a problem by allowing golf carts in Town. The consensus of Council was that traffic on Main Street needs to be slowed down even if they don't allow golf carts.

D. Water, Sewer and Trash – There was no report from the Water, Sewer and Trash Committee.

E. Streets and Sidewalks – Ms. Coleman said the Streets and Sidewalks Committee had met and will be looking at some beautification on the business district of Milford Street and more plants for Main Street. She said they are also looking to improve the appearance of the front area of the Town's well site on Broadus Avenue.

F. Budget – There was no report from the Budget Committee.

G. Economic Development/Activities Tourism – Mr. Lanford stated that he, Mr. Webb, Mayor Storke and the Town Manager met to discuss several items. He said they discussed the need to continue to provide for infrastructure, and support for the downtown businesses. Mr. Lanford said the County had designated the Town of Bowling

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Green as a “technology Zone” which allows the County to provide incentives to groups that develop technology projects and place signs in significant places around Bowling Green.

He said the Committee also realizes the importance of “quality of life” to the overall development and sustainability of a community. Mr. Lanford said the Committee would like to develop a proposal for an accessible park and playground for children in Bowling Green and bring a proposal back to Town Council.

Mr. Lanford said the Town Council needed to get involved with the Board of Supervisors to promote the education of our children and upgrade the perception of our school system. Mr. Lanford said they need to address it and do what they can to help the schools. He said he was very concerned to hear the School Superintendent say only one in four students will go to college and SAT scores are among the lowest in the State. Mr. Lanford said the number one reason people move to a location is the school system. He said he will try to meet with Dr. Killough, administrators, and teachers to see what they can do as a Town to help their efforts with the school system. The Mayor said he is glad Dr. Killough came to the meeting and the budget he is proposing is not ridiculous; teachers haven’t had a raise in three years. He said Town Council needs to stand up and say they have a problem with the schools and say they will be part of the solution. The Mayor said they need to get together and form a task force of volunteers to fix our schools. Mr. McDearmon said there has been a huge change in administration and he is glad to hear what is being planned for students.

Marketing of the Town Hall - The Mayor said they touched on the marketing of the Town Hall earlier in the meeting as a draw for the Town. He said he and the TM met with Tourism Coordinator Kathy Beard and Economic Development Director Gary Wilson. He said they discussed how they could best look at the Town Hall as an economic benefit. Mr. Webb suggested that \$500.00 for the use of Town Hall for the day was a bargain but he was all for reducing the price to bring people in. Mr. McDearmon suggested the Building and Grounds Committee, Economic Development Committee and Staff should look at the policies to see how they can better market the Town Hall. Council also discussed different ways they can market the Town Hall. The Mayor suggested Town Hall was not a good marketing name for events. The TM suggested naming the Town Hall the “Bowling Green Conference and Event Center.” Mr. Wright suggested that when they do the dedication for the 301 Project, they also do an Open House for the Town Hall Lobby. Mr. McDearmon suggested they need the Town Hall policy reviewed, name change consideration and more renovations for the front office and kitchen. Mr. Wright said he thinks if there is someone who wants a free use, they

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should still come to the Town Council with that request. The Mayor appointed Ms. Coleman and Ms. Davis to serve on a committee with five citizens of the Town to come up with five names to rename Town Hall.

Thank You - Glen Lanford – Mr. Lanford thanked everyone for the well wishes, calls, cards, gifts and the deli tray from the Town, at the birth of his baby girl.

Sign for Town Hall – In answer to a question from Mr. McDearmon, the TM said he had been talking with the contractor and negotiations are ongoing on the cost of a Town seal for the Town Hall Lobby.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Mr. McDearmon, seconded by Mr. Wright, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 PM. Voting Aye: McDearmon, Wright, Satterwhite, Webb, Lanford, Davis, and Coleman.

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