

Workshop Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: The Town of Grottoes Town Council held a workshop meeting on Monday, May 14, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Emily Holloway presiding.

ATTENDANCE: Council Members present were: Mayor Emily Holloway, Council Members Mark Keeler, Marjorie Funk, Joshua Bailey, Mark Sterling, and Councilman Tim Leeth arrived late.

Other Town Officials present were: Town Manager Jeff Nicely, Town Treasurer Rhonda Danner, Tourism and Parks Director Nathan Garrison, Public Works Director A.J. Hummel, and Police Chief John Painter.

Mayor Holloway stated that the reason she suggested meeting early was because some people had questions regarding the change from the parks committee about the fence for the playground. Town Manager Jeff Nicely stated that Nathan has gotten some quotes for fencing. He stated that we have priced split rail fence and chain link fence. He stated that they priced a fence just around the playground like the one that was previously there and they also priced a barrier fence to start at the walking trail and run along the edge of the road past the playground. Jeff stated that this would keep people from parking along the road and maintain visibility for kids crossing to the shelters. Councilman Marjorie Funk stated that she doesn't think a split rail fence is a good option. Town Manager Jeff Nicely stated that he is concerned about how the vinyl would hold up. Mayor Holloway asked if we needed to put a fence back. She said it has been down for a while and we have received two complaints. Councilwoman Marjorie Funk stated that she has also received a couple of complaints. Councilman Joshua Bailey stated that there are playgrounds in Harrisonburg that don't have fences around them but they also are not up against a road. He asked if it was an option to move the playground equipment. Town Manager Jeff Nicely stated that we could check into it but it may be difficult if everything is cemented down. Councilman Mark Sterling stated that we need a new quote for a green chain link fence modifying option A to run from the walking trail to the front of the playground down to the tennis courts.

Town Treasurer Rhonda Danner reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of April. She stated that we received the highway money. She stated that there was a \$35,000.00 payment to Adkins for the 4th Street waterline. She stated that Council does not have a copy of the bills to be paid because the Excel file would not open on her computer.

With no further business Mayor Holloway adjourned the workshop meeting.

Mayor Emily Holloway called the Town Council Public Hearing to order and welcomed the citizens. Town Treasurer Rhonda Danner called the roll. Members present were Mark Keeler, Joshua Bailey, Mark Sterling, Emily Holloway, Marjorie Funk, and Tim Leeth. Also present were Town Treasurer Rhonda Danner, Town Attorney Nathan Miller, Town Manager Jeff Nicely, Tourism and Parks Director Nathan Garrison, and Police Chief John Painter.

Mayor Emily Holloway stated that the Public Hearing was to hear citizens' comments regarding the FY 2018 Budget Adjustment.

Town Manager Jeff Nicely gave a staff report stating that in March the Town Council voted to pay off the loan for the purchase and improvements to the Town Hall and also the land that we purchased across the street. He stated that the amount to satisfy the loan was \$254,651.00 which saved the Town over \$8,000.00 in interest. Jeff stated that we transferred funds from the reserve accounts to pay the loan. Town Attorney Nathan Miller asked if we have received the loan release from the bank. Town Manager Jeff Nicely replied that we have.

With no other comments made, Mayor Holloway adjourned the Public Hearing.

Mayor Emily Holloway called the Town Council Public Hearing to order and welcomed the citizens.

Mayor Emily Holloway stated that the Public Hearing was to hear citizens' comments regarding the FY 2019 Annual Budget.

Town Manager Jeff Nicely stated that in the FY 2018 budget the Route 256 sidewalk project was completed and the 4th Street water line project has also been completed. He stated that we got the digital control panel installed at the wells and installed a four-way stop sign at the intersection of 20th Street and Forest Avenue. He also stated that we worked with VDOT to get golf cart crossings along Dogwood Avenue. He stated that the fitness trail was completed and named after Mike Betts, who did a lot of the work to get that completed at Grand Caverns. Town Manager Jeff Nicely stated that the Town maintenance staff has done a lot of work on the pond at Mountain View Park and they have gotten the aerators installed. Town Manager Jeff Nicely stated that the Nuisance Ordinance was updated and has been enforced. He stated that he is starting to see improvements around Town. He stated that the Town website and Grand Caverns website have been updated and are up and running. And, wrapping up the year, stating the Town events were very successful.

Town Manager Jeff Nicely gave a staff report explaining the proposed budget and stated that there is a 1% increase from last year. Town Manager Jeff Nicely stated that there are no increases in any taxes by the Town. However, he did state that there is an increase in

assessments, which is done by Rockingham County. Town Manager Jeff Nicely stated that the budget includes the replacement of 17 police radios because of the ECC upgrade, insulation and heat in the maintenance shop and a new lawn mower. He stated that the trash services will be contracted out to Waste Management which will increase the bill by \$2.08 per billing. Town Manager Jeff Nicely stated that this budget includes remodeling the upstairs to the Stone Lodge at Grand Caverns, and the addition of a dog park and a new playground fence.

Also included in this year's budget is a two percent pay increase for all full-time employees who haven't reached their top pay scale. Town Manager Jeff Nicely stated that the Town will continue to pay health insurance premiums for covered employees.

Town Manager Jeff Nicely asked if anyone had any questions regarding the proposed budget.

With no Council or citizen comments made, Mayor Emily Holloway adjourned the Public Hearing.

Mayor Emily Holloway called the regular Town Council meeting to order.

Councilwoman Marjorie Funk made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2, 2018 Special Meeting and the April 9, 2018 Workshop and Town Council Meeting. Councilman Tim Leeth seconded the motion. Council members Mark Keeler, Joshua Bailey, Mark Sterling, Marjorie Funk, and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

FINANCE

Councilwoman Marjorie Funk made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2018. Councilman Tim Leeth seconded the motion. Council members Mark Keeler, Joshua Bailey, Mark Sterling, Marjorie Funk, and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

ORDINANCE, HEALTH AND PROPERTY

Councilman Mark Keeler made a motion to accept the resolution to change the Mayor's term from two-years to four-years. Councilman Joshua Bailey seconded the motion. Council members Mark Keeler, Joshua Bailey, Mark Sterling, Marjorie Funk, and Tim Leeth voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Councilman Tim Leeth announced that the Grand Caverns pool opens on May 26th and we have a Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 28th beginning at 11:30 am. Councilman Tim Leeth stated that the Street Dance will be on Friday, June 1st from 6-10 pm across from the Town Hall.

Town Attorney Nathan Miller stated that he represents three localities and he has to admit he gets some pretty tough questions from the Grottoes Town Manager. He stated the last question was are bees considered to be an animal? Nathan stated that this is not a law question but a very interesting question and to help answer that question he presented Jeff with the Amazing Bee Book.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Holloway adjourned the meeting.