

**MINUTES OF THE TIMBERVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**October 11th, 2018**

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Timberville Council was held Thursday October 11th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town’s council chambers with Mayor Donald Delaughter presiding.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robert Blosser, Juanita Price, Sharon Jones  
Todd Thomas, Carl Turner

**PRESENT:** Austin Garber, Town Manager  
Melinda Cleaver, Clerk/Treasurer  
Mark Callahan, Town Attorney  
J. R. Dodd, Police Chief  
Cecilia Valdez, Events & Marketing  
Dilan Lambert, Maintenance  
Beverly Garber, Town Historian

**GUESTS:** Paula and Butch Bowman            Victor Pou  
Natalie Sherlock                                Gwen Wagner  
Sarah Berry                                        Michael Schweigert  
Megan Conley  
Lindsey Conley  
Shaina Beach  
Hunter Smith

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Donald Delaughter led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Carl Turner and seconded by Todd Thomas to approve the minutes of the September 13th, 2018 council meeting. The motion carried with all present members voting in favor.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

General Fund	\$53,909.34
Water/Sewer Acct.	\$91,670.25
Savings Account	\$1,217,182.93
Loan balance	\$890,807.37

Council would like a quarterly report of capital outlay accounts and the budget. The auditor reports are back from fiscal year 17-18 audit.

**BILLS FOR PAYMENT:** A motion was made by Todd Thomas and seconded by Juanita Price to pay the bills as presented. The motion carried with all present members voting in favor.

**POLICE REPORT:** Chief J. R. Dodd reported that the Police Department does fall fire arms training in the Spring, Summer, Winter and Fall as well as active shooter training with Harrisonburg and JMU. He points out how well trained the officers are. Chief Dodd also reported that some of the grass ordinance violations should be slowing down with changing weather.

Special trash pick-up will be this month. He reported on areas that are being cleaned up with some that are still in violation, but states there is a lot positive response with ordinances.

As part of community events, the police department went to Cargill on September 14<sup>th</sup> for Active Shooter Training and it was well received. Wal-Mart suggested Shop with a Hero program, but there are some issues with funding and may be put off until next year. Chief Dodd will reach out to civic groups and churches to see if they would be interested in donating. Stop, Drop and Run event Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM with proceeds going to the Timberville Fire Department. Hero's Day at Plains Elementary School next month will consist of lunch with the kids and a reading event after school.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Town Manager Austin Garber gave the council a list of the jobs completed by the maintenance crew. A copy will become part of these minutes. The survey for annexation and rezoning was received with the metes and bounds description of the area the town wants to annex from the Spitzer family. The total is 32.825 Acres minus 3 acres that Sentara wants to purchase since that amount is included in the total. The remainder would be vacant property in the town limits. To do the annexation there needs to be a public hearing. Austin Garber recommends to set that up for the next month's council meeting if council directs him to do so. Also, that works with Sentara's timeframe. Mayor Delaughter reminds council that Austin requests the rezoning from A-2 to B-1 and the additional acreage that will be annexed from A-2 in the county, to A-1 agriculture. Attorney Mark Callahan endorses Austin's recommendation to A-1. Robert Blosser made a motion to move forward with necessary public hearings at the next council meeting and advertising for three properties zoning to be B-1 for the three acres under contract with Sentara and A-1 to match Timberville zoning with remaining acreage. Sharon Jones second the motion with all present members voting in favor.

Chris, Derrick, Bob and Austin met with the engineer about connecting in with Food Processors which is the water coop. Carl Shaffer has concerns about combining the two waters because of the hard water in town and the water coop draws from the river which makes their water soft. He does not think this will be a viable option due to the effects of scaling. The Spring is now producing about 200 gallons per minute. Austin points out that it is much more economical to use the Filtration Plant and the Spring and to go back and look for other sources. The Town may be able to use the growth area on Mr. Swope's property or the Spitzer property. If the Town did want to use Food Processors water, that could be an option for different zones in the town and potentially for the growth area. We also have use of the small Well on C Street, but that's only used as a supplement to the Spring. The Capacity of water used a day in Town is 180,000 gallons and there is over twice the capacity in our holding tanks for what our daily consumption is.

During Planning Commission Meeting the Crist building (yellow building across from the restaurant on the corner of Church Street and North Main) was discussed. There is a hole in the building and the roof beams have sunk down to the basement floor. The integrity of the structure is in question due to safety. Austin asked council if they want to make a motion to start the process with the county to make this a blighted property. Carl Turner made a motion to approach the county to make an assessment of the Crist building. Juanita Price second the motion with all present members voting in favor.

Austin Garber met with VDOT for their quarterly drive around Town. They looked at site distance issues, drainage issues and side walk issues. They are supposed to be fixing the side walk on North Main Street

up from the Museum. VDOT states they have no record of right of way for North Main Street because it's so old, but they have determined that side is their responsibility. They also have the riser on order for the manhole for the Fire Department.

Austin also reminded everyone again about special trash pick-up being Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Residents can put out a pickup load per household with two tires. No paint in buckets or hazardous materials.

Austin went to the VML Conference September 30<sup>th</sup>- October 2<sup>nd</sup> and attended different seminars. One in particular was the state budget and how it affects localities.

A group from Fulks Run Elementary School did some clean up at the Park where they picked up sticks for a community service project. Austin is going to contact the school to see if there were any pictures taken so he can put them on our Facebook page.

Robert Blosser wants the public works crew to look at the sidewalk on Maple Avenue where a tree was taken out because it can be a tripping hazard.

**BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY:** Mayor Delaughter commented on our Marketing/Events Coordinator, Cecilia Valdez's social media posting on the Jewelry Vault and Randy's Hardware. Austin introduced her and Dilan Lambert from the Maintenance Department as our newest employees.

CKC creations will open this Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and Cecilia will be posting pictures on Facebook. Natalie Sherlock spoke again on behalf of the new Christmas Village and how it's not so much about the Christmas Village but what it does for the Town. It drives economic development from tourism, building stronger community bonds, and giving small businesses in town a boost to their own social media. The Christmas Village will be open Friday-Sunday starting November 23<sup>rd</sup> through December 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will have local vendors set up like a Christmas Village with a 25 foot tree set-up in the middle in the Food Lion shopping center. She states that the local vendors and local businesses want to work together to promote each other. Natalie asked council to waive business license fees for vendors. Sharon Jones made a motion to waive business license fees for vendors at the Christmas Village. Todd Thomas second with all present members voting in favor. All vendors will still report to the town office to obtain a business license and any vendor selling food will still pay meals tax. The 7/11 is projected to open December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**ZONING ACTIVITY:** Melinda Cleaver reported the following zoning activity:

265 Walnut Dr- addition to front porch	3047 Declaration Dr- new fence
204 Memorial Park Dr- new pool	368 Fifth Ave (Farm Bureau) - grain silos

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Mayor Delaughter reported on the county work crew being in the area to do power washing and clean up.

**FINANCE:** Austin Garber asked that council decide on a percentage for Personal Property Tax Relief. The County's percentage for this year is at 47%. He recommends for the town to go with 44%, which is also last year's percentage. Robert Blosser made a motion to adopt 44% for Personal Property Tax Relief. Sharon Jones second with all present members voting in favor.

Austin Garber spoke on investing Town funds with different options the bank has. The savings account is currently gaining 0.35%. He does not recommend using CD's and tying funds up for a longer period of time without being able to make withdrawals. A money market account is currently available with the

option of making 6 withdrawals a month. The current interest rate is 1.79%. Robert Blosser would like to see what it takes to get the money moved to this account. He wanted to make sure this account qualifies and its 100% collateralized.

Each council member and the mayor was given a copy of the audit report for fiscal year 17-18.

**PERSONNEL:** New employees – Cecilia Valdez and Dilan Lambert

**PLAINS DISTRICT MEMORIAL MUSEUM.** Historian Beverly Garber reported on happenings in Timberville. Melinda Cleaver reported the upcoming event on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4 PM will be a lecture and discussion on quilts and quilting.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Austin Garber received an email from Dennis Turner from the Salvation Army and wanted to know if anyone from the Town would be interested in ringing the bell at the Christmas Village. If interested, let Austin know.

Mayor Delaughter read a thank you note from Wilda Wine.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** No further business, the meeting adjourned.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

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Melinda Cleaver, Clerk

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Donald Delaughter, Mayor