

MINUTES OF THE TIMBERVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

May 13th, 2021

A meeting of the Town of Timberville Council was held Thursday May 13th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. electronically on zoom with Mayor Donald Delaughter presiding.

MEMBERS:

Carl Turner-Present	Ned Overton-Present
Debbie Jessup-Present	Sharon Jones-Absent
Natalie Sherlock-Present	Clarence Fox-Present

PRESENT:

- Austin Garber, Town Manager
- Melinda Cleaver, Clerk/Treasurer
- JR Dodd, Chief of Police
- Quinton Callahan, Town Attorney
- Cecilia Valdez, Marketing/Events

AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MEETINGS ELECTRONICALLY: Town Manager Austin Garber read a statement detailing the authority to conduct electronic public meetings to address essential business, citing the Declaration of Local Emergency, the Resolution Authorizing Electronic Public Meetings and the Emergency Ordinance to Address Continuity of Operations, The declaration, resolution and ordinance were adopted at a special meeting held on Tuesday, May 26th, 2020. These orders are in effect for 6 months from the date of adoption. Timberville Town Council and town staff were in attendance. Transaction of business by the meeting participants was conducted through the Zoom electronic conferencing platform and was live streamed on the Town of Timberville's YouTube channel for public viewing. Required notifications were listed on social media outlets and sent by email.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Carl Turner made a motion to approve the April Council Minutes and the April 13th Budget Minutes. Clarence Fox seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Carl Turner-Yes	Ned Overton-Yes
Debbie Jessup-Yes	Clarence Fox-Yes
Natalie Sherlock-Yes	

TREASURER'S REPORT:

General Fund	\$127,377.21
Water/Sewer Acct.	\$152,119.33
Loan Balance	\$641,170.18
CAT Financial	\$12,947.25
American Legion Park	\$180,000
Money Market Acct.	\$1,263,399.12

BILLS FOR PAYMENT: A motion was made by Natalie Sherlock and seconded by Carl Turner to pay the bills as presented for the month of May.

Roll Call Vote:

Carl Turner-Yes	Ned Overton-Yes
Debbie Jessup-Yes	Clarence Fox-Yes
Natalie Sherlock-Yes	

Mayor Delaughter gave an update on the different items completed at the Sports Complex. He stated that it looks like most items are coming in under budget.

RAILS TO TRAILS RESOLUTION: Town Manager Austin Garber stated that the resolution shows support for the Rails to Trails Project. It doesn't commit the Town to any funding. Town Attorney Quinton Callahan reminded that if the resolution is passed it allows the group to use the Town's logo for marketing to show support for the project. Ned Overton made a motion to approve the resolution as printed. Clarence Fox seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Carl Turner-Yes Ned Overton-Yes
Debbie Jessup-Yes Clarence Fox-Yes
Natalie Sherlock-Yes

FY 2021-22 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Delaughter started the public hearing around 7:10 PM. The mayor explained that capital projects totaling \$303, 753.00 were going to be added to the current loan balance of \$641,170.18. That will extend the current loan out to 9 years, keeping the monthly payment amount about the same. The capital projects include:

- Police department building renovation (including cages and evidence storage)
- Upgrading in-car cameras and body cameras
- Upgrading tasers
- Lexipol Software for up-to-date laws
- Funding for a blighted property in-town.
- Sidewalks/Crosswalk on McCauley Drive
- Paving Virginia Ave West
- Brush Cutter

A proposed \$1.50 increase per month for trash charges, along with a 3% increase in water and sewer rates.

Carl Turner stated that during the last budget meeting, Maintenance Supervisor Chris Coffman informed Council of some significant infrastructure repairs in the future. Carl stated he would like to see the water and sewer connection fees increased in preparation for these expenses, that way it wouldn't tax the actual resident. Austin Garber stated that the current rate for in town water and sewer connection fees are \$4000 each. Out of town rates are \$4500. Debbie Jessup asked how our rates compare to other localities. Austin Garber stated that we are in line with neighboring localities, but reminded that you have to look at each one's situation to compare. Austin Garber suggested to make the new rates effective January 1st, 2022, that way builders would have time to purchase connections fees at the current rate. Carl Turner stated he didn't think it would stop anyone from building in town and they would pass the fees on. Carl Turner made a motion to increase water and sewer connection fees by \$500 each for the proposed budget. Debbie Jessup seconded the motion. With a 3-2 vote, the motion passed.

Roll Call Vote:

Carl Turner-Yes Ned Overton-No
Debbie Jessup-Yes Clarence Fox-Yes
Natalie Sherlock-No

Town Attorney Quinton Callahan wanted clarification that the connection rates were effective July 1st, 2021. Mayor Delaughter confirmed that they were.

Mayor Delaughter opened it up for public comment. Town Manager Austin Garber received no questions or phone calls previous to the meeting. Mayor Delaughter closed the public comment section. After being alerted to the message, Austin Garber read a message from town resident Sarah Berry. Sarah sent a message through YouTube Live chat asking why raising taxes isn't being discussed if there is a very real concern about multi-million-dollar infrastructure projects on the horizon. Mayor Delaughter stated they did discuss raising taxes and had some good debates about it. The mayor stated that as of right now Council has not decided to go that route, but down the road that they will need to have that tough conversation of raising taxes.

FY2020-21 BUDGET AMENDMENT PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Delaughter explained that if an expenditure is more than 1% of the budget then the budget has to be amended per the Code of Virginia. CARES Act Funds in the amount of \$139,064.35, \$75,000 Pilgrim’s Donation and a water line project with an over budgeted amount of \$51,000 (due to increase cost of pipe and rock removal) are the items for the amendment. Mayor Delaughter opened up for public comment. After receiving no comment, the mayor closed the public comment section. Ned Overton made a motion to approve the amended budget. Clarence Fox seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Carl Turner-Yes Ned Overton-Yes
Debbie Jessup-Yes Clarence Fox-Yes
Natalie Sherlock-Yes

POLICE REPORT: Chief Dodd reminded that Police Memorial Week is this current week. It happens each year on the week where May 15th falls. The Chief was thankful for the items received and for the work the front office did to help bring some recognition to police week. Chief Dodd started an award and accommodation program for the department. Cecilia Valdez and Michele Dean from the front office designed the awards and the medals were purchased from Liberty Emblem. A video of each officer receiving their award from Chief Dodd was put together by Marketing/Events Cecilia Valdez. Town Manager Austin Garber played the video; however, the sound would not work. The video will be posted on Facebook.

The recipients and awards given are as follows:

Carmen Paniagua – Medal of Valor
Steve Scholten – Medal of Valor and Purple Heart
Jeremiah Nugent – Medal of Valor
C.K. Ray – Medal of Valor

Chief Dodd stated that the Timberville and Broadway Departments have a great working relationship. He stated it was great under Chief Collins and continues to grow under Chief Miller. Chief Dodd stated it is not uncommon to see both departments on calls together in both towns. He feels it is providing great service to both communities.

ADJOURNMENT: No further business, the meeting adjourned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Melinda Cleaver, Clerk

Donald Delaughter, Mayor