

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE COURT HOUSE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**
Monday March 16, 2015 7:00pm

A regular meeting of the Charlotte Court House Town Council was held on Monday, March 16, 2015, at 7:00 pm. Mayor Walker called the meeting to order. Council Members Watkins, Andrews, Kurdt, Jones, O'Neill and Haskins were present. Council Member Haskins motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Council Member Kudt motioned to approve the February 23, 2015 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 6 ayes and 0 nays. Council Member Andrews motioned to approve the financial statement as presented. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Citizen Comments None

Commonwealth Regional Council Annual Report Mary Hickman distributed copies of the Commonwealth Regional Council's (CRC) annual report. She stated that they are one of twenty-one planning commissions in Virginia, and are here to serve the citizens. She reported that the CRC's major role is to provide technical assistance to jurisdictions and that their current rate is \$50.00 per hour, which is substantially less than other professional agencies. Ms. Hickman reported that the CRC recently assisted the Town of Charlotte Court House in applying for a VDOT Transportation Alternatives grant, and will be happy to continue to seek out funding that the Town may be eligible for.

Resolution Supporting the Preservation of the Historical Integrity of the Thomas Jefferson Designed Courthouse and Square Council Member O'Neill stated that the latest courthouse design put forth depicts the new building located directly behind, and connected to the Circuit Court Clerk's office. He stated that moving the location approximately 50 yards to the north would be better. He reported that the design was not "Jeffersonian" and does not complement the neighboring historic buildings. Following discussion Council Member O'Neill motioned to adopt the following resolution: WHEREAS, much of the Town's identity and charm comes from the historic Courthouse Square and the surrounding core of historic buildings; and WHEREAS, The Town's most significant building is the Charlotte County Courthouse, an 1823 courthouse designed by Thomas Jefferson and individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of Interior; and WHEREAS, the Jefferson Courthouse was key to the Town obtaining its Historic District designation and being placed on the National Register of Historic Places; and WHEREAS, Charlotte County is being required to update the court facilities to meet current requirements for security and safety; and WHEREAS, all of the court facilities options presented to the public by the Board of Supervisors on October 30, 2014, showed construction on the Courthouse Square; and WHEREAS, Citizens speaking at a public comment period before the Board of Supervisors on December 2, 2014, were united in asking the County to preserve the historical integrity of the Courthouse Square and surrounding buildings; and WHEREAS, state and nationally recognized historians and historical organizations have written letters providing authoritative support to the citizens' opinions that the historical Courthouse Square must be preserved and that preserving the historical integrity of the Courthouse and Square requires that new facilities be built in a location off the Square; and WHEREAS, the County currently owns land which could be used for new court facilities including space for a free-standing courthouse on adjoining land or, with referendum, relocation on county land adjoining the County administration offices and jail; and WHEREAS, citizens at the March 10, 2015 Board of Supervisor's meeting requested that the new courthouse be located on County owned land adjacent to the existing parking lot, and not directly behind the County Clerk's office; and WHEREAS, citizens further requested that the architectural style of the new courthouse conform to the Jeffersonian style of the original courthouse; and WHEREAS, protecting the historical Courthouse Square is important to the economic vitality of the Town as it is one of the best preserved courthouse towns in Virginia, having one of the few existing buildings, and only remaining courthouse designed by Thomas Jefferson. NOW THEREFORE, BE

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IT RESOLVED that the Charlotte Court House Town Council requests that the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors direct the architectural firm of Glave & Holmes to provide an architectural plan that locates the new courthouse on the County land adjacent to the existing parking lot and that the new courthouse be redesigned to conform to Jeffersonian style architecture; thereby achieving the necessary improvement to the court facilities in a manner that preserves the historical integrity of the Thomas Jefferson designed courthouse and Square and locates the new courthouse away from the existing Square and with a lower architectural profile. The motion was seconded by Council Member Haskins and carried by voice vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Committee Reports Building, Grounds, Streets & Lights – Council Member Andrews stated that the committee would meet on Monday, March 23rd at 6:30 pm to discuss the grass cutting contract and other Town maintenance issues. Water – Council Member Jones stated that the committee would meet on Monday, March 23rd at 7:30 pm. He asked if any school officials had contacted the Town to inquire if the Town had the capacity to provide water to a new school building. Karen Price stated that she was contacted by the School Facilities manager several weeks ago. Financial – Council Member Watkins stated that the committee would meet on Monday, April 20th at 6:00 pm to start work on the FY15-16 budget.

Clerk's Report Karen Price reported that approximately 87% of taxes due have been paid. She stated that one zoning application was received and approved for the installation of a modular home near the Town limit on Woodfork Road.

Water / Maintenance Report Curtis Inge reported that he ordered a multi-function switch for the truck, which will cost about \$300.00. He stated that a major leak was located at the Early Learning Center and that over 220,000 gallons of water went through the meter. Curtis stated that VDOT has been contacted twice about cleaning out the culvert in front of the Farm Bureau building. He requested that dirt and debris cleaned off the streets not be put in Town trash receptacles.

Council Comments Council Member Jones stated that water customers that have leaks caused by negligence should be required to pay for the water and not given an adjustment on the bill.

With no further business, Council Member Watkins motioned that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Stephen D. Walker, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen K. Price, (Interim) Clerk of Council