

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE COURT HOUSE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Monday April 16, 2018 7:00pm**

A regular meeting of the Charlotte Court House Town Council was held on Monday, April 16, 2018, at 7:00 pm. Mayor Walker called the meeting to order. Council Members Haskins, Watkins, Jones, Kurdt & Walker were present. Council Member Andrews was absent. Council Member Watkins motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Council Member Jones requested that the word “will” be corrected to “may” in his statement recorded under the Council Comment Period of the March minutes. Council Member Watkins motioned to approve the March minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 5 ayes and 0 nays. Council Member Kurdt motioned to approve the financial statement as presented. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 5 ayes and 0 nays.

**Citizen Comments** None

**Farmer’s Market** Bob Jones stated that a local Growers Association would like to operate a Farmer’s Market in Charlotte Court House, similar to the one operated in Drakes Branch. They would like to set up in the lot adjacent to the Municipal Building on Tuesdays from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm from May thru September. Responding to questions, Mr. Jones stated that there is an application process for venders and membership fees are charged. Council Member Jones motioned to approve the request to operate a Farmer’s Market and evaluate the venture after one year. The motion was seconded by Council Member Watkins and carried by voice vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Bob Jones requested additional time to speak regarding the potential to lease space in the Municipal building, later in the meeting after the arrival of his associate Cornell Goldman.

**Shentel/Cablevision Ordinance** Chris Kyle of Shentel distributed a packet of information regarding Shentel’s operations. He stated that Shentel doesn’t have 100% coverage anywhere; that they are expanding their wireless footprint and putting in ten new sites. He reported that the government recognizes that vast areas exist that are still without coverage and will be subsidizing an effort to expand into those areas. He stated that Shentel, in partnership with Sprint will be bidding to receive the contract to provide the needed service. Mayor Walker asked why several Town residents are unable to obtain services provided by Shentel, in spite of an existing cable franchise agreement that is in place to ensure that they should. Larry Hubbard stated that Shentel uses existing power poles locate their equipment and must follow national regulations regarding space between anything attached to the poles, ie. transformers, antennas, etc. If a pole cannot accommodate additional equipment under those regulations, then an additional pole must be erected and the power company passes that cost down. Responding to a question about burying the lines, Mr. Hubbard stated that it is more expensive due to the need to acquire easements. Mayor Walker asked the Shentel representatives to address the need for expanded access to their company’s services within the Town and offered to send addresses of residents who should be eligible.

**Evergreen Road Sidewalk Project** Andre Gilliam reported that the engineer’s initial project cost estimate exceeded the application budget amount and was subsequently revised to come into compliance. He reported that the project is ahead of schedule, that the designs are near the 90% stage, and will be presented to the Town Council at the May or June meeting. Andre reported that costs incurred by the Town for removal of vegetation growth would not qualify as matching funds, nor would the Town be reimbursed; however, it would likely be more cost effective for the Town to handle the vegetation removal than to have a contractor hired and paid through the project funds. Andre stated that VDOT has indicated that the planned sidewalk is within the utility easement and should not require easement acquisitions from property owners.

**Town Truck Bid Opening** Mayor Walker stated that three bids for the old Town truck were received. He opened the bids and announced each as follows: Key Truck & Equipment, \$510.00; Chris McCarty, \$400.00; and Stephen Hatcher, \$485.00. Mayor Walker announced that the bid was won by Key Truck & Equipment.

**Planning Commission Report** Council Member Watkins reported that the Planning Commission has been meeting two to three times per month and making good progress on the Zoning and Sub-Division Ordinances. He stated that Zoning Administrator, Robert Hendrick attends the meetings when his schedule allows and has been a great help in the process. He reported that the Town attorney has agreed to review the revised Zoning and Sub-Division ordinances.

**Committee Reports** Council Member Jones stated that the Town has both a gun ordinance, which was adopted in 1952 and a noise ordinance. He reported that he met with Sheriff Jones who offered to send a deputy to a problem area to clock drivers and then report their findings to the Town. If the Town wants additional enforcement, they will assist. Mayor Walker stated that LeGrande Avenue and George Washington Highway are problem areas. Council Member Jones stated that enforcement of the noise ordinance requires a decibel box and he reported that an animal enforcement officer works at the Sheriff's Dept. and can be contacted to deal with problem dogs. Council Member Walker stated that she thought the Town attorney had reviewed several ordinances and found them to be unenforceable as written.

Financial Committee – Council Member Watkins reported that work on the FY 2018-2019 budget has begun.

**Water Operator Report** – Donte Hatcher reported that water meters have been removed from vacant properties. He reported that the Health Department inspection went well and the Town passed. Donte stated that the sprinkler system at the new courthouse was tested. He said all routine tests came back normal and there have been no leaks.

**Clerk's Report** Karen Price reported that a business license was approved for Ramey's Automotive and Welding Repair. She reported that the proposed U.S. Cellular Lease agreement was forwarded to the Town Attorney for review and advisement. She stated that Brian Nichols has signed a grass contract with the Town for the upcoming season.

**Growers' Association Rental Space** Bob Jones stated that after scouting several possible locations, the Municipal building proved to be the most desirable. He stated that they would need to make about 1000 lbs. of ice per day. Mayor Walker stated that the Council, at their last meeting had started a discussion regarding the possibility of leasing space to the Grower's Association. The Council will further discuss the matter and present their decision and offer a rent figure at the May meeting.

**Council Comment Period** Mayor Walker welcomed a political science student in attendance. Kermit Jones stated that Madeline Boliek passed away.

With no further business, Council Member Jones motioned that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 5 ayes and 0 nays.

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Stephan D. Walker, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Karen K. Price, Clerk of Council