

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE COURT HOUSE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday May 17, 2021 7:00pm**

A regular meeting of the Charlotte Court House Town Council was held on Monday, May 17, 2021, at 7:00 pm. Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order. Council Members Andrews, Haskins, Michaelson, Ramsey & Braxton (arrived during agenda item N) were present. Council Member Arbogast was absent. Council Member Andrews motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays. Council Member Haskins motioned to approve the April minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 4 ayes and 0 nays. Council Member Haskins motioned to approve the financial statement as presented. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 4 ayes and 0 nays.

Citizen Comments P.K. Pettus stated that the Museum Board bought the old school buildings on David Bruce Ave. several years ago to prevent their demolition. She stated that she met with a representative of Waukeshaw Development, one of Virginia's major tax credit developers and encouraged the Council to visit their website. Ms. Pettus stated that the pandemic negatively impacted projects, but the Museum Board hopes to start moving forward again with regard to the school buildings and are planning a roundtable discussion with this in mind. She distributed materials for the Council to review and offered to answer any questions.

Southside VA Fruit & Vegetable Growers Assoc. Mayor Watkins reported that the SSVAFVGA expressed interest in purchasing the rear portion of the Municipal building, but noted that it would likely not be possible. Brick Goldman stated that the space they are renting hasn't been used a great deal in the past, but expects to use it much more in the near future. He stated that they have six new growers in their group and hope to do \$600,000.00 in sales this year. Mr. Goldman stated that they purchased land in Cullen and had hoped to construct a permanent building, but don't have enough funds to do so, and would therefore like to extend the Municipal building lease for another year.

Extension of Contract with Samples' Monitoring Service (SMS) Mayor Watkins stated the need to extend the water operations contract with SMS. Council Member Ramsey stated that the current contract states that SMS will read water meters, but the Town has been doing the readings. Council Member Ramsey motioned to extend the water management contract with Samples' Monitoring Service through June 30, 2022, with the exception that the Town will provide monthly water meter readings. The motion was seconded by Council Member Haskins and carried by voice vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays.

CARES Act Funds Mayor Watkins stated that over \$27,000.00 in CARES Act funds remain unspent. Council Member Ramsey stated that the funds must be spent by December 30, 2021.

FY 2021-2022 Budget Presentation Council Member Ramsey stated that the budget preparation has been completed. He motioned to advertise the proposed budget with no changes to the current tax rate. The motion was seconded by Council Member Michaelson and carried by voice vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Water Operations Written report submitted by SMS. Karen Price reported that John Watts, who owns much of the land surrounding Well #6, has requested to get water from the well, which is disconnected from the Town water system. Council Member Ramsey stated that all water purchase requests should be presented in writing. He expressed concern about opening up the well for Mr. Watts' use and suggested that the usual policy for water purchases be followed.

Planning Commission Report Council Member Ramsey reported that the Planning Commission will soon have a completed draft of the zoning ordinance for Monica Elder to review. He stated that a conference call is being arranged with the Town attorney to discuss how best to deal with a logging business that is being operated within a residential zone.

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Committee Reports Personnel Committee – Council Member Andrews reported that 6 people submitted resumes for the Clerk position and that they will be meeting on Tuesday to interview 3 of the candidates. Grounds, Streets, & Lights Committee – Council Member Andrews asked if a public hearing would be scheduled ahead of the June meeting to adopt the VA Maintenance Code. Mayor Watkins responded that we are waiting for responses to questions from the Town attorney. Ms. Andrews reported that she spoke to Scott Frederick of VDOT and inquired about several issues including: street sweeping, solar speed sign installation and about clearing branches and debris left from the ice storm. Mr. Frederick has not yet responded on the latter. Council Member Braxton stated that people need help in disasters and the Town should step up to assist its citizens. Water Committee – Council Member Ramsey reported that bids for a water tower maintenance agreement are out with a June 2nd due date.

Clerk's Report Karen Price reported that one new business license application was approved for Goode Marketing & Analytics.

Council Comment Period Council Member Ramsey stated that he has been supportive of the Museum Board's efforts regarding the old school buildings, however, the presentation given today did not provide anything new, and the buildings have further deteriorated. Council Member Braxton stated that neighbors of the logging operation on Thomas Jefferson Hwy. will not be willing to go on record to express their concerns.

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

David C. Wakins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen K. Price, Clerk of Council