

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE COURT HOUSE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday August 17, 2015 7:00pm**

A regular meeting of the Charlotte Court House Town Council was held on Monday, August 17, 2015, at 7:00 pm. Mayor Walker called the meeting to order. Council Members Andrews, Jones, Haskins, Kurdt, and Watkins were present. Council Member O'Neill 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 Andrews motioned to approve the July 20, 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented. 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

VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program Todd Fortune of the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) stated that the Virginia Dept. of Transportation (VDOT) is encouraging small towns to apply for grant funding via the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). He stated that the application deadline is November 1, 2015 and that the CRC would gladly assist in the process. He stated that the fee for the CRC's assistance would be approximately \$1800.00 and that they would need a letter of authorization from the Town prior to October 1, 2015. Following discussion regarding streets that are currently without sidewalks, including Evergreen Road, Woodfork Road and places on LeGrande Avenue, there was consensus among Council Members to authorize the CRC to apply for TAP funding on behalf of the Town.

Charlotte Court House Volunteer Fire Dept. Christopher Russell stated that the Fire Dept. is at a crossroads regarding whether to construct a new building or to purchase and renovate the municipal building, provided the Town is willing to sell it. He said that the VFD was advised that an additional \$50,000 would be required to make the site "buildable" if they pursued constructing a new building on the lot that was donated to the VFD. Council Member Andrews stated that the Town should have the Municipal building appraised. Council Member Kurdt asked if the Town would be required to rent from the VFD. Chris Russell stated that they would request that the Town continue to cover the cost of utilities. Council Member Jones stated that he doesn't like idea of the VFD purchasing a building with the intention of tearing it down, and asked what the cost of the demolition would be. Chris Russell stated that they could likely get it taken down as a donation. Chris also stated that the VFD would not be able to purchase the building for much more than \$70,000. Mayor Walker stated that the Town purchased the building for \$99,900, and that figure should be at the very least the basis from which negotiations begin. Ed Stanley stated that the VFD paid \$10,000 toward the purchase price to Norris Ramsey. Mayor Walker stated that the purchase agreement between the VFD and the Town required that the VFD pay the Town \$2,500 per year, unless financially unable to do so, until the building was paid off, and that Town records show receipt of four payments. Mayor Walker requested that the Financial Committee meet and discuss the matter and report back to the Council.

Weed/Nuisance Ordinance Mayor Walker stated that the weed and nuisance ordinances need to be reviewed and revised because they are not enforceable as currently written. The ordinances require that grass be cut a minimum of 75 feet from adjoining property lines, which in many cases is not feasible or possible. He asked the Council to consider not enforcing the ordinance as written, but to require that grass be cut along the portions of property with road frontage. Council Member Jones motioned to suspend for six months, enforcement of the weed ordinance and nuisance ordinance on the back side of properties, where they do not front a road, and to continue enforcement on the portions of properties that front a road. The motion was seconded by Council Member Watkins and carried by voice vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

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Committee Reports Mayor Walker suggested that Council Members consider attending the Virginia Municipal League annual conference, which will be in Richmond this year.

Water / Maintenance Report Curtis Inge reported that the fire hydrant on Thomas Jefferson Hwy. that was knocked over by a car was replaced. He stated that sidewalk repairs were made on LeGrande Ave., and in front of the bank. He stated that a new meter was installed at the Thomas Jefferson Ctr. and he reported that water test results were normal and that water treatment chemicals have been ordered.

Clerk's Report Karen Price reported that the Town received a letter from the Town attorney regarding unpaid cable t.v. franchise fees, which stated that franchise fees were replaced by a communications tax, which is collected by the State and then disbursed. Karen stated that a vote was necessary to change the water rates, to establish a base rate of \$25.00, plus \$4.00 per thousand gallons above the base, up to 25,000 gallons, and \$5.00 per thousand gallons above 25,000 gallons. Council Member Kurdt motioned to change the water rates as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jones and carried by voice vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Council Comments

Council Member Watkins stated that he attended the County Planning Commission meeting and was asked what the Town's primary concerns were, to which he replied water and traffic.

Mayor Walker stated the need to find out if the variance issued to the Tharpes at the quarry is still in effect now that the property has changed hands.

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

Stephen D. Walker Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen K. Price, Clerk of Council