

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE COURT HOUSE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday March 18, 2019 7:00pm**

A regular meeting of the Charlotte Court House Town Council was held on Monday, March 18, 2019, at 7:00 pm. Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order. Council Members Andrews, Arbogast, Braxton, Haskins, Kurdt, and Ramsey were present. Council Member Arbogast motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Council Member Andrews motioned to approve the February 19, 2019 regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 6 ayes and 0 nays. Council Member Ramsey 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

Water Operator Report Donte Hatcher reported he was working to clean out the garage bay area in the back of the Town Office building. He reported that Betty Green from Virginia Rural Water Assoc. was tutoring him for the operator licensing exam. Donte stated that he was unable to apply for the exam due to website technical difficulty, but Ms. Green was going to email the application to him directly. After the application is submitted, it may take up to two weeks for it to be processed and approved. Council Member Ramsey stated that there was an upcoming course entitled, "Applied Math and Basic Science for Waterworks Operators," located in Richmond. The course is scheduled for April 8-12th, 2019, and would cost \$150. This fee would include lodging, food, and course materials. Donte requested to attend this course and an additional six months to prepare for the exam. Council Member Kurdt stated that the Personnel Committee would meet and discuss Donte's request.

Charlotte Court House Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Chris Russell reported that interior construction at the new fire department building had begun. Mr. Russell stated that construction was going slowly in order to not exhaust their annual revenue. He also advised that they would be running a 'boot drive' fundraiser in the spring. In response to a question asked about the progress of bricking the exterior of the building, Mr. Russell reported that \$8,000 had been raised, but that they were far short from the previously quoted \$40,000-42,000. He then stated that he would look into getting some updated quotes to verify the cost.

Southside Virginia Fruit and Vegetable Producers Association Cornell Goldman reported that the association has obtained liability insurance that named the Town as additional insured. Council Member Ramsey motioned to authorize Mayor Watkins to sign the lease agreement with Southside Virginia Fruit and Vegetable Producers Association once he is satisfied that the insurance is suitable and in compliance with Virginia Municipal League requirements. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 6 ayes and 0 nays.

U.S. Cellular Lease Approval Discussion of the proposed lease was tabled until the next meeting.

Board of Zoning Appeals Council Member Ramsey expressed concern that the Town did not have an active Board of Zoning Appeals. After some discussion, Mayor Watkins agreed to help solicit members to serve.

Evergreen Road Sidewalk Project Melody Foster reported that A. Morton Thomas and Associates (AMT) has amended their contract to cover the Right of Way phase of the project. VDOT has agreed to help cover the cost of the Right of Way phase by contributing 80%. The Town would likely be responsible for the remaining 20% of this cost. Ms. Foster advised that the Town's attorney continue working on the title searches for the properties. Ms. Foster also reported that VDOT has changed their position to be in

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favor of the Town pursuing eminent domain proceedings if necessary and may help cover some of those expenses.

Town Website Council Member Ramsey stated that information concerning the Town's FOIA practices and policies had been updated on the website. There was some discussion about adding Council Member contact information onto the website, and a consensus was reached to add each member's email address.

Planning Commission Report Council Member Ramsey reported that the Planning Commission has come to consensus with finalizing zoning maps. Mr. Ramsey raised concern about a fence that has been erected across from Randolph Henry High School. It appears that there is intent to corral livestock at this property which is not permissible in a residential section of Town. The Clerk will draft a letter to the property owner to advise this.

Committee Reports Grounds, Streets & Lights – Council Member Andrews reported that she contacted the Sheriff's Department about assistance with traffic control. In an effort to better control speeding inside the Town, a deputy will be patrolling traffic in the mornings and evenings. Financial Committee – Council Member Ramsey motioned to allow Mayor Watkins to transfer \$25,000 from the Bank of Charlotte County to the Local Government Investment Pool. The motion was seconded by Council Member Braxton and varied by voice vote: 6 ayes and 0 nays. Mr. Ramsey reported that the Financial Committee is scheduled to meet before the next Council meeting. By consensus the meeting will be on April 15th at 6:15pm.

Clerk's Report Stephanie Atwood reported that a restitution payment had been received from Holly Skelton for \$3,550.00. Ms. Atwood stated that \$4,783.14 remained outstanding. The Clerk informed that approximately 80% of taxes due had been received. Ms. Atwood advised that additional signatories were needed at the Bank of Charlotte County for the Safe Deposit Box and the Water Savings account. Council Member Arbogast motioned to dissolve the Water Savings account and to allow Stephanie Atwood and Debra Andrews as signatories on the Safe Deposit Box. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kurdt and carried out by voice vote: 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Council Comments Council Member Braxton inquired about what was to become of all the personal items the previous clerk had acquired that are being housed in the storage closet. Council Member Haskins expressed interest in constructing a playground in the Town. Council Member Braxton expressed his desire to see a park established in the Town.

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

David C. Watkins Mayor

ATTEST:

Stephanie K. Atwood, Clerk of Council