

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE COURT HOUSE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Monday November 15, 2021 7:00pm**

A regular meeting of the Charlotte Court House Town Council was held on Monday, November 15, 2021, at 7:00 pm. Mayor Watkins called the meeting to order. Council Members Andrews, Arbogast, Braxton, Haskins, Ramsey & Michaelson 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 Haskins motioned to approve the October Public Hearing and Regular Council 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.

**Virginia Maintenance Code** Town Attorney Gary Elder reported that Charlotte County did not adopt Part III of the VA Uniform Statewide Building Code, which pertains to maintenance of existing structures and therefore is not obligated to enforce maintenance issues for the Town. Mr. Elder stated that the Town would not likely need inspection services very often and suggested hiring an inspector that works for a neighboring area. He stated that issues would be handled between the property owner and inspector, and not involve the Town Council. The attorney would get involved if a structure needed to be demolished; a title search would be undertaken and a judge would have to sign off. The process can be expensive, and the cost would be counted as unpaid taxes. Council Member Ramsey stated that the Town's weed and nuisance ordinances which also pertain to dilapidated properties, are difficult to enforce as written. Mr. Elder stated that fees and fines are assessed as civil penalties and can be added to the property tax bill if unpaid. Council Member Ramsey motioned to have the Town Attorney draft an ordinance enabling the Town to adopt Part III of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code and to draft updated Weed and Nuisance ordinances. The motion was seconded by Council Member Arbogast and carried by voice vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Elder stated that the drafts should be ready by early January.

Turning to the Spencer zoning issue, Mayor Watkins stated that Mr. Spencer had retained an attorney and suggested that Mr. Elder discuss the zoning violation with Mr. Spencer's attorney. Mr. Elder stated his opinion that the window of time to appeal the violation has passed. He also stated that the Town may need to have another attorney step in since he is acquainted with Mr. Spencer. Council Member Ramsey stated the need to pursue zoning enforcement particularly because the updated Zoning Ordinance will soon be completed and must be enforced. Council Member Arbogast stated that the Town should explore ways that Mr. Spencer could comply without undue conflict, such as moving the trucks and equipment further back to where the Agricultural zone is located. Mr. Elder stated that he would contact Mr. Spencer's attorney.

**Cigarette Tax** Council Member Ramsey stated that Charlotte County recently obtained authority to assess a cigarette tax. He stated that Keysville imposes a tax on cigarette sales and collects approximately \$20,000 annually and suggested that the Town consider implementing one as well. Following discussion, there was consensus to include the topic on the January agenda for further discussion.

**Delinquent Tax Collection** Karen Price requested that the Town consider hiring Tax Authority Consulting Services P.C. to assist with delinquent personal property tax collection. Council Member Ramsey stated that the total due for each year is not very large and he doubted that a law firm would be interested in pursuing it.

**Sidewalk Project Update** Karen Price reported that the executed agreement for the Thomas Jefferson Highway project was received and that VDOT will follow up regarding the 20% match payment.

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**Planning Commission Report** Council Member Ramsey reported that the Zoning Ordinance is being reviewed by the Town attorney.

**Committee Reports** Special/Annual Events - Council Member Haskins stated that she was unable to arrange entertainment for the Annual Tree Lighting. Water Committee – Council Member Arbogast reported that they met prior to the Council meeting to discuss the contract between the Town and Samples' Monitoring Service.

**Water Operations Report** A written report from Samples Monitoring Service was submitted stating the following:

- \* October 2021 Bacteriological Samples were collected on 10/06/2021 at 555 LeGrande Ave and 350 George Washington Ave. Both samples were absent for Total Coliform and E Coli.
- \* The Well #4 meter has been ordered received and in the process of being installed.
- \* There is a minor water line leaked at 212 David Bruce Ave. The leak has been scheduled to be fixed the week of 11/15 by SMS.
- \* The Green Sand Filters at Well #7 are still operating properly.
- \* The water system is in operation and operating efficiently.

**Clerk's Report** Karen Price reported that a zoning application was approved for Anthony Childers to install a new manufactured home on Gold Leaf Dr. She stated that a total of \$20,795.62 in CARES Act funds have been expended and that the remaining \$6,258.91 would be used by the County. She reported that there were 9 water cut-offs in November.

**Council Comment Period** Mayor Watkins congratulated Laurie Michaelson on her election to the Town Council.

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

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David C. Watkins, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Karen K. Price, Clerk of Council