

The Urbanna Town Council held its scheduled meeting on February 27, 2020 at 7:00p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall. Mayor Gravatt called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present and answering aye to the roll call were: Mayor Gravatt, Bill Goldsmith, Bill Smith, Larry Chowning, Barbara Hartley, Boyd Wiley and George DeVries. Also present were Holly Gailey-Town Administrator, Michele Hutton-Town Treasurer, 8 guests and one member of the press.

The first item of business was public comment. Kristi Anzivino mentioned that she would be working with others in the community to revisit the "LOVE" sign initiative. The town has a grant for up to \$1500 through the Virginia is for Lovers 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She stated that a committee has been formed to come up with a mockup design and bring the information back to council. There were no further public comments.

At this time, Mayor Gravatt announced that the presentation by AH Environmental that was on the agenda would be rescheduled due to a death in the family of the presenter.

The next on the agenda was a public hearing for budget amendments. Ms. Gailey presented the proposed amendments to the FY19/20 budget. The document is attached to the minutes. Mayor Gravatt opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the public and Mayor Gravatt closed the public hearing. At this time, Larry Chowning asked for clarification on the \$5000 that the town receives from the county through Museums of Middlesex and whether the money was earmarked for specific uses. Barbara Hartley stated that the money was to serve different purposes and had been used in different ways each year. For example, it was used to keep the museum open year round one year and other years it was used towards repairs to the structure. Seeing there was no further discussion, a motion to approve was put on the table by Bill Goldsmith, which was seconded by Bill Smith. Answering aye to a roll call vote was: Goldsmith, Smith, Hartley, Wiley, DeVries and Chowning.

Moving on to the next item on the agenda, Mayor Gravatt announced the public hearing for the Master Plan for the 2020 Urbanna Cup Regatta. Lawrence Fuccella gave a short explanation of the event. He stated that there were no changes from previous years. Billy Mayo asked if the Rescue Squad would be onsite, which was confirmed. Bill Smith asked about an incident that occurred last year with recreational boats being in the race lanes during active races and what is being done to make sure that doesn't happen in the future. Mr. Fuccella noted that this was discussed at length with the agencies patrolling the creek for safety. He also stated that this situation must never occur again. Barbara Hartley asked if toiletries could be supplied to assist the town with having the restrooms open to the public. Mr. Fuccella stated that if this was necessary, they would supply additional toiletries. Boyd Wiley made a motion to approve the master plan as presented. Bill Goldsmith seconded the motion. The following answered aye to a roll call vote: Wiley, Goldsmith, Smith, Hartley, DeVries and Chowning.

At this time, Mayor Gravatt asked if there were any changes to the agenda. She noted that she would like to add marina fees to new business. There were no objections to the addition.

The next item was the consent agenda. George DeVries asked a few questions regarding wording in the minutes. It was determined that all members must vote yes, no or abstain and no other words can



be used during the vote. George DeVries made a motion to approve the minutes, Smith seconded the motion. Answering aye to the roll call vote was: DeVries, Smith, Chowning, Goldsmith and Wiley. Hartley abstained from the vote.

At this time, Michele Hutton presented a treasurers report.

Under old business, the first item for discussion was the Atlantic Broadband Franchise Agreement. Ms. Gailey explained that this agreement is for cable in town and would not limit customers from gaining cable from other companies, such as Direct TV or Dish Network. Ms. Gailey also noted that she negotiated this agreement to 10 years from 15 years and established a reserved public access channel if the town elected to utilize the channel. At this time, Larry Chowning made a motion to approve the agreement and Hartley seconded the motion. Those answering aye to a roll call vote: Chowning, Hartley, Wiley, DeVries, Goldsmith and Smith.

Ms. Gailey updated council on the sidewalk projects. She noted that both sides of Virginia Street from Bristow's Store to the Southside Sentinel Building was complete the Marshall's Drug side of the street from Prince George to Virginia St was also complete. She noted that this was the first portion of phase 1, which also includes brick work at the cross walk. Larry Chowning asked if VDOT had announced when they would be paving Virginia Street. Ms. Gailey noted that she had not been notified. He also asked about the cross walks and if those were actually brick. Ms. Gailey noted that they are actually stamped asphalt and then stained with the red color.

Moving on to new business, Ms. Gailey updated council on the street signs that are in disrepair and/or missing components. She stated that estimates would be sought to replace the signs. She also noted that she learned of a grant program that used to be available for decorative street identification signs and would be seeking this out if the program was still active. Ms. Gailey stated that she would research cost and bring this back for discussion.

The next item on the agenda was the question of when the Bird Sanctuary signs disappeared. Ms. Gailey noted that she was in the process of researching the program and where the signs may have gone. She noted that she would discuss this with VDOT to see if they possibly removed the signs seeing they were not in good repair. Ms. Gailey stated that she would continue to research the programs and if the signs can be replaced. Larry Chowning and Boyd Wiley noted that the signs were up in the 1960's and were part of a program of some sort.

At this time, George DeVries asked for the town council to consider reimbursing the videographer for the work done on a video for the television show HGTV Hometown Makeover. He stated the work cost \$400.00. Bill Goldsmith felt that the video was somewhat incomplete as it didn't include all the historic properties and that he felt that the video should be continued to include those other properties. Following this discussion, Goldsmith made a motion to include the other properties and to expense a total not to exceed \$600 for the project. Barbara Hartley seconded the motion. Those answering aye to a roll call vote: Goldsmith, Hartley, Wiley, Smith and DeVries. Chowning abstained.

On the earlier change to the agenda, Mayor Gravatt announced the proposed changes in fees for the town marina to be effective March 1, 2020. The proposed changes were: annual boat slip fees increase from \$2400 to \$2800, weekly rate based on 7 days from \$200 to \$225 and the monthly rate



from \$300 to \$350. Bill Smith noted that he would like to see the rates schedule in a spreadsheet to see the figure formally from previous years in comparison. He stated that this would not keep a vote from occurring during the meeting. Bill Goldsmith made a motion to approve as presented, which was seconded by Bill Smith. Those answering aye to the roll call vote was: Goldsmith, Smith, Chowning, Wiley, DeVries and Hartley. Boyd Wiley noted that the marina staff was educated on the subject matter and was impressed with their work. There was a brief discussion with the public and council about notification being sent to boat slip owners during the second public comment period.

Under announcements, Larry Chowning encouraged everyone to attend the March 7<sup>th</sup> Oyster Roast at the Fire Department.

At this time, George DeVries moved to go into executive session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) and Section 2.2-3711(A)(8). Barbara Hartley seconded the motion. Ms. Gailey called the roll to which the following answered aye: DeVries, Hartley, Smith, Goldsmith, Chowning and Wiley.

Hartley made a motion to re-enter open session to which Wiley seconded. Ms. Gailey called the roll to which the following answered aye: Hartley, Wiley, DeVries, Smith, Chowning, and Goldsmith.

Upon returning to open session, George DeVries moved to approve the following Certificate of Executive Meeting to which Barbara Hartley seconded:

Whereas, the Urbanna Town Council has convened an Executive Session meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Urbanna Town Council that such executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Urbanna Town Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (i) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session were heard, discussed or considered by the Urbanna Town Council.

VOTE: Aye: Mayor Gravatt, Bill Smith, Larry Chowning, Boyd Wiley, Barbara Hartley, George DeVries and Bill Goldsmith.

With there being no further business, Hartley made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Wiley. Ms. Gailey called the roll to which the following answered aye: Hartley, Wiley, Smith, Goldsmith, DeVries and Chowning. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32PM.

  
Clerk