

The town council of Urbanna held a scheduled meeting on July 23, 2020 at 10:00 by virtual means using Go To Meeting platform. There were some technical difficulties that delayed the meeting a few minutes. Once everyone was on the call, Mayor Gravatt called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. Those present and answering to the roll call were Bill Smith, Bill Goldsmith, Barbara Hartley, Boyd Wiley and George DeVries. Joining the meeting via phone was Larry Chowning. Also attending the meeting was Town Administrator-Holly Gailey and Town Attorney- Andrew Bury. There were 2 callers on the line not including Mr. Chowning.

The first item on business was public comment. Kristi Anzivino of Howard Street expressed her concerns about the lack of minutes being presented to council for approval during the pandemic. Mayor Gravatt stated that this would be addressed further down the agenda. Paul Malone of Haywood Lane inquired about Friends of Urbanna Parks and Museums request for history month. Mayor Gravatt stated that this would be added to the agenda.

Under new business, Larry Chowning discussed the request of the local group known as Friends of Urbanna Parks and Museums. This group has planned and sponsored the Founder's Day Celebrations over the last several years. As the pandemic has altered the plans for the event for 2020, the committee has asked if the town council would by resolution declare the month of August as History Month. Paul Malone added that this is a positive event and celebrates the history one day out of the year and that celebrating the history in multiple ways over several weeks within the month of August. There was a general discussion about the request and whether the month of August was the best month. Ms. Gailey asked for a formal resolution so that there is an official record of the designation. It was agreed that a resolution would be written to support the request. (Larry Chowning joined the meeting by video at 10:21 a.m.)

The next item on the agenda was an update on COVID-19 and the progression across the state of Virginia. Ms. Gailey stated that according to the Three Rivers Health Department, social distancing and mask are working in areas of the state where people were abiding by the recommendations. She noted that most areas with increases have noted that it is mostly from family gatherings, social parties or bars, people gathering in large groups without social distancing practices. There was a brief discussion about the virus. At this time, Andy Bury stated that the resolution that was passed by the council on April 2nd was good for 60 days and noted that he would like to see an additional resolution extending that period another 60 days. Mayor Gravatt asked if this could be discussed later in the meeting as it appears on the agenda under old business.

Mayor Gravatt asked Ms. Gailey for an update on any mandates/ future business practices. She stated that the business model will change a bit in terms of public access to public buildings/offices, safety measures for a safe work environment for employees.

She also stated that moving forward there will be new normal that everyone will have to make adjustments accordingly. Ms. Gailey stated that changes may be mandated at the state level and some may just be local policy but changes will be required to move forward.

Moving to the next item on the agenda, Mayor Gravatt informed town council members of recent vandalism regarding “We ask that you mask” signs that were placed throughout the town by Middlesex County Economic Development. She noted that vinyl signs had been slashed with a knife or sharp object and then in some cases completely removed from the post. Mayor Gravatt noted that a report has been filed with the Sheriff’s Office and they recommended security cameras to catch the vandals. Mayor Gravatt also noted that the town had just spent over \$10,000 for new playground equipment and that security cameras were recommended to deter vandals from damaging the new equipment. There was a discussion about security cameras as this has been discussed before. Ms. Gailey stated that a trail camera is really all the town would need as it only takes still photos and the only reason the photos would be pulled was if there was a necessity otherwise, the photos taken would be erased periodically. The intention is to deter the vandals from taking the risk of being caught. Larry Chowning asked if signs would be required and Ms. Gailey stated, yes. Bill Goldsmith made a motion to purchase up to 4 trail type cameras and 10 signs to be placed strategically around the park and possibly other areas owned by the town that are hot spots. Bill Smith seconded the motion. Answering aye to the roll call vote were Goldsmith, Smith, Hartley, Chowning, DeVries and Wiley.

The next item on the agenda was the proposed county ordinance for firing ranges. Mayor Gravatt stated that at this time the ordinance was not going to be discussed as Pete Mansfield has not developed the proposed ordinance language. Bill Smith stated that he researched the town code and found that the jurisdiction of the Urbanna was 1 mile beyond the town limits. He asked for Chapter 9 of the Town of Urbanna Code is sent to members of town council for consideration and possible ideas on how to control the issue. Bill Smith asked council to bring ideas/ thoughts to the next work session.

Moving on to the next item on the agenda, Mayor Gravatt addressed the questions on the minutes from previous meetings. Ms. Gailey clarified that the reason the minutes had not been presented to the council was a direct result of the inclusion of minutes in the emergency resolution, which stated that the minutes would be approved at the next in person meeting after the emergency order had ended. She also noted that no one could have predicted the length of the pandemic and that beginning to approve some of the minutes would be beneficial. Andy Bury stated that there was a provision in the resolution that allowed for minutes to be approved at a subsequent virtual meeting and once in person meetings begin again, the entire sets of minutes would be approved officially. This means that the minutes will be approved 2 separate times. There was an

agreement that minutes will be presented to council for approval. Barbara Hartley stated that her opinion was that this was a “situation” but no longer considered an emergency. Bill Smith stated that he disagreed and that the town should continue to follow the Governor’s guidelines. Andy Bury stated the Governor still has executive orders out that this is still an emergency and the resolution was based on those recommendations so technically there is still an emergency according to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

At this time, Mayor Gravatt asked for discussion on extending the resolution for an additional 60 days. Andy Bury recommended that there be a motion to extend the emergency resolution for a period of time as this resolution expires at 60 days. Goldsmith moved that we readopt the resolution for an additional 60 days to take us closer to the 6 month period. For clarification, Andy Bury asked Goldsmith if his motion was to amend the April 2, 2020 resolution to extend an additional 60 days. Goldsmith concurred. This motion was seconded by George DeVries. Mayor Gravatt called for a roll call vote. Those answering aye were Goldsmith, DeVries, Chowning, Smith and Wiley. Barbara Hartley opposed.

Moving on to the second public comment period, Kristi Anzivino wanted to publicly say thank you on behalf of Kitty Cross to George DeVries for getting a street sign for Chandler Ave. She also noted her disappointment in the continued virtual format that the town elected to continue. There was no council response. Dr. Paul Malone offered results from an official study which stated that 60 percent of people are showing an unacceptable level of anxiety related to COVID-19. He noted that concentrating on the positive things over negative is important to decrease the anxiety. He commended the town council and staff for doing a bang up job given the unusual circumstances facing the world.

Under announcements, Ms. Gailey updated town council on the closing of FY 2019-2020 and the timing of the playground equipment being installed. She noted that business is moving forward as normal. Given there was no further business, Barbara Hartley made a motion to adjourn. Bill Goldsmith seconded the motion. During a roll call vote, the following responded aye: Hartley, Goldsmith, Chowning, Smith, Wiley and DeVries. The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.