

**TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
Minutes
May 11, 2009
5:00 pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The West Point Town Council held a called Work Session on Monday, May 11, 2009 in Town Chambers located at 329 6th Street, West Point, Virginia. The Honorable James H. Hudson III called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Members Present: Mayor, Jim Hudson; Vice Mayor, Deborah Ball; Charlie Gordon; Tina Gulley; Wayne Healy; Jack Lawson; Gail Nichols and Bub Shreaves.

Also Present: Trenton L. Funkhouser, Town Manager; Karen Barrow, Town Clerk; Holly McGowan, Community Development Coordinator and other interested persons.

II. CITYSWITCH ALLEY REQUEST

Mr. Hudson advised that Cathy Allen, of Thrasher Engineers presented the Town with a proposal of \$88,000 that included the cost to paint the Tower and purchase the alley. Mr. Hudson asked the public if there were any new developments regarding the Tower.

Ty Bland, President of the Historical Society, advised he spoke with the attorney for Thrasher Engineers and that Julie Langan, with the Department of Historic Resources, acknowledges the tower is located within the registered historic district and is an adverse effect. Mr. Bland also stated that Thrasher Engineers had offered the Town \$50,000 as compensation to leave the tower in its current location. The historical society needed a match of \$50,000 in order to qualify for a \$500,000 grant to establish a museum. Mr. Bland asked the Town to consider giving the \$50,000 to the historical society to establish a museum.

Mr. Hudson advised Town Council they have three options, 1) accepted the \$88,000 and abandon the alley. 2) Turn the alley request down, and 3) Continue negotiations with Thrasher Engineering for a solution to this situation.

Ms. Lucy Edwards advised that she had not received any communications from Cityswitch or Thrasher Engineering and that when Cityswitch installed the fencing, they installed it along her property line and damaged her fencing with out any kind of payment or offer. Ms. Edwards also stated that the tower had reduced the value of her property and that she had suffered damages that exceeded \$50,000.

Mr. Hudson advised that Town Council was not negotiating for any one but the Town. The Town was not negotiating for the historical society or for citizens.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Shreaves made a motion for Town Council to convene into closed session as permitted by Virginia Code§2.1-344(A)(3), a matter involving the disposition of publicly owned property because public discussion of that matter would adversely affect their bargaining position and negotiating strategy, seconded by Deborah Ball. Upon a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

Mr. Healy made a motion for Town Council to reconvene into open session, seconded by Charlie Gordon. Upon a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

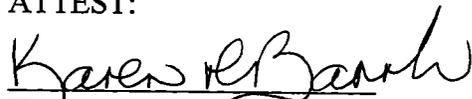
CERTIFICATION

Mr. Shreaves made a motion to certify that in the closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and lawfully permitted to be so discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in that motion.

It was the consensus of Town Council for the Town Manager to continue negotiations with Cityswitch or Thrasher Engineering for a solution to the Tower situation.


James H. Hudson, III
Mayor

ATTEST:


Karen M. Barrow
Town Clerk