

**Combined Committee Meeting of
Town Council
Minutes
April 8th, 2021**

Mrs. Ball called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. at 802 Main Street, West Point, Virginia 23181.

Members Present: Mayor Jim Hudson, Vice Mayor Deborah Ball, Robert Lawrence and John Ragsdale.

Also Present: John Edwards, Town Manager; Karen Barrow, Town Clerk and Donna Pauley, Human Resource Officer.

Town Staff Present Via WebEx: Walt Feurer, Director of Public Works; Tim Sawyer, Chief of Police; Holly McGowan, Director of Community Development and Susan Harlow, Town Treasurer.

I. Agenda Changes

There were no changes made to the agenda.

II. Adoption of Minutes

A. September 10th, 2020
January 14th, 2021

Mr. Ragsdale made a motion to adopt the minutes of September 10th, 2020 and January 14th, 2021, seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Upon a unanimous vote the motion was approved.

III. American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Local Government

Mr. Edwards advised that the American Rescue Plan is a federal stimulus plan that includes local government. The details are still to be worked out, but it will focus on infrastructure, water, sewer, hopefully stormwater and broadband. The estimated funds for West Point should be approximately 2.9 million dollars. As a result, public works are working on a list of projects for the water department. If or when the funds become available, we will be ready to move forward with some projects.

IV. ODI/Bagby Street Drainage Complaints

Mr. Edwards advised that the Town has received a stormwater complaint from Mr. Kurdziel regarding a beaver that has built a dam causing water from West Point Creek to backup on Ed Toman and John Zapranzhy's

property. Mr. Kurdziel would like to know what the Town is going to do about the issue. Mr. Edwards also stated that in the past the Town's answer has been that the Town does not have an easement to go onto private property to access the location to remove the beaver or remove the dam.

Mr. Hudson advised that the Town would need some easements before the Town can do anything to fix the issue.

Mr. Edwards stated that if the Town goes on private property to remove a beaver and dam. It will be setting a precedent.

The consensus of the Committee is that the beaver dam is on private property and that Mr. Kurdziel needs to have the beaver dam removed.

V. Pine Lane Unimproved Right-of-Way

Mr. Edwards advised that Mr. Bateman is asking to purchase the right-of-way owned by the Town from Pine Lane onto River Road. The Town denied a request from Mr. Bateman about 2 or 3 years ago to abandon the right-of-way.

Mr. Hudson suggested that the Town should not abandon any right-of-way on the water. Mr. Bateman uses the right-of-way as his driveway.

The consensus of the Committee is for the right-of-way to remain as it is and that Town Council should not abandon any right-of-way with access to water.

VI. Lot Next to Town Hall

Mr. Edwards advised that the building has been removed next door and the ground has been leveled.

Mr. Ragsdale asked if any additional dirt will be placed on the lot.

Mr. Edwards advised no that we do not want to raise the ground level higher than the lot next door so that water does not drain off onto J. P. Causey's property.

Mr. Hudson advised that J.P. Causey's building is on a slab, it would not be good to have water drain off onto the property.

Mr. Edwards asked if there was anything in particular that Council wanted on the lot, grass seed will be planted. Maybe some benches and a flagpole.

Mrs. Ball said that benches and a flagpole would look nice and that it would be a good location for public use.

The consensus of the Committee is for a flagpole and some benches be placed on the lot once the grass starts to grow.

VII. West Point Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Edwards advised that he and the Mayor met with Sam Drewry and Larking Garbee to discuss the grant application and any future request from the Chamber. We asked if the Chamber Board of Directors had discussed the Business Revitalization Grant and we were told that the Chamber Executive Board reviewed the discussion and that if the Executive Board makes a discussion then the Board of Directors do not have to review it. Mr. Edwards also stated that the Executive Board has 3 members, Sam Drewry, Larking Garbee and Molly Booker.

Mr. Hudson stated that Sam and Larking were told that when the Chamber makes a request of Town Council that Town Council will ask if the request has the full support of the Board of Directors. Sam Drewry's reply was that the Chamber does not work like that.

Mr. Edwards advised that he reviewed the grant in question with Mr. Drewry and Ms. Garbee and how the town does not qualify for the grant. Mr. Edwards also stated that he would like to work with the Chamber on some projects and as we recover from the COVID issues the Chamber will be able to resume with Jammin on the Point, the Crab Carnival and Christmas on the Town.

Mr. Hudson advised that he told Ms. Garbee and Mr. Drewry that Town Council will need to know that any request from the Chamber has the full support from the Board of Directors before Town Council can consider any request.

VIII. General Information

1. Lovell's

Mr. Edwards advised that there are some issues at Lovell's with crowd control and people not wearing masks, there is no compliance with COVID 19 regulations. The police have been called for fights and other issues on \$1 beer night.

Tim Sawyer, Chief of Police advised that he is concerned with the number of people in one location violating the social distancing rules.

Mr. Hudson advised that the customers are different, they are not the regular crowd.

Chief Sawyer advised that the customers come from out of town and are younger than the regular customers. The owner of the shopping center has

told law enforcement that they are not allowed on the property unless they receive a service call.

Mr. Edwards and the Chief of Police suggested the Health Department and ABC Board be contacted regarding the violations, they are very serious violations that can contribute with the spreading of COVID 19.

Mr. Ragsdale asked if anyone has spoken with the owners.

The Chief of Police advised that he has not spoken with anyone yet, that he is willing to speak with the owners.

Mrs. Ball asked if Lovell's are paying their meals tax.

Mr. Edwards stated that the Town has not had any problems with payment for meals tax.

Mr. Hudson stated that when a major violation is happening, the town has a responsibility to the wellbeing of residents to report any violation.

The consensus of Town Council is to report the violation to the correct authorities.

2. Legalization of Marijuana

Mr. Edwards advised that as of July 1st, 2021, Marijuana will be legalized. The Town Attorney, the Human Resource Director and I will be reviewing the personal policy regarding drug use. Mr. Edwards suggested that the Town deal with marijuana use the same way as alcohol use.

The consensus of the Committee to go with the same language as alcohol.

Mr. Edwards advised that the Town Attorney and Town Staff work out the language for the personnel policy.

3. FY 2021-22 Budget Public Hearing

Mr. Edwards advised that the Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20th, 2021 at 6:30 pm

4. Business Prospect at the Industrial Park

Mr. Edwards stated that the town continues to work with a prospect on the sale of property at the Industrial Park and that Mr. Edwards will let Town Council know when there are any changes with the project.

IX. Town Council Agenda

Mr. Edwards advised there was nothing for the Town Council agenda.

X. Next Meeting Date: May 13th 2021

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business Mrs. Ball adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.



Deborah T. Ball
Chairperson

ATTEST:



Karen M. Barrow
Town Clerk