

Town of Port Royal
May 20, 2014
Public Hearing & Town Council Meeting

The Port Royal Town Council met on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at 7:00 pm for a Public Hearing on a proposed water rate increase.

Notice of the meeting was placed in the Caroline Progress for two consecutive weeks prior to the meeting.

Roll was taken; members present were Mayor Long, Jim Heimbach, Bill Wick, Della Mills, Monica Chennault, Gladys Fortune, and Bill Wick.

A quorum was established.

The Mayor stated the purpose for the public hearing was to hear comments on the proposed water rate increase. The proposed increase would be \$10.00 per month for both residential and commercial customers. The current water rate is \$25.00 per month for residential and \$35.00 per month for commercial. The increase would make the water payments for residential \$35.00 per month and \$45.00 per month for commercial water customers. The effective date of the change would be July 2014;

There was one citizen in attendance for the public hearing. There was one reporter from the Caroline Progress in attendance.

The Mayor called three times for comments; hearing none, the Mayor officially called the public hearing to a close at 7:10 pm.

Motion was made by Jim Heimbach to adjourn the public hearing; motion was seconded by Bill Henderson. Motion carried.

The regular session of the Port Royal Town Council opened at 7:15 pm. The roll was taken and a quorum was established.

Announcements:

Jim Heimbach reported that, sponsored by the Port Royal Ruritans, Barbara and Boyd Wisdom headed up a collection of plastic bags that could be exchanged for a bench. Enough bags were collected to donate a bench to the Town in Oliver Fortune's name.

Jim Heimbach reported that he and Elizabeth Heimbach will be hosting a wine and cheese party at their home on May 29th for citizens interested in joining the Rappahannock River Valley Natural Wildlife Refuge Friends Group. Forming such a group is a prerequisite for opening the Port Royal Unit of the Wildlife Refuge.

Nancy Long reminded members of Council that the cut-off date for submitting your forms for candidacy to the Registrar's office is June 10th. Please be certain to fill out your forms and have them notarized if you are interested in running for Town Council. Terri is able to notarize them for you.

Old Business:

BLA – Bill Wick reported that the Town is on the home stretch and he has spoken with Chad Webb and the survey will be done by the end of this week. Bill Henderson asked if all the rest of the supporting documentation is ready. Bill Wick stated, no, however it is close to being completed.

King Street Project – Bill Wick stated that he has submitted to VDOT for their review and approval the draft signage proposed for the bottom of King Street for the improvements. Some members of Council were unaware of the signage/language and requested that copies be sent out via email to show the proposed signage. Council members were asked to “reply all” when sending any comments/concerns with regard to the signage.

Request from Kathy Beard –Kathy Beard, the tourism director for Caroline County, asked to spend some time with some members of Council to brainstorm the upcoming Rappahannock Garden Tour and the 150th Anniversary of John Wilkes Booth. The Mayor suggested that she, Bill Henderson and Tommy Morse meet with Kathy Beard. The Council was in agreement. The purpose is to see how to get people to come to Port Royal to boost the businesses in Town and to educate them on the history of Port Royal.

SPEX on Route 17 – Moss Neck – The Mayor stated that a special exemption permit to mine on Moss Neck for a 20-year period has been requested. The Mayor stated that if the mine is approved we could look at another 300 trucks per day traveling the roads. The Caroline County Planning Commission will hear this request on June 18th, and the Mayor asked Council if we should make a statement in opposition. Motion was made by Bill Wick to prepare a resolution opposing the permit. Jim Heimbach seconded the motion to prepare an appropriate resolution. Motion carried. If Council has any comments they may be e-mailed to Nancy Long.

Proposed Water Rate Increase: Motion was made by Jim Heimbach to approve the proposed water rate increase for Town residents. The increase will be \$10.00 for both residential and commercial customers beginning with the July billing. Motion was seconded by Bill Wick. Motion carried. Customers will begin seeing the increase in August on their statements.

Employee Issues: The Council has received three bids for grass cutting and three resumes for the position of Town Manager. Jim Heimbach made a motion that the Council go into closed session to discuss the employee issues. Motion was seconded by Bill Henderson, motion carried. (Bill Wick left the Town chambers, as he is one of the persons who is interested in the Town Manager position).

The Mayor opened the closed session and stated that the only discussion will be with respect to the two positions. Members present were Mayor Long, Jim Heimbach, Bill Wick, Della Mills, Monica Chenault, Gladys Fortune.

Bids for the grass cutting were reviewed.

Town Manager position was discussed.

Motion was made by Bill Henderson to accept the bid from Edgar Yates for the lawn maintenance position. Motion was supported by Jim Heimbach; the motion carried and was unanimously approved. Motion was made by Della Mills to name Bill Wick as Town Manager; the motion was seconded by Jim Heimbach and unanimously approved.

There were no further discussions by Town Council.

Motion was made by Della Mills and seconded by Monica Chenault to close the executive session. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

The Port Royal Town Council came out of closed session.

The Port Royal Town Council meeting reconvened at 8:45 pm.

The Mayor stated the following:

Councilman Heimbach, do you so affirm that no other business besides the stated business was discussed in closed session? Mr. Heimbach responded, so affirmed.

Councilman Henderson, do you so affirm that no other business besides the stated business was discussed in closed session? Mr. Henderson responded, so affirmed.

Councilwoman Mills, do you so affirm that no other business besides the stated business was discussed in closed session? Ms. Mills responded, so affirmed.

Councilwoman Chenault, do you so affirm that no other business besides the stated business was discussed in closed session? Ms. Chenault responded, so affirmed.

Councilwoman Fortune, do you so affirm that no other business besides the stated business was discussed in closed session? Ms. Fortune responded, so affirmed.

All members of Council with the exception of Bill Wick certified that the only issues discussed were employee issues.

Motion was made by Jim Heimbach and seconded by Bill Wick to award Edgar Yates the lawn maintenance position.

Motion was made by Jim Heimbach to offer the position of Town Manager to Bill Wick with the following understanding:

Start date of May 21, 2014. The salary for the remainder of May will be \$200.00; thereafter the monthly salary for the position will be \$600.00. Payment will be deferred until after meals tax is brought into the Town from the BLA. * With the stipulation, that if the BLA does not go through by November 1, the Council will revisit the position of the Town Manager.

Motion was seconded by Bill Henderson. Motion Carried.

Bill Wick accepted the position; he will submit his letter of resignation by midnight tonight.

Bill Wick made a motion to elect Jim Heimbach as Vice Mayor, to fill the unexpired term of Bill Wick. Della Mills seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business:

Water Leak on Main Street – The Mayor stated that another leak has been reported on Main Street. She will have it looked at and report back to the Town Council.

Privatizing the water system – Jim Heimbach stated that he and Bill Wick are still exploring options with regard to the water system. They are scheduled to meet later this week with the Department of Health to review some possible grant options.

Hearing no further business, the meeting came to a close.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bill Wick and seconded by Della Mills. All members of Council were in agreement. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

M. Therese Harrison

Town Clerk

****The next scheduled work session will be held on June 10th at 7:00 pm in Town chambers.***