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Regular Council Meeting
June 10, 2024

The Appomattox Town Council held a Regular Council meeting on Monday, June 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Appomattox Municipal Building, 210 Linden Street, Appomattox, Virginia with Mayor Conner, presiding.

Members present: Jane T. Allen, James J. Boyce, Sr., Claudia G. Puckette, Mary Lou G. Spiggle, Timothy W. Garrett, Nathan A. Simpson

Others: Carlton Duck, Alive Media; Kim Ray, Treasurer; Rob Fowler, Interim Town Manager; Christy Torrence, Interim Clerk of Council; Kaylee Simpson; Charles Conrad; Nickcole Maynard-Errami, Human Resources Director; Eric and Dorothy Van Opstal; Don Jones; Katrina Slagle; Stan Slagle

Mayor Conner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Reverend Duck led the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Mayor Conner welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Hearing:

Katrina A. Slagle does hereby request a Conditional Use Permit to operate a small private practice serving the community providing mental health, medication management, counseling and wellness care by appointment located at 667 Lee Grant Avenue in an existing single-family structure. Tax Map Identification Number 64A5 A 85. The property is zoned R-1, Limited Residential and the proposed use is permitted by a Conditional Use Permit.

Mrs. Slagle spoke to Council stating that she is a mental health nurse practitioner and has been in the nursing field for 32 years. She said that statistically speaking 1 in 5 will experience a mental health condition and only 50% will get help. Aspire Mental Health and Wellness will be the first full service mental health center in Appomattox, staffed with a licensed mental health counselor and a psychiatric practitioner with prescriptive authority.

Rob Fowler informed Council that the Appomattox Town Planning Commission unanimously approved the Conditional Use Permit and forwarded to Town Council for final approval.

Eric and Dorothy Van Opstal stated objections to a residential property being changed to conditional use. They stated that they are not opposed to the service that they are trying to offer but they don't want it in that location.

Don Jones spoke on behalf of Liberty Baptist Church. The church is supportive of the conditional use and have offered up their parking lot for the business to use.

Mayor Conner read a letter from Bryan Baine stating that while he is opposed to rezoning the property, he will support the conditional use permit.

Mr. Simpson asked Mr. Fowler if the conditional use permit was attached to the property. Mr. Fowler said it would be approved for the Slagle's only—if she closed the business, it reverts to single family residential automatically.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Fowler informed Council that, due to health concerns, Nathan Harbin would no longer be able to finish the depot landscaping project. He suggested regrouping and rebidding the work. He would like to look for landscapers who have in-house designers. If Council agrees, he will pursue.

With consensus from Council, Mr. Fowler will pursue landscapers.

New Business:

On a motion by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Boyce, the Council voted to approve the conditional use permit as presented for a period of 24 months. All members present voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

On a motion by Mr. Garrett, seconded by Ms. Spiggle, the Council voted to give all Town employees July 5, 2024 off with pay for employee appreciation. All members present voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Adoption of the Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Mr. Garrett, seconded by Ms. Spiggle, the Town Council voted to adopt the consent agenda as presented for June 10, 2024. All members present voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Council Standing Committee Reports:

ARPA: None

Finance and Planning Committee: None

Physical Development Committee: None

Citizen Comment:

Don Jones updated on some tourism news. July 5-11 Virginia State District Youth League softball and baseball tournaments are being held in Appomattox. This will bring in 12 teams, 300 children, along with coaches and families.

Town Manager's Report:

Mr. Fowler referred to the report that was emailed to Council on Friday, June 7 and updated Council on the following:

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- Had lunch with Public Works employees and received feedback from them on what they would like to see in a Public Works director.
- The town attorney said that there is some confusion with the property maintenance code and it has to be tweaked a little.
- Discussed bids for ADA compliance audit. Mr. Simpson said that all bids looked similar, and he would like to defer to Mr. Fowler to decide. Ms. Spiggle said we should move forward as fast as possible. Mr. Simpson asked if we could use ARPA funding to have the study done. Mrs. Ray responded with yes, ARPA money can be used.

On a motion by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Garrett, the Town Council voted to use ARPA funding to have the ADA compliance analysis performed.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Allen – yes, Boyce – yes, Spiggle – yes, Garrett – yes, Puckette – yes. Simpson – yes. Motion carried 6-0.

- Provided staff with VRSA site assessment. Staff is actively working to correct what we can. Mr. Simpson asked if we have a maintenance contract for dehumidifiers. Mr. Fowler will check into it.

Council Comments:

Spiggle-Reminded everyone about the fireworks on June 29.

Simpson-

- Lee Grant was never meant to be a connector route in town. The solution lies in working with county and state to build a road that mirrors the bypass. This should be added to the comprehensive plan.
- 100th Anniversary is coming up. If we want to plan an event we need to start now. Would like to discuss at the next meeting to determine a reasonable amount of money to spend. We also need to check with Historical Society and Experience Appomattox.
- The county administrator responded regarding a joint meeting. She is working on a date that works for everyone, possibly August or September.

Allen-Would like for staff to check into Safe Way to School grants or similar grants for Highland Ave. A crosswalk is needed from Confederate to Church St (Jamerson Building Supply to middle school). Asked staff to check into this.

Boyce-Lee Grant Ave holes need to be filled.

Puckette-nothing

Garrett-nothing

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. Garrett, seconded by Mrs. Puckette, the Council voted to adjourn at 7:40 pm. All members present voting aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Christy Torrence
Interim Clerk

Richard C. Conner
Mayor

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