

1 | **Appomattox Town Council**
Workshop Meeting
April 23, 2024

The Appomattox Town Council held a Workshop meeting on Tuesday April 23, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Appomattox Town Hall, Council Chambers, 210 Linden Street, Appomattox, Virginia with Mayor Conner presiding.

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

Absent: Jane Allen

Others present: Carlton Duck, Jeff Elder, Facilities Director; Kim Ray, Town Treasurer; R. Terry McGhee, Town Manager; Christy J. Torrence, Interim Clerk of Council; Kaylee Simpson; Rob Fowler, Frank Wright

Mayor Conner called the meeting to order.

DISCUSSION:

Rob Fowler discussed the property maintenance code. He suggested the possibility of using the Physical Development Committee. Councilman Simpson suggested taking Council out of it and having enforcement a function of town manager and not an elected official. Mr. Fowler said a general property maintenance code would cover things like peeling paint, loose siding, structural issues, and nuisance items. The code would be complaint based—a complaint would be received, the homeowner cited, and staff would work with the homeowner to come up with a plan and a communication schedule. The town would need to hire a consultant or invest in training a staff member. Mr. Fowler will present a draft of the code at the workshop meeting scheduled for May 28.

Mr. Simpson asked that discussion item number two be tabled for a future meeting. Council agreed.

On a motion by Mr. Boyce, seconded by Ms. Spiggle, Council voted to adopt Robert's Rules of Order 12th Edition as the rules of order for the governing body. All members present voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bryan Baine thanked Council for how he was received when he spoke at the last meeting. He discussed his concerns about widening Lee Grant Ave; houses in the area are large and couples with children are the ones who buy large houses. If yards are close to a busy street, the houses are less attractive to buyers. Mr. Baine expressed his concern about his houses losing value.

Mayor Conner read a letter from Deana and Timothy Olsen, owners of 111 Burke St. They also spoke out against widening Lee Grant Ave and the Smart Scale Project.

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Mayor Conner asked legal counsel if there was a legal way we could prohibit school bus traffic on Lee Grant Ave. Attorney Frank Wright said he would have to refer the question to someone else as he also represents Appomattox County School Board. Mr. Simpson requested that a meeting be set up with Mayor Conner, the Director of Transportation and Appomattox County School Board.

On a motion by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mrs. Puckette, Council voted to withdraw the Smart Scale application and to authorize the Public Works Director to advertise for engineering to correct the issues on Lee Grant Ave and Burke St.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Simpson – yes, Boyce – yes, Spiggle – yes, Garrett – yes, Puckette – yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Closed Session 1:

On a motion by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Garrett, the Council voted to amend the closed session to include employees A-H. All members present voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.

On a motion by Mr. Simpson seconded by Ms. Spiggle, Council voted to convene in Closed Session, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)1, for the discussion of the performance of a specific public employee, specifically being Employee A-H.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Boyce – yes, Spiggle – yes, Garrett – yes, Puckette – yes, Simpson-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was re-opened to the public.

Council Member Boyce made the following motion:

To the best of each member's knowledge, the only subjects just discussed or considered in the preceding closed meeting were those: (i) lawfully exempted from the FOIA Act's open-meeting requirements and (ii) properly identified in the motion that convened the closed meeting, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)1.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Spiggle and Council by the following recorded vote adopted the motion:

ROLL CALL VOTE: Boyce – yes, Spiggle – yes, Garrett – yes, Puckette – yes, Simpson-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Closed Session 2:

On a motion by Mr. Garrett, seconded by Mr. Simpson, Council voted to convene in Closed Session, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)1, for the discussion of the performance of a specific public employee, specifically being Employee A-D.

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ROLL CALL VOTE: Boyce – yes, Spiggle – yes, Garrett – yes, Puckette – yes, Simpson-yes.
Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was re-opened to the public.

Council Member Garrett made the following motion:

To the best of each member’s knowledge, the only subjects just discussed or considered in the preceding closed meeting were those: (i) lawfully exempted from the FOIA Act’s open-meeting requirements and (ii) properly identified in the motion that convened the closed meeting, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)1.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Boyce and Council by the following recorded vote adopted the motion:

ROLL CALL VOTE: Boyce – yes, Spiggle – yes, Garrett – yes, Puckette – yes, Simpson-yes.
Motion carried 5-0.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Spiggle – none

Garrett – none

Puckette – none

Simpson – none

Boyce-none

STAFF REPORTS:

Mr. McGhee referred Council to his email sent on April 22, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Mr. Garrett, seconded by Mrs. Puckette, the Council voted to adjourn at 10:28 p.m. All council members present voting aye. Motion carried 5-0.

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Christy J. Torrence, Interim Clerk

Richard C. Conner
Mayor