



TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE

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**COUNCIL MINUTES
TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE, VIRGINIA
7:00 P.M. TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016
CLIFTON FORGE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
547 MAIN STREET**

INVOCATION BY DAVID DAVIS

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Carl Brinkley called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Carl Brinkley, Vice Mayor Gayle Hillert, Councilwoman Johnette Roberts, Councilman Jeff Irvine, and Councilman Robert Umstead

ALSO PRESENT BUT NOT ON THE ROLL: Darlene Burcham, Town Manager, Angela Carper, Clerk of Council, and David Davis, Town Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Brinkley led the attendees and council in the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS

Library/Con of the Mountain Update—Mike Barnes, Library Director

Mike Barnes, Library Director provided a slideshow presentation on the upcoming “Con of the Mountain” event. He provided handouts of the presentation to Council and briefly explained the characters, some of them new for this year, and the details behind them. Mr. Barnes stated that the purpose of the event is to promote literacy by using non-traditional methods and materials and finding points of connection to motivate people to engage in reading, writing, and research. It will be a three-day event beginning at 3 PM on Friday, September 30, 2016 and ending at 6 PM on

Sunday, October 2, 2016. The majority of the event will be free, but there will be some special ticketed events with the ability to pre-purchase merchandise and preferred seating for workshops and those events. The majority of the shows and Cosplay contests will be held on Saturday, October 1, and it will be a festival type environment. Some of the anticipated venues will be the Library, the Masonic Theatre and Amphitheatre, the Clifton Forge School of the Arts, the Alleghany Highlands Arts and Crafts Center and the C & O Heritage Center. Just like last year, there will be many special guests, which will include legendary role playing game creator and author, Frank Mentzer, Aaron Rabe as Captain Jack Sparrow, members of Cosplay, Inc., author and game creator, Steve Long, and freelance illustrator and former Marvel comics artist, Matt Slay, along with many interesting props and other things. This year's event will include special shows with Captain Jack, a magic show from Justin of Cosplay, Inc., classic horror films and some select bands, various workshops and panels, Cosplay contests with various age categories, new and varied role playing and board games to include the launching of new games specifically for this event.

Mr. Barnes stated that there are many projects in process currently which include working with DSLCC in the development of a continuing education course for educators in using non-traditional materials, such as graphic novels and the development of courses for their joint dual enrollment program with Alleghany County Public Schools. There is also the development of a fan fiction writing program using Con of the Mountain characters, the creation of a special limited edition comic book based on the Con of the Mountain characters to be available for release at the event and the development of an Alleghany Highlands Literacy Center that will be announced at the event.

Mr. Barnes mentioned the special Cosplay guests to include several from last year's event, members of the Star Wars Fan Group, the 501st Legion, members of the Royal Manticore Navy, and possibly an appearance by the Rebel Alliance as well.

Lastly, Mr. Barnes stated that they have an overall goal of \$20,000 in funding for the event, which the anticipate about half will come from the ticket sales. He stated that they were able to get many of the guests and venues at drastically reduced prices last year, but in order to continue the event, market rates are required. He stated that they are also in need of new members for the organizational committee to oversee such things as fund raising, marketing, volunteers, and finances.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. MINUTES March 22, 2016 Council Meeting

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes from March 22, 2016

Motion to approve minutes

Motion made by: Councilwoman Roberts

Seconded by: Councilman Umstead

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Irvine	Aye
Councilman Umstead	Aye
Councilwoman Roberts	Aye
Councilwoman Hillert	Aye
Councilman Brinkley	Aye

Motion passed: 5-0

ACTION ITEMS

2. Request for street closure for Gran Fondo event

The Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce is requesting that Church Street be closed on July 9, 2016 from 9 AM – 6 PM for the Gran Fondo event. This will be the same area permitted to be closed for the 2015 event.

RECOMMENDATION: Grant request

Motion to grant request for street closure

Motion made by: Councilman Irvine

Seconded by: Councilman Umstead

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Irvine	Aye
Councilman Umstead	Aye
Councilwoman Roberts	Aye
Councilwoman Hillert	Aye
Councilman Brinkley	Aye

Motion passed: 5-0

3. Request from the Masonic Theatre Preservation Foundation for expansion of Library hours for the Heritage Day Festival and street closure for each of the events at the Masonic Amphitheatre

The Masonic Theatre Preservation Foundation would like to request approval of an extension of normal Library hours to 8 AM – 6 PM on Saturday, June 4, 2016. The extended hours are needed for artists and artisans to set up for the event which begins at 10 AM and ends at 5 PM.

The Foundation requests approval for the closing of Church Street from Jefferson to Commercial from 5 PM Friday, June 3, 2016 until 8 PM Saturday, June 4, 2016 and the closing of Jefferson St. from Church to Main Street from 10AM – 5 PM on Saturday, June 4, 2016 with the stipulations specified by the Police and Public Works Departments regarding communication with area businesses and clean up.

RECOMMENDATION: Grant requests

John Hillert stated that Heritage Day is not just a Masonic event, but rather is a community event and is focused on being a learning experience with the hope to get the area youth involved as well. Mr. Hillert mentioned the advertising grant the Masonic has received and stated that with the help of that grant they have advertised the event in many different publications all over the state and into West Virginia. He explained that there will be two carriages operating during the day to shuttle folks to various location which is the reason for the requested street closures. He stated that there are already over 83 artisans signed up that will offer various displays and programs. He stated that there will also be a needle art and quilting program with a

well-known teacher and that they hope to have a Civil War element as well with the showing of the docudrama “A Gift for a Yankee” on the night of June 3, 2016.

Councilwoman Roberts stated that she has received word that a couple from Calgary Canada will be coming to stay at Douthat State Park and will be attending the event.

Motion to grant request for street closure

Motion made by: Councilman Irvine

Seconded by: Councilman Umstead

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Irvine	Aye
Councilman Umstead	Aye
Councilwoman Roberts	Aye
Councilwoman Hillert	Aye
Councilman Brinkley	Aye

Motion passed: 5-0

INFORMATION

A representative from Congressman Griffith’s office will be available in the Armstrong Room at the Library from 10 AM – 12 Noon on Thursday, April 21, 2016.

The Clifton Forge Police Department, along with Greenbrier Valley Veterinary Hospital, will be holding a rabies clinic on Thursday, April 21, 2016 from 1- 4 PM at the Clifton Forge Fire Department. The clinic is open to everyone, regardless of residency. Rabies vaccinations for both dogs and cats will be \$8.50 and other services will also be available. The Town requires all dogs and cats be vaccinated against rabies and hold a current license. For convenience, a town representative will be on hand to sell animal tags. For further information, please contact the Clifton Forge Police Department at 540-863-2513.

The Corridor Curb Appeal Committee will be hosting a town-wide Spring Clean Up & Trim Fest on April 23, 2016. Volunteers should be at Town Hall at 8 AM. All materials & tools provided.

MANAGER’S COMMENTS

Mrs. Burcham advised that so far there have been two youth groups, a Boy Scout group, and a local church who have volunteered to participate in the Spring Clean up event.

She mentioned the milling and paving and newly painted crosswalks and parking spaces on Ridgeway Street. She stated that three former parking spaces have now been blocked off due to safety concerns and visibility issues. She stated that she is in hopes of having some additional paving completed in the spring and mentioned a possibility of \$1million in additional funding through a one-time offer with VDOT to be used for street maintenance.

Mrs. Burcham also mentioned an interview tomorrow, along with several other people, with the Government Accounting Office in an effort to discuss the current level of service and the need for broadband in the area, it’s availability, and connection to UPS services.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CLIFTON FORGE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

JAMMIN AT THE MILL—FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016, 7 PM

CLIFTON FORGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

**PRESCHOOL STORY TIME—TUESDAY, APRIL 19 & MAY 17, 2016, 11 AM
– NOON**

SCOTT HILL RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

SPRING FESTIVAL—SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016, 10 AM – 2 PM
MOTHER’S DAY BRUNCH—SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2014, 10 AM – 1 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS

William Vickery of 726 Rose Avenue stated that something needs to be done about people allowing their dogs to defecate on the property at Veteran’s Memorial Park. He stated that what should be considered “hallowed ground” is being turned into a pet toilet and that he feels badly for the veterans to whom the park is dedicated. He stated that he has seen people avoid the park because of how bad it has gotten. Mr. Vickery asked if there is nothing that can be done to correct the issue and stop it from happening. He stated that he understands that the Police Department is now handing out plastic bags to people if they see them out walking their dogs on public property but feels that there should be a fine for those who do not clean up after their animals. Mrs. Burcham advised that there is a section in the code that addresses this issue and that it is illegal to not clean up after your animal on public property, but that in order for a person to be ticketed or something to be done, the act has to be observed in order to issue a summons.

Councilman Irvine asked if there could be a “No Dogs Allowed” sign put up at the park and Councilwoman Roberts stated that she feels that if there isn’t a sign that one should be installed. Mrs. Burcham agreed to look into the issue further and speak to Chief Balsler.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Irvine thanked everyone for coming. He thanked Mike Barnes for his presentation and thanked John Hillert for his work on Heritage Day. He stated that he loves the new pavement and markings and he thanked Vice Mayor Hillert for the article in the newspaper regarding the Intergovernmental Committee.

Councilwoman Roberts thanked Mike Barnes and John Hillert for all of their hard work on both events. She stated that the new paving is great and made a significant difference in the appearance of downtown. She asked Mrs. Burcham when the road work on the bridge at the Masonic would be completed. Mrs. Burcham advised she believes they have scheduled to have it completed this week.

Councilman Umstead thanked Mike Barnes for his presentation and all of his hard work. He stated that his wife is a reading teacher and uses the Library quite often and that the children at Mountain View are excited about the Con of the Mountain event. He stated that it is a fun way to get the kids to read and that the literacy rate for our area is probably not as good as you may think. He apologized to the Veterans who are offended by the situation at the park and stated that he too is embarrassed and insulted by the issue.

Vice Mayor Hillert stated that she would like to echo everyone's statements! She stated that she feels that something more than a sign is needed to correct the issue at Veteran's Memorial park and that maybe something like a letter to the editor letting people know how the Veterans feel. She stated that those allowing their animals to defecate and not clean up after them should be ashamed and need to be caught. Lastly, Mrs. Hillert mentioned Kameron, the student who attended the previous meeting and the survey that he spoke of while there. She stated that as has been stated, the goal is to get youth involved in local government and the survey that the students participated in was called a climate survey. They conducted the survey at Alleghany High School and it included questions such as how they students feel about the community and what they would like to see or feel could be improved on. Three things were identified by the students and included having a facility in which to gather, such as a coffee house, or something similar that offers free wifi, is comfortable, and offers snacks; having more parks and trails that offer hiking; and a goal to work more closely with the elected officials in the area.

Mayor Brinkley stated that he is thrilled with the looks of the downtown and that it is very impressive to see when entering. He mentioned the recent damage to the skate park due to vandalism and advised that it has caused the park to be closed. There were four instances of vandalism within a week and the fourth was the most severe. Mr. Brinkley also mentioned that he attended the Parks and Trails Committee meeting and that VDOT is now willing to draw up a plan for a walking/bicycle trail and that plan should be available in the future.

**Motion to recess to a work session at 6 PM on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at Town Hall
TIME: 8:10 PM**

Motion made by: Councilwoman Roberts

Seconded by: Vice Mayor Hillert

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Irvine	Aye
Councilman Umstead	Aye
Councilwoman Roberts	Aye
Councilwoman Hillert	Aye
Councilman Brinkley	Aye

Motion passed: 5-0