



TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE

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**COUNCIL MINUTES
TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE, VIRGINIA
7:00 P.M. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 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 7:04 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

Clifton Forge Public Library report—Leslie Cunningham

Leslie Cunningham, member of the Library Board provided an update and stated that the new flooring is now installed in the Armstrong Room and it looks wonderful. The carpet was removed and replaced with tile and all that remains to be done is some minor touch ups along the baseboards. She stated that the “Frozen” Christmas party was very successful and produced an overflow crowd, and that the Black History Month presentation by B. C. Williams had 55 in attendance. Mrs. Cunningham also stated that the winter reading program will be complete at the end of March with the

Dr. Seuss party which will include drawings for gift cards from Dairy Queen. The Alleghany County Public Schools remediation program is still well attended. Mrs. Cunningham then mentioned the Con of the Mountain event and stated that this year they are adding to the literacy theme and teens/tweens can take characters from the Con and use them to give back stories of their own, kind of like fan-fiction. She stated that an idea for the Con is to also create their own small comic book for release at the event and that anyone interested in seeing the preliminary mock-ups of the characters, which include: Dragon of Illiteracy, ConMan and son, Dippy the Dwarf, and an unnamed female archer, a doctor, and a time-traveling steampunk professor, can go to confothemountain.com. The drawings were done by a man in the Netherlands. In conjunction with the fan-fiction idea, they are looking to add Bibliobook, which is an ebook database that would put books by Virginia and local authors in a module that would make it easier to find and read. Lastly, Mrs. Cunningham mentioned that the next project for the Library, which they hope to begin in March, will be a remodel of the Children's area to create a more warm and inviting atmosphere. The remodel will include painting, with a possible mural showing the Characters of the Con of the Mountain, rocking chairs, a Thomas the Tank Engine table, and a seating bench in front of the windows.

Councilwoman Roberts thanked Ms. Cunningham for the report and stated that Mike Barnes, Library Director, had shared the pictures of the figures for the Con at a previous meeting and that they are outstanding. She also stated the new tile in the Armstrong room looks great and makes it easier to move the tables around when needed.

Mrs. Burcham commented to say that Mr. Barnes had mentioned to her that Mr. Williams will be doing a second presentation soon and that those who didn't make the first one can hopefully attend.

Ms. Cunningham also mentioned that Jared Jenkins will be presenting a program at the Library tomorrow evening on the basics of how to prepare wills, and other documents of that nature.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. MINUTES February 9, 2016

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes from February 9, 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. Waiver of fee for fingerprinting service

On January 12, Council established a \$10 fee for fingerprinting. Following Council's approval, the Police Chief suggested that this fee be waived for Clifton Forge and Alleghany County Fire and Rescue personnel.

RECOMMENDATION: Waive fingerprint fee for active members of Alleghany County and Clifton Forge Fire and Rescue departments.

Mayor Brinkley commented that he feels that with the amount of time and energy our volunteers and Fire Department employees put into the job it only makes sense not to charge them, and for all others, the \$10 really is a minor fee.

Motion to adopt resolution

Motion made by: Vice Mayor Hillert

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. Buckingham Branch Railroad Company Resolution

The Buckingham Branch Railroad Company is seeking to file an application with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for funding assistance for its projects and is asking the Town for a resolution of support.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt resolution

Angela read the resolution and without any further comments, Mayor Brinkley asked for a motion to adopt the resolution.

Motion to adopt resolution

Motion made by: Councilman Umstead

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

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Police Department
- Public Library
- Public Works Department
- Water Treatment Plant
- Community Development
- Fire Department

RECOMMENDATION: Accept reports

Councilman Irvine commented that he enjoys the pictures included in the Public Works report and that he was able to learn a lot about the Water Treatment plant just by reading the report.

Councilwoman Roberts stated that she agrees with Councilman Irvine and also wished to compliment the Public Works department on the great job again with the snow removal.

Mayor Brinkley stated that thankfully the last two snowfalls have occurred over a weekend which could either make it better or worse for the guys to work around the traffic in downtown. He stated that he feels they've done a great job.

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

5. Request from Clifton Forge Main Street to hold Easter Bonnet Parade

Clifton Forge Main Street requests permission to hold an Easter Bonnet Parade on Saturday, March 26, 2016 at 11:00 AM from the 400 block of East Ridgeway St. to the Clifton Forge Town Hall parking lot. The parade will line up at 11:30 AM and all men, women, children, and pets are invited to participate with a bonnet or cap of their design.

RECOMMENDATION: Grant request

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

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, March 17, 2016.

The Clifton Forge Police Department, along with Greenbrier Valley Veterinary Hospital, will be holding a rabies clinic on Thursday, April 21, 2016 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.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Mrs. Burcham advised that after receiving much support to keep the Catawba Hospital open, the General Assembly has decided not to take action on the bill that would have started efforts to close the hospital.

She also commented on the First Responder Program and stated that there were 88 calls answered in the first 30 days of the service, and all but one of those calls was within the Town limits. The program allows for expedited patient care and allows the responding rescue squad personnel to immediately begin the transport process.

Mrs. Burcham then read an email she had received via the website. It was a heart-warming story about a gentleman and his family who traveled through the area and had a near-fatal accident in 1973 and wanted to express how much he appreciated both the help he received and the people of Clifton Forge that provided food and other items to their family while they were patients in the local hospital-- very nice sentiment. Mrs. Burcham stated that it really says a lot about the community for someone to respond over such a long period of time! A copy of the email received, and Mrs. Burcham's response to Mr. Aquino is attached below:

Hello my name is Rodrigo Aquino, Back in Valentines day February 1973 driving through Interstate 64 near Covington, driving with my wife and young daughter we had a near fatal accident, my Chevy Van slid during a freezing rain and hit a guard rail causing my vehicle to flip over several time, we were on 64 heading east and we wound up on the westbound lane. I remember the accident and how we survived I'll never know. When I came to, I remember this truck driver handing me my wallet, utter devastation and chaos all over the scene. My wife and I were taken to Clifton Forge hospital, I doubt if it's still there. There were some good people from your city who extended their best wishes and some even brought food and I specially remember a couple who took time to visit and bring us some goodies. I never had the time to thank these kind individuals for their kindness all these years. Its been 43 years and I'll never forget the kindnes s and compassion your citizens provided us in time of need. Since then I've retired from the US Navy but still think of your town and how it impacted my life. My sincerest thanks and wish the people of Clifton Forge my best. Rudy Aquino

Mr. Aquino, I was overwhelmed with the sentiments you expressed in your email to me, particularly after 43 years. Residents of the town pride ourselves on our friendliness, but it is always heartwarming when someone recognizes this attribute. That day was obviously one that you will remember forever, and I hope that now that you are retired you and your family might find the time to visit our town again, this time to experience our hospitality without a life threatening event.

Unless you object, I would like to read your letter at our next council meeting so that people will know how a little bit of kindness will be remembered.

Thanks again for taking the time to write and share your remembrances of our town with me.

Darlene Burcham

Mayor Brinkley thanked her for sharing the story with Council.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALLEGHANY HIGHLANDS ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER

PICASSO DIVA'S NIGHT—WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016, 6-8 PM

**ART OF CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL AT THE ARMORY—SATURDAY,
MARCH 19, 2016, 11:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

CLIFTON FORGE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

JAMMIN AT THE MILL—FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016, 7 PM

CLIFTON FORGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

**DR. SEUSS PARTY (END OF WINTER READING PROGRAM)—
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016, 4:30 – 6 PM**

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME—TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016, 11 AM – NOON

**BRUCE INGRAM, LIBRARY BOARD PROGRAM—THURSDAY, MARCH
17, 2016, 6-7 PM**

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY, PRESALE (BOOK SALE)—THURSDAY,
MARCH 31, 2016, 5:00 – 7 PM**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Irvine thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and thanked Ms. Cunningham for the update on the Library. He stated that he was asked to send thanks to the members involved with the First Responder Program from a fellow employee at the school. The employee stated that the crews responding were very kind and helpful. Mr. Irvine mentioned the recent C & O Train Show event and stated that there were 500 people in attendance. He stated that the event was great for railroad heritage and he was glad to see such a wonderful event. He then stated that some people had come to him with concerns over the ordinance that prevents signs in public spaces and that he agrees with the people that there should be some exceptions and other ways to allow signage in those areas and is asking Council to take a look at the ordinance to see if it can be amended in some way. Lastly, he stated that he is pleased to see a lot of new things happening.

Councilman Umstead thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and jokingly stated that this was the first time Council outnumbered the number of people in the audience! He thanked Ms. Cunningham for a great job on the update.

Councilwoman Roberts thanked everyone and stated that she appreciated Ms. Cunningham giving a very good Library report. Mrs. Roberts then provided a brief

report on the Roxbury project. She stated that the last meeting was held on February 18, 2016 and that all of the infrastructure work on Roxbury is now complete. She advised that there are two substantial reconstructions and several rehabilitations in this first phase of the project. She advised that one of the reconstructions has been completed and the family is now moved in and living in their new home and that the second one is ready for construction. She advised that bids on this property are due in today. Mrs. Roberts advised that there are seven rehabilitations that will begin once new bids are received and approved. The previous bids received were all well above the limits set by the grant. She stated that there is a very fine line when working on these details. She stated that there are now six approved contractors for the project and Don Ford is currently working on getting a contractor that is licensed and specializes in lead abatement. The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2016.

Vice Mayor Hillert thanked Ms. Cunningham for the Library report and mentioned the Soup for Senior's event, sponsored by the LOA that is currently being held. She asked Mrs. Burcham to give a few details about the event. Mrs. Burcham advised that the event goes through the end of the month and there are collection bins located in both Town Hall and the Fire Station and that any non-perishable food can be included, anything to make a meal for a senior a little easier. She stated she had included things such as crackers as well. Mrs. Burcham advised that we've already filled both donation bins once and are hoping to fill them again before the end of the event.

Mayor Brinkley thanked everyone and stated that from the reports he can see that the Town is a very busy place! He stated that he appreciates all efforts.

**CLOSED SESSION – PURSUANT TO SECTION CHAPTER 2.2-3711 A-3
REAL ESTATE AND A-7 LEGAL**

Motion made by: Councilwoman Roberts

TIME: 7:35 PM

Seconded by: Councilman Irvine

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Motion passed: 5-0

Motion to return to open session

TIME: 8:56 PM

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

Motion to certify only indicated items were discussed

Motion made by: Vice Mayor Hillert

Seconded by: Councilwoman Roberts

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Motion passed: 5-0

Motion to adjourn

TIME: 9:35 PM

Motion made by: Councilman Umstead

Seconded by: Councilwoman Roberts

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Motion passed: 5-0