



## TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE

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**COUNCIL MINUTES  
TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE, VIRGINIA  
7:00 P.M. TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2019  
CLIFTON FORGE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
547 MAIN STREET**

**INVOCATION-** David Davis provided the invocation.

**CALL TO ORDER-** Mayor Irvine called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-** Mayor Irvine led the attendees and Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jeff Irvine, Vice Mayor Pamela Marshall, Councilman Umstead, Councilman David Oeltjen, and Councilman Ronald Goings

**Also, present but not on the roll:** Darlene Burcham, Town Manager, David Davis, Town Attorney, and Angela Carper, Clerk

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. MINUTES            Council Meeting   June 11, 2019**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve minutes of June 11, 2019

**Motion to approve minutes**

**Motion made by:**        Councilman Goings

**Seconded by:**            Councilman Oeltjen

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**Councilman Umstead**           Aye  
**Councilman Oeltjen**        Aye  
**Councilman Goings**         Aye  
**Vice Mayor Marshall**       Aye  
**Mayor Jeff Irvine**         Aye

**Motion passed:**             5-0

**ACTION ITEMS**

**2. Ordinance to amend Section 4-20 (a) R-1 Residential of the Zoning Ordinance**

The State Code was amended in 2015 to include group homes of no more than 8 individuals with disabilities in the definition of a residential property. The attached amendment will bring our code into compliance.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Waive second reading and adopt ordinance

Councilman Goings asked if there is anyone currently interested in opening a group home and Mrs. Burcham explained that Mrs. Betty Crane has one located behind the building previously occupied by the Dairy Bar, but that property is zoned business.

**Motion to waive second reading**

**Motion made by:**    Councilman Oeltjen

**Seconded by:**       Councilman Umstead

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**Councilman Umstead**           Aye  
**Councilman Oeltjen**        Aye  
**Councilman Goings**         Aye  
**Vice Mayor Marshall**       Aye  
**Mayor Jeff Irvine**         Aye

**Motion passed:**             5-0

**Motion to adopt ordinance**

**Motion made by:** Councilman Umstead

**Seconded by:** Councilman Oeltjen

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

<b>Councilman Umstead</b>	Aye
<b>Councilman Oeltjen</b>	Aye
<b>Councilman Goings</b>	Aye
<b>Vice Mayor Marshall</b>	Aye
<b>Mayor Jeff Irvine</b>	Aye

**Motion passed:** 5-0

**3. Appropriation Resolution**

To allow the funds to be included into the FY '18/'19 budget, it is necessary to appropriate the funds as listed.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Waive second reading and adopt resolution

**Motion to waive second reading**

**Motion made by:** Councilman Oeltjen

**Seconded by:** Councilman Goings

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

<b>Councilman Umstead</b>	Aye
<b>Councilman Oeltjen</b>	Aye
<b>Councilman Goings</b>	Aye
<b>Vice Mayor Marshall</b>	Aye
<b>Mayor Jeff Irvine</b>	Aye

**Motion passed:** 5-0

**Motion to adopt resolution**

**Motion made by:** Councilman Umstead

**Seconded by:** Councilman Oeltjen

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

<b>Councilman Umstead</b>	Aye
<b>Councilman Oeltjen</b>	Aye
<b>Councilman Goings</b>	Aye
<b>Vice Mayor Marshall</b>	Aye
<b>Mayor Jeff Irvine</b>	Aye

**Motion passed:** 5-0

**4. Appropriation Resolution**

The Town is facilitating the purchase parcel of land from CSX on behalf of Houff Corporation. The down payment of \$4,000 has been paid to the Town from Houff Corporation for a deposit on the parcel.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Waive second reading and adopt resolution

**Motion to waive second reading**

**Motion made by:** Councilman Oeltjen

**Seconded by:** Councilman Goings

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

<b>Councilman Umstead</b>	Aye
<b>Councilman Oeltjen</b>	Aye
<b>Councilman Goings</b>	Aye
<b>Vice Mayor Marshall</b>	Aye
<b>Mayor Jeff Irvine</b>	Aye

**Motion passed:** 5-0

**Motion to adopt resolution**

**Motion made by:** Councilman Goings

**Seconded by:** Councilman Umstead

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

<b>Councilman Umstead</b>	Aye
<b>Councilman Oeltjen</b>	Aye
<b>Councilman Goings</b>	Aye
<b>Vice Mayor Marshall</b>	Aye
<b>Mayor Jeff Irvine</b>	Aye

**Motion passed:** 5-0

**5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** Accept reports as written

**Motion to accept reports as written**

**Motion made by:** Councilman Oeltjen

**Seconded by:** Vice Mayor Marshall

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

<b>Councilman Umstead</b>	Aye
<b>Councilman Oeltjen</b>	Aye
<b>Councilman Goings</b>	Aye
<b>Vice Mayor Marshall</b>	Aye
<b>Mayor Jeff Irvine</b>	Aye

**Motion passed:** 5-0

## **MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

Mrs. Burcham mentioned the generator purchase in order to house the Police Department in the building next to Town Hall at 601 Main Street which is included the capital budget and stated that the generator has now been ordered. Beginning work to prepare the building is being done by the Police Department and the move will not occur until after installation of the new radio system which was purchased by the County in order to improve service in our area. It is hoped the installation and move can be completed in October.

Mrs. Burcham mentioned that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration was a very nice and positive program despite having no fireworks this year. She stated that moving the ceremony into the Masonic Theatre has received many compliments and that program held in the theatre honoring the veterans and first responders was very moving.

Mrs. Burcham mentioned that there will be a public meeting with the purpose of input on the Town's 5-year comprehensive plan update on July 18 at 6 PM at the Fire Station.

Mrs. Burcham mentioned a planned ceremony for 10 AM on Saturday, August 10 to honor Trudi Lacey, a Clifton Forge native who has had an outstanding basketball career. The day will be declared Trudi Lacey Day and a signed proclamation and a plaque with the key to the Town will be presented to Ms. Lacey followed by refreshments at the Library being provided by the Friends of the Library. Ms. Lacey has also agreed to give a brief speech as an inspiration to area youth to encourage them to dream big!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **CLIFTON FORGE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM--WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 17, & 31 2019,  
10:30-11:30 AM**

### **CLIFTON FORGE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

**JAMMIN AT THE MILL—FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2019, 7 PM**

### **MASONIC THEATRE**

**THE DEB CALLAGHAN BAND LIVE FROM THE UNDERGROUND—  
THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019, 6:30 PM**

**“TWELFTH NIGHT”—PRESENTED BY THE TRAVELING PLAYERS—  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2019, 7 PM**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Moser of 706 Church Street asked Council what he needs to do to get permits or badges for a petition because he believes it is time to move to Alleghany County. He stated that he wants to change the charter and that the county does the trash, schools, and sewer already. Mr. Moser then engaged in a personal and derogatory attack on the Town Manager, Mrs. Burcham, making false accusations and statements. He commented on the alleyway behind his residence, stating that Columbia Gas stated that the problem is not with them and that he has pictures before and after the work they performed and that when it rains bad it is continually flooding his backyard. He stated that he knows he is the only one complaining because there are only vacant homes beside him. He then complained about a police officer “playing” with an assault rifle at the Fire Department and referring to a video he had on his cell phone, stating that he had no knowledge whether the weapon was loaded but if one of his children were injured there would be hell to pay. Mr. Moser then went on to make statements regarding a house fire stating that Selma had put out the fire and not the Clifton Forge Fire Department. He stated he is tired of nothing being done when he wants it to and that he had the privilege of attending a County Board of Supervisor’s meeting and has spoken to Mrs. Vanderbuilt and was corrected by Council members to advise him of her correct name of Vannorsdall. He said if 5 people here can’t do anything, maybe the 9 there can. He stated that he wants to become Alleghany County because the Mayor isn’t elected or chosen by the people here, they don’t get to decide what the Town Manager is paid, and no one wants to do anything to bring anything here such as installing a zip line or bouncy house. He stated that all he hears is that it takes time and money and he’s tired of it and wants it to change and wants to go door to door with a petition. He stated that the Town is losing people and that if the management in Town really wanted to do something they should address transportation such as Uber and Lyft because they only have platforms in Roanoke and we need to establish platforms here because the town is missing out.

Mayor Irvine advised Mr. Moser that he would need to go to the Voter Registrar for Alleghany County and that he would also like to see him talk to Jon Lanford, the County Administrator about all he’s said because he has and there is a lot to lose by reverting to the County. He then advised Mr. Moser that he will listen to anything that anyone has to say, but he will not allow bad mouthing of the Town Manager or any others and that if it happened again, he will be removed. Mr. Moser stated that he didn’t call any names and again repeated the personal attack on Mrs. Burcham. Mayor

Irvine stated that he will not allow any more personal attacks and that he should have stopped him when he said what he did, but he didn't want to interrupt him.

Mr. Moser continued to speak after his time limit had expired and stated that they told him he had to come to Council. Mrs. Vannorsdall echoed from the audience that she had provided him with the very extensive Code of Virginia that he would need to abide by and follow and Mayor Irvine again told him he needed to speak to the Registrar and Board of Elections.

Vice Mayor Marshall mentioned Mr. Moser's comments about the Town losing people and stated that it has been shown that Clifton Forge is the only locality within the area that is growing. She also advised him that the statements he makes are false and that he should check before making them because he does not know that the Town has not checked into Uber or Lyft because it has been checked into and is not currently available to our area.

Mr. Moser continued asking how the Town was going to fix "his" alley. Councilman Goings stated that he had looked at the alleyway while out walking and saw no problems with it, but that if would like, the next time he had an issue he would be glad to come take a look again. Mr. Moser stated that he had his personal number and that he wanted to document that he stated he would come look. Councilman Goings advised that he would, providing that it wasn't after midnight. Mr. Moser then commented that he didn't want to hear that he was in the middle of a family dinner, birthday party, baby shower, or any other thing when he called. Finally, Mayor Irvine advised that that issue has been addressed several times now and that the conversation needed to end, and the meeting needed to move on.

Joan Vannorsdall, the area representative for the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors greeted Council on behalf of the board. Mrs. Vannorsdall stated that she wished to share a story that involved her recent travel through seven states in the Appalachian region and a stop in Landrum, SC two months ago. She stated that they had taken four towns in different counties and two states to join together to create a tourist destination you wouldn't believe. She stated that in seeing that, the possibilities for our area are endless, even with including White Sulphur Springs or other neighboring localities across state borders.

Jenny Oeltjen of 808 Acacia, owner of Livy's Closet, addressed Council regarding the increased issue of the lack of parking in the downtown area. She stated that people are spending an excessive amount of time looking for a spot to park and suggested additional signage to point out the public parking areas within the Town. She mentioned other areas where angled parking is used instead of parallel since it takes



people sometimes a couple of times to get into a space which holds up things for everyone. She also mentioned that people who live at the Alleghany Building are using the spaces instead of parking in the rear and one resident who has a handicapped placard, but instead of parking in the handicapped space is using a regular parking space which takes away from those who do not have the option of parking in the handicapped areas. Mrs. Oeltjen stated that it's a great problem to have and shows that we're gaining people and business but wants to make sure that the issue doesn't drive people away so that the area continues to move forward.

William Vickery of Rose Avenue took time before speaking to personally apologize to Mrs. Burcham, stating that he has now witnessed the attitude and disrespectful outbursts in the meetings several times and that there is no excuse for that behavior or for anyone to allowed to be disrespectful to her or other Town staff. Mr. Vickery then addressed Council regarding an issue he feels with parking throughout the Town with parking spaces being blocked off as no parking areas and the limited parking on some streets. He mentioned a couple of incidents that he has personally dealt with and stated that he feels it childish and that the Police Department are overly enforcing the issue and that something else needs to be done. Lastly, he stated that he would gladly help in any way he could if something can be done.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Umstead thanked everyone for attending and invited everyone to come back often but gave a warning to be respectful when attending with their comments, stating that he has no issue with walking out if the level of disrespect continues.

Councilman Umstead thanked Mott Atherholt for a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July program and that he enjoyed having it inside the Masonic Theatre and hopes that it can continue to be held there. He stated that the Roxbury project is now complete except for the final installation of the swings at the playground and again thanked everyone for attending.

Councilman Oeltjen wished everyone a good evening and stated that he feels part of the issue with operational costs of the Town is that people are confused. He stated that reverting to the County would not eliminate any debt and would cause the Town and residents to lose a lot of services and that he does not see it beneficial, but if that is what is wanted by some he urges them to gather the information regarding the issue. He thanked Joan Vannorsdall and stated that the parking issue is indeed a great problem to have and that maybe with further research a better solution can be found to aide in the matter. He thanked Mr. Vickery and suggested that he might speak to the Town Manager and the Chief of Police further regarding his concerns. Councilman Oeltjen stated that he had the recent pleasure of working with the Men of Mission and found it a very rewarding opportunity even in the hot miserable temperatures we have

had lately. He stated that he is glad to hear that the Roxbury project is now complete. Lastly, he thanked Mott Atherholt and stated that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July program was great!

Councilman Goings stated that the parking issue is a good problem to have and that maybe it could be addressed, and he agreed that additional signage may be needed. He asked Mrs. Burcham about the side markings or painting along the curbside being in new areas. Mrs. Burcham explained that if the Police Department deems the area as having a sight distance issue, then it is sometimes an area is marked in the best interest of safety, but that most of the areas recently painted are areas that were previously painted but had faded. Councilman Goings stated that in his opinion he doesn't see a benefit to using angled parking as it may be easier pulling into a space, but harder and more timely backing out, just as it take a little longer to park in a parallel spot, but is normally faster pulling out to leave.

Vice Mayor Marshall thanked everyone for attending and stated that everyone is not going to be happy, but that Council is trying and that she wishes people would stay to hear the comments at the end of the meeting because a lot of the questions could be addressed. She congratulated the Police Department and thanked Mott Atherholt, stating that she was out of town over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, but heard the event was great. She mentioned Trudi Lacey Day and encouraged people to attend and stated that she was 2 classes ahead of her in school but has gone on to be inducted into the NC Hall of Fame and is proud to be a part of beginning the practice of honoring our hometown heroes. She thanked Mrs. Oeltjen and stated that she agrees the parking issue is a good issue to have but is still an issue and that she appreciates her bringing it to their attention. She stated she is glad that the Roxbury project is now complete and hopes that the Town can obtain more grants for other neighborhood improvement projects in the future. Lastly, she mentioned respect at the meetings and stated that she does not like personal comments or attacks and that they should not be happening.

Mayor Irvine stated he wished to give a "shout out" to Brandon and Lee in the Public Works Department for their outstanding job on the tree trimming in Town and that he had watched them and learned a lot. He thanked Mr. & Mrs. Atherholt for their work on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July program and stated that it had turned out wonderful. Lastly, he thanked Mrs. Oeltjen and stated that the Town will try to find a solution to the parking issue and thanked everyone for attending.

**Motion to adjourn**

**Time:** 7:58 PM

**Motion made by:** Vice Mayor Marshall

**Seconded by:** Councilman Umstead

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

<b>Councilman Umstead</b>	Aye
<b>Councilman Oeltjen</b>	Aye
<b>Councilman Goings</b>	Aye
<b>Vice Mayor Marshall</b>	Aye
<b>Mayor Jeff Irvine</b>	Aye

**Motion passed:** 5-0