



**TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA
TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE, VIRGINIA
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023, AT 7:00PM
CLIFTON FORGE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
547 MAIN STREET**

INVOCATION – Father Augustine Lukenge

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**** A motion was made to amend the agenda to add Robert "Robbie" Barber.***

Motioned to approve: Councilwoman Laudermilk
Seconded by: Vice-Mayor Burdette

Councilman Nicely- Yes
Councilwoman Laudermilk- Yes
Councilman Wolfe- Absent
Vice-Mayor Burdette- Yes
Mayor Irvine- Yes

1. MINUTES

A) Council Meeting

March 14, 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS: Approve the minutes for March 14, 2023

Motioned to approve: Councilman Nicely
Seconded by: Councilwoman Laudermilk

Councilman Nicely- Yes
Councilwoman Laudermilk- Yes
Councilman Wolfe- Absent
Vice-Mayor Burdette- Yes
Mayor Irvine- Yes

***ADDED ITEM – Robbie Barber**

Robbie Barber proposed to the Council to make a purchase of the 21 acres behind Bella's Pizza across from Kroger, to add something beneficial to the Town. Mayor Irvine included that the property was not for sale due to the land having 2 main drains that back up with CSX. Also, due to the area the only way to access the property is going through the cemetery which no large trucks can access through that area. Robbie responded by saying he understood it wasn't for sale but if the Town decided to sell it, that they would consider him first. He also mentioned that he had spoken with the owners of Bella's Pizza about putting a right of way from their parking lot to access the property and he was given the OK to do so. Jeff Mentioned that he really appreciated his interest in buying and having new development, but it would have to have proper inspections and approval before anything could be done. Robbie agreed and even said he would pay for the proper inspections to be done, if Council would reconsider selling him the land. Vice Mayor Burdette asked if Robbie had any future plans for the property and Robbie responded by saying not yet but whatever is done to the property, the Town will receive revenue from the taxes. Councilwoman Laudermilk mentioned that the Town isn't trying to make money but instead make the best decision for the Town and right now that property isn't for sale. Chuck then made the comment that in the process if the property was to go up for sale the Council would need to hold a public hearing before making a decision. Diana K Smith asked if the land was for sale by the Town. Again, it was said that the Town does not have that property up for sale. It was explained some more about all the different tests that would need to be run on the property before thinking about

selling it. Robbie then asked if he could have reps come up and Council and Chuck agreed that it would be fine, but it doesn't make any promises on the land going up for sale. Robbie understood and Chuck said he could swing by the office on Thursday Morning.

2. ACTION ITEMS

A) DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Code Enforcement
- Police Department
- Public Works
- Library
- Water Plant
- Fire Department
- Armory

*Chuck mentioned the Armory minutes weren't included due to it being difficult to take accurate minutes with each direction the meeting was going.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the reports as submitted and written.

Motioned to approve: Councilman Nicely
Seconded by: Councilwoman Laudermilk

Councilman Nicely- Yes
Councilwoman Laudermilk- Yes
Councilman Wolfe- Absent
Vice-Mayor Burdette- Yes
Mayor Irvine- Yes

B) Discussion on the future of the Armory Authority.

RECOMMENDATION: Vote for The Town to take over management of Armory Authority.

Chuck started by saying that for the last 5 years the Armory Authority had selected 9 members and hoped that it would progress in a positive way for the Town. He mentioned that nobody had given him any personal reason as to why it should be changed, it needed to be done to avoid any conflicts with Armory Authority members. Chuck said the Town would take over management of the Armory and a lot of updates will be made to the building as well as a better understanding and price on rental. He then mentioned Administrative Assistant, Taylor, would take over the bookkeeping and Public Works would take care of the opening and closing. He mentioned it was not a bad facility, but it was time to take a different approach.

Motioned to approve: Councilwoman Laudermilk
Seconded by: Councilman Nicely

Councilman Nicely- Yes
Councilwoman Laudermilk- Yes
Councilman Wolfe- Absent
Vice-Mayor Burdette- Yes
Mayor Irvine- Yes

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chuck mentioned having two discussion items that he wanted to discuss with council members.

Chuck had placed a book down for each council member that was gifted by a member on the Planning Commission. He said that he was told the first part of the book was dry and hard but once you get through it, it's a very good book.

Juneteenth celebration is coming up and Chuck wanted to give a heads up about a request that will be coming in for review. The request will be for Monday June 19th to close Main Street in front of the Masonic Theatre and around the corner on Commercial Street, between ACE and PrimisBank.

4. MANAGERS COMMENTS

- *Chuck announced the ribbon cutting for the Love Sign Sculpture would be Thursday at 11:30 located down at the Masonic Amphitheater. After the ribbon cutting is complete, they will have refreshments in the underground at the Masonic Theatre.*
- *The Community Gathering for the month of April has a date change, and it will be tomorrow, April 12th from 6:30 to 8:00PM.*
- *Earth Day will be on April 22nd and everyone who wants to contribute will meet at Town Hall at 9:00AM. Chuck said the trash bags and orange vests will be provided and the boys from The Boys Home will be contributing.*
- *Chuck mentioned the Park Equity Study that will be next Friday, April 21st to discuss upgrades and repairs. They also want to discuss if Linden Park is the best spot for the All-abilities Playground.*
- *Chuck talked about the Solar scape Workshop with Code Enforcer, Brad Church, and they obtained a lot of good information about solar farms. Virginia has now issued that so many acres of land is to be dedicated to solar.*
- *The sensory Trail Ribbon Cutting will be on May 8th at 11:30AM.*
- *The Community Garden is coming along with the beds up having a total of 12 with one being handicap accessible. An anonymous person has stepped forward to pay for 2 beds for those that cannot afford one but would like the privilege to have one.*
- *West Ridgeway paving, they haven't received a date from VDOT but seems it will be around late spring or early summer.*
- *Paving with Atkins Excavating should start on Thursday, and it will complete the work on Ridgeway St.*

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dominique Washington made a few comments about some of the business that was discussed previously. He complimented Dale Burdette by saying "you're doing amazing". He was very interested to

know more about the Solar Farms, which chuck said, "there are a lot of studies that will need to be done before going forward". Dominique then asked about the prices for the Armory and what all is included in the rental. Chuck did mention that a new fridge was delivered to the Armory that would be a great asset.

6. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Nicely- Started by expressing how he looks forward to seeing what the Armory has in store being under the management of the Town. He expressed that he thinks the Armory will go places and looks forward to it. He then thanked Robbie for his interest in the purchasing of town property and thanked Dominique for his comments and dedication to the Boy Scouts being involved with Town activities.

Councilwoman Lauder milk- Started by mentioning the group she is involved in that has many great opportunities in the process. She then thanked the original members of the Armory Committee and expressed how excited she was for the new opportunities that will happen once the Town employees take over completely. She also thanked those who put in all their hard work that were on the Armory Committee. Debbie then expressed her excitement for the Juneteenth Celebration that will be held downtown this year. She then thanked Robbie for his interest and Dominique for his support in the boy scouts and Town activities. She finished by telling Chuck to "Keep up the good work".

Vice Mayor Burdette- Thanked everyone for coming out and those who chose to speak at tonight's meeting as well as those who are listening. He also thanked Public Works for all their hard work and dedication down at the Sensory Trail that he once remembered being called "The Jungle". He again thanked everyone for coming out.

Mayor Irvine- Thanked everyone for coming and a big thank you to Brad for doing his job well. He mentioned he had told the code enforcer, Brad, about 3 properties and 1 was cleaned overnight. He also thanked Dale for filling in when he couldn't be present, and Clifton Forge Main Street for the Easter Parade. He then thanked again all those who were involved at the

Sensory Trail and mentioned Public Works crew member Brandon for doing amazing work there. He mentioned that Councilman Wolfe wasn't present because he is doing missionary work and then ended by thanking all those involved in making the Town run properly.

Motioned to approve: Vice-Mayor Burdette
Seconded by: Councilman Nicely

Councilman Nicely- Yes
Councilwoman Laudermilk- Yes
Councilman Wolfe- Absent
Vice-Mayor Burdette- Yes
Mayor Irvine- Yes

7. CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.2-3711 PERSONNEL BASED UPON CODE SECTION A:1, TO SECTION 2.2-3711 REAL ESTATE BASED UPON CODE SECTION A:3 AND TO VA. CODE § 2.2-3711(A)(8) FOR CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL.

8. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motioned to approve: Councilwoman Laudermilk
Seconded by: Councilman Nicely

Councilman Nicely- Yes
Councilwoman Laudermilk- Yes
Councilman Wolfe- Absent
Vice-Mayor Burdette- Yes
Mayor Irvine- Yes

9. CERTIFY CLOSED SESSION

Motioned to approve: Councilwoman Lauder milk
Seconded by: Vice Mayor Burdette

Councilman Nicely- Yes
Councilwoman Lauder milk- Yes
Councilman Wolfe- Absent
Vice-Mayor Burdette- Yes
Mayor Irvine- Yes

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned to approve: Councilwoman Lauder milk
Seconded by: Councilman Nicely

Councilman Nicely- Yes
Councilwoman Lauder milk- Yes
Councilman Wolfe- Absent
Vice-Mayor Burdette- Yes
Mayor Irvine- Yes

11. UPCOMING EVENTS

GROVE – Cora Dance Alleghany

WHEN: April 20th – 23rd

WHERE: Historic Masonic Theatre

TIME: 7:30

PRICE: 35 or pay-what-you-can

Shenandoah Ballet's Snow White and the Poisoned Apple

WHEN: April 29th & 30th

WHERE: Historic Masonic Theatre

TIMES: 7:00PM (29th) & 2:00PM (30th)