



**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE, VIRGINIA
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024, 7:00 P.M.
CLIFTON FORGE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
547 MAIN STREET**

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENTATION

Recognition of former Police Chief Chad Wickline

Chief of Police Scott Balsler presented former Chief of Police Chad Wickline with his badge and thanked him for his service.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes Council Meeting March 12, 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS: Approve the minutes for March 12, 2024

Motion to approve: Councilman Ben Nicely
Seconded by: Councilman Carl Wolfe, Jr.

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

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Department Reports
 - Code Enforcement
 - Police Department
 - Public Works

- Library
- Water Plant
- Fire Department

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the reports as submitted and written.

Motion to Approve: Vice Mayor Dale Burdette
Seconded by: Councilman Ben Nicely

Councilman Nicely: Yes
Councilman Wolfe: Yes
Councilwoman Laudermilk: Yes
Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes
Mayor Irvine: Yes

2) Proclamations

- To declare April as Clean Up Month in the Alleghany Highlands
- To declare April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the proclamations

Motion to Approve: Councilwoman Debbie Laudermilk
Seconded by: Vice Mayor Burdette

Councilman Nicely: Yes
Councilman Wolfe: Yes
Councilwoman Laudermilk: Yes
Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes
Mayor Irvine: Yes

3) Request of Agony of the Alleghanies Gran Fondo

- Josh Taylor requests closure of Church Street between Jefferson and Commercial Avenue for Saturday, June 29th from approximately 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. He also requests the use of the Rose Street parking lot for shuttle drop-off and pick-up as in years past. Mr. Taylor is also requesting services from the Clifton Forge Police Department and Rescue Squad as an in-kind contribution.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the request

Motion to Approve: Councilman Nicely
Seconded by: Councilwoman Laudermilk

Councilman Nicely: Yes
Councilman Wolfe: Yes
Councilwoman Laudermilk: Yes
Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes
Mayor Irvine: Yes

4) Request on the Behalf of the Town of Clifton Forge

- On behalf of the Town of Clifton Forge, please consider the closure of Ridgeway Street between Roxbury Street and River Street, as well as Commercial Avenue between Main Street and Ridgeway Street from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on June 28th, July 26th, August 30th, and September 27th to allow for Fridays in the Forge Activities.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the request

Motion to Approve: Councilwoman Laudermilk

Seconded by: Vice Mayor Burdette

Councilman Nicely: Yes

Councilman Wolfe: Yes

Councilwoman Laudermilk: Yes

Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes

Mayor Irvine: Yes

5) Reappointments on the Industrial Development Authority

- Ronald Goings' appointment expired December 31, 2023-Requests reappointment
- Jennifer Oeltjen's appointment expired September 30, 2023-Requests reappointment
- Richard Deaton's appointment expired May 31, 2023-Requests reappointment

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the requests

Council made the decision to table this item until next month.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

- Manager Chuck Unroe welcomed Mike Lockaby as Clifton Forge's new attorney. He also welcomed Kyla Crosier as the new administrative assistant and deputy clerk of Council.
- The State Health Department has requested inventory of potential lead and/or copper service lines in the town. Public Works employee Amanda Gunter has completed 40 percent of the project and will meet the deadline to have the project completed. She has taken on certification as pesticide applicator and is working with fellow employee, Chris Keyser, to get Public Works certified as safety flaggers and participation on setting up work zones.
- April as Clean Up Month-Clifton Forge is working with Vision 20/25 Curb Appeal. The town is having a clean up day on April 20, 2024, at 9 a.m. and welcomes anyone who would like to participate. The town will provide safety vests, trash bags, and rubber gloves.
- Virginia Tech and the Virginia Municipal League are hosting their first Small Towns Conference on June 10-June 11, 2024.

- Brad Church from Code Enforcement is taking core classes through VHCD to become a certified building maintenance inspector. This way, he can go into rental properties and inspect them to ensure they are safe for tenants to live in. Clifton Forge has not had a certified building inspector since 2016. Mr. Church should have his courses completed by the end of June.
- Congressionally Directed Spending Allotment-One request has been sent for assistance with the all abilities park. There was a five-day deadline, so there wasn't much time to submit requests.
- The Planning Commission is working with Brian Hill from the Roanoke Valley/Alleghany Regional Commission on the Comprehensive Plan. Amendments to the plan have been suggested, and there should be a draft ready for review by mid-May. Council will then hold a Public Hearing in July for citizen input.
- Date Correction-The Smith Creek water line replacement is a 3.3-million-dollar project, funded by the Virginia Department of Health. Bids for this project will open May 21st, and it will be an 18-month project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Pam Lightfoot, 924 McCormick suggested new web pages, a housing summit, and giving notices to owners of vacant properties. She also recommended adding a find a grave committee under Parks and Recreation to ensure graves locations are accurate. She said that a digital museum would be a good idea, since Clifton Forge is considered a historic location. She stated that Chuck had been making efforts to get vacant buildings sold. She suggested advertising on the town Facebook page or Alleghany Journal so people would know what is happening in the Town of Clifton Forge.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilman Ben Nicely-Councilman Nicely thanked Mrs. Crosier and said he looks forward to working with her. He welcomed Mr. Lockaby as the new Town Attorney. Mr. Nicely spoke of the numerous events coming up in Clifton Forge, and said he hopes everyone has a safe trip home.
- Councilman Wolfe-Councilman Wolfe welcomed Lockaby and Kyla and stated that Chuck was doing a great job. He went on to say that he was a member of the Eastern Alleghany Christian Ministry Association and wanted to make everyone aware of the homelessness problem in this area. He said that he will try to meet with Chuck to see what can be done with regards to overnight accommodation for the homeless. He thanked everyone for coming.
- Councilwoman Laudermilk-Councilwoman Laudermilk thanked everyone for coming out tonight. She welcomed Kyla Crosier and Mike Lockaby, and commended Amanda Gunter in Public Works as well as the employees of Public Works for a job well done. She thanked Pam Lightfoot for coming out and told Chuck to keep up the great work.

04/09/2024

- Vice Mayor Burdette-Vice Mayor Burdette thanked everyone for coming out and welcomed Kyla and Mike. He stated that Josh Taylor of the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce, would like everyone to utilize the Chamber's website when listing their events. He said that it would be nice to add the Fridays in the Forge events to the Chamber website.
- Mayor Irvine-Mayor Irvine thanked everyone for coming tonight. He thanked Mrs. Crosier and Mr. Lockaby. He said that Mark had done a great job on the field. The Easter Parade went off without a hitch. He congratulated Brad for taking his certification classes.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 A (7) Legal Counsel Consultation, and 2.2-3711 A (3), real estate

Motion to approve: Councilwoman Laudermilk
Seconded by: Councilman Wolfe

Councilman Nicely: Yes
Councilman Wolfe: Yes
Councilwoman Laudermilk: Yes
Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes
Mayor Irvine: Yes

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Motion to Approve: Councilwoman Laudermilk
Seconded by: Councilman Wolfe

Councilman Nicely: Yes
Councilman Wolfe: Yes
Councilwoman Laudermilk: Yes
Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes
Mayor Irvine: Yes

CERTIFY CLOSED SESSION

Motion to approve: Vice Mayor Burdette
Seconded by: Councilwoman Laudermilk

Councilman Nicely: yes
Councilman Wolfe: yes
Councilwoman Laudermilk: yes

04/09/2024

Vice Mayor Burdette: yes

Mayor Irvine: yes

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to approve: Vice Mayor Burdette

Seconded by: Councilman Wolfe

Councilman Nicely: yes

Councilman Wolfe: yes

Councilwoman Lauder milk: yes

Vice Mayor Burdette: yes

Mayor Irvine: yes

UPCOMING EVENTS

Masonic Theatre Events

Friday, April 12, 2024-6 p.m.-Barbie Movie and Party

Friday, April 19, 2024-7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.-Six String Soldiers

Sunday, April 21, 2024-7 p.m.-Exile

Saturday, April 27, 2024-7 p.m.-CDA Youth Showcase

Saturday, May 11, 2024-2:00 p.m.-Mutts Gone Nuts