



**TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA
TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE, VIRGINIA
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024, AT 7:00PM
CLIFTON FORGE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
547 MAIN STREET**

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATIONS

A) Swearing in the new Chief of Police Barry Scott Balsler.

Town Council decided to postpone the swearing in the Chief of Police due to Debie Byer being sick.

B) Presentation by Jermey Holmes from Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission.

Jermey Homles gave a very informative presentation regarding all the many programs and help they offer. He passed out a copy of the slides and included information to contact him for any other information or help.

1. MINUTES

A) Council Meeting

December 12, 2023

B) Called Meeting

December 31, 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS: Approve the minutes for December 12, 2023.

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

2. ACTION ITEMS

A) 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 Burdette
Seconded by: Councilwoman Laudermilk

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

B) Presentation of the resignation of Attorney Jared Jenkins.

Mayor Irvine explained to the public that Town Council had unanimously voted on December 31st, 2023, to put Attorney Jared Jenkins on unpaid administrative leave until the decision was made on January 17-18 trail. Approximately two hours after the decision was made, Attorney, Jared Jenkins, turned in his resignation.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the resignation

Motion to approve: Councilman Nicely
Seconded by: Councilman Wolfe

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

C) Review and approve the RFP for the Jefferson School Revitalization.

Councilwoman Laudermilk made a motion to approve the RFP as corrected and Councilman Wolfe seconded.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the RFP

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

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Discuss the process of hiring a new Town Attorney

Chuck started by explaining the process and procedure for hiring a new attorney for the Town. He mentioned the VML has stepped up and been very helpful in answering all legal questions the Town has. Michelle with the VML referred five different firms to Chuck to discuss with council to start the process of hiring a new attorney.

4. MANAGERS COMMENTS

-Chuck started off by congratulating Scott Balsler on his step up to being Chief of Police for the Town of Clifton Forge. Scott has had the privilege of working with ex-Chief of Police Chad Wickline and the Town is delighted to Scott step up.

-Chuck mentioned some projects that are on hold, due to the lack of legal representation at the moment but hope to get things moving along. One of the main projects was the Smith Creek Water Line that runs from the Treatment plant down into Town. Last week the Town had just started the new process of acquisition right away. Chuck had spoken with 2 property owners and have a clear path moving but the Town needs seek new legal representation to proceed with those negotiations. Chuck is working with Thrasher Engineering Group who are the engineers on this project to see if they have any right of way acquisition attorneys who specialize in this to refer to help the Town with this project. This will just be stalled until the Town receives legal help.

- Chuck spoke about the Route 63 water leak, adding that the valve had come apart during a repair, but Public Works worked very quickly and hard to make sure it was taken care of.

-low area flooding

-The Sensory Trails new edition for the winter months, Winter Wonderland, has unfortunately been vandalized and have had 2 light displays missing and a few more damaged. Public works and the Police department are working very hard together to keep it patrolled and in good shape. This display of "Winter Wonderland" will be out through the end of March 2024.

-Chuck spoke with Jeremy about the Grant to purchase the Willenbring property for the the Hazel Run Trail expansion. We now own that property which is a little over 10 acres in additional property to be added to the Hazel Run Trail. We plan to have a couple public hearings to set that that area up as a conservation area. Chuck mentioned to council to consider adding Washington Park part of that conservation area so the whole park and trail will remain a green space and public area for forever.

-Back in the summer the Federal Reserve of Richmond came and spent 2 days in Alleghany County. With that visit the Town had a Virginia Tech intern dealing with Public Transportation which is a program that the Town can look forward to in the near future. The other training program that caught our attention was the Community Investment Program that they sponsor which is called Rural investment Collaborative Small Towns Big opportunities. This program was described to the council by Chuck and he finished with explaining it would be very beneficial for the Town of Clifton Forge.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Nicely- Congratulations Scott on becoming the new Chief of Police. He then thanked Chad Wickline for his service and work with the Town, he will be missed. Ben thanked Mr. Holmes for his presentation. He mentioned it's a new year and new things coming. Ben finished by stating how he is looking forward to 2024 and what we can do with the town.

Councilman Wolfe- "Happy New Year". Shorty then congratulated Chief Balsler and hoped he has a good time serving as his father did in previous years. He mentioned that with Scott being well liked in the community that it should be a great thing for the Town. He showed much appreciation to Jermey and the information he brought. He thanked Chuck for all his hard work with the Town. He finished by thanking those who showed up.

Councilwoman Laudermilk- She started by congratulating Chief Balsler and thanked Chad and mentioned he will still serve us in the Town now that he is part of the Alleghany Sheriff's Department. She thanked Mr. Holmes for stopping by and giving a presentation, it has given more knowledge of what he does. Debbie then asked Chuck to extend her sincere appreciation to all Public Works for their hard work on all the water lines. She ended with Happy new year and thanks for coming out.

Vice Mayor Burdette- Thanked those that come out to attend the meeting during nasty weather. He then congratulated Scott on his new position, he mentioned looking forward to him leading our police department. Dale thanked Mr. Holmes for coming out and giving a snippet of the projects they are working on. Dale spoke on how thankful he is that they have someone to work on writing the grants that benefit our Town. He thanked Chuck and everyone at Town Hall during the busy tax season. He finished by thanking the Public Works employees.

Mayor Irvine- Jeff started by thanking everyone for coming. He then congratulated Scott and mentioned it was great that he would be following in his dads' footsteps. He then thanked Chad Wickline for his time and service here at the Town. Jeff thanked Jermey for the updates, Debbie and Chuck for the work they do with Jermey. He mentioned the event at the Masonic and how it

sounded like a fun time. He finished by thanking everyone for coming out and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to approve: Councilwoman Laudermilk
Seconded by: Councilman Nicely

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

8. UPCOMING EVENTS

WENDY'S UNDERGROUND 80'S PARTY

WHEN: January 19th

TIME: 7:30PM

**WHERE: Thomas P. Dean/Racey and Dean Inc. Underground
Lounge and Café**

TICKETS: \$5.00