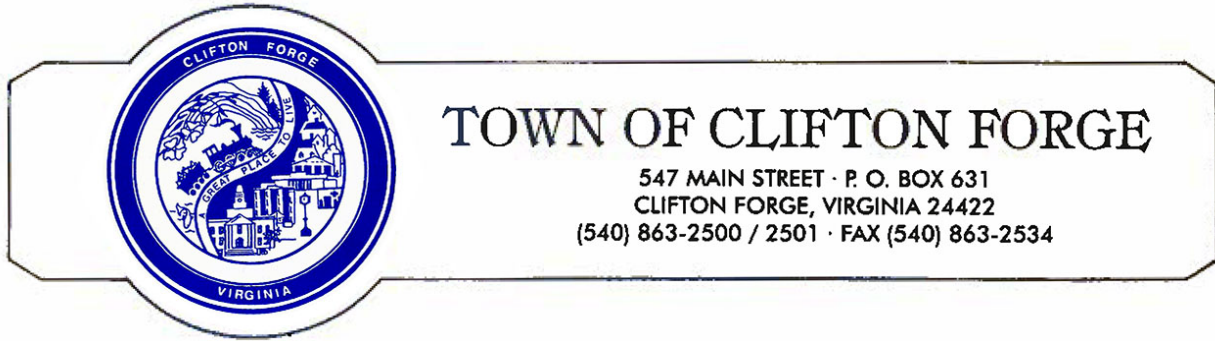


May 14, 2024



**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE, VIRGINIA
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024, 7:00 P.M.
CLIFTON FORGE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
547 MAIN STREET**

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Pastor Shane Hiner.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENTATION

Special recognition of Clifton Forge Police Sergeant Shawn Urban
Chief of Police Scott Balser said that, on January 29th, 2024, Sergeant
Shawn Urban pulled his neighbor and dog from a burning home. Urban
was presented with a plaque and lifesaving award, along with a Clifton
Forge Police Department Lifesaving and Commendation award.

CONSENT AGENDA

| | | |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|
| Minutes | Council Meeting | April 9, 2024 |
| | Called Meeting | April 30, 2024 |

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the minutes for April 9, 2024.

Motion to approve: Councilman Nicely

Seconded by: Councilwoman Lauder milk

Councilman Nicely: Yes
Councilman Wolfe: Yes
Councilwoman Lauder milk: 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 Burdette
Seconded by: Councilwoman Lauder milk

Councilman Nicely: Yes
Councilman Wolfe: Yes
Councilwoman Lauder milk: Yes
Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes
Mayor Irvine: Yes

- 2) Requests of Clifton Forge Main Street
 - Clifton Forge Main Street requests permission for the Downtown Market to be held on Thursdays from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. beginning on June 6th and ending on September 5th. They would like to hold an additional market on Thursday, July 4th from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. They would like to use Commercial Street between ACE and the former Primis Bank as in previous

years. They ask that the area be closed off by 2:30 p.m. to allow their vendors ample time to set up.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the requests.

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) Appointments

- Debbie Laudermilk’s appointment on the RVARC expires on June 30, 2024. She would like to be reappointed.
- Lone Callender resigned from the Planning Commission effective immediately; We have received letters of interest and applications for this position.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the requests.

Councilwoman Debbie Laudermilk’s Reappointment to RVARC

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

Appointment of Jo Ann Carter Henson to the Planning Commission

Motion to approve: Councilman Wolfe

Seconded by: Councilman Nicely

Councilman Nicely: Yes

Councilman Wolfe: Yes

Councilwoman Laudermilk: Yes

Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes

Mayor Irvine: Yes

MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Town Manager Chuck Unroe started by giving his compliments and gratitude to Sergeant Shawn Urban, stating that he is an asset to the town.

He advised that there are five Community Garden plots left, three of which are sponsored for people who cannot afford one. He said to reach out to Kyla to reserve a plot.

Sensory Trail-Mr. Unroe said that there had been a lot of clean up effort at the Sensory Trail, including putting up new trellises, Public Works replacing the cattle panel arch, the kiosk entrance being cleaned up. The wildflower garden is coming up nicely. He said that he saw six people using the trail this past Sunday morning, and that many people seem to be enjoying the trail.

Ridgeway Street Bridge in front of the Alleghany Building and former Primis Bank-Mr. Unroe assured citizens that the Ridgeway Street Bridge is a Virginia Department of Transportation recognized bridge. VDOT is inspecting the bridge along with Clifton Forge's engineering group. The bridge does not qualify for funding due to having a rating grade of six. The grade needs to be at four or below to qualify for funding. Mr. Unroe said that Schartz is working on a proposal to do surface repair and updates to the bridge but will not do anything to delay state funding qualifications. He estimated that a total bridge replacement won't take for 4-5 more years. He went on to say that the town knows the bridge is a problem and they are working on it. The town will move forward once a plan is in place.

Paving-There are three agencies involved with paving, two parts VDOT and one the Roanoke Valley and Alleghany Regional Commission. Regarding the

paving project on West Ridgeway Street, Jamison Strauser has acquired funding. The town needs to bid out and get on VDOT's paving schedule during this calendar year. The town is working on ADA compliance accessibility from Ridgeway and past Hardee's. They are discussing walking and bike lanes as well. All projects will be funded using VDOT funding.

Jefferson School-There is one developer working on the proposal. Hill Studios and the town will provide grant writing and obtain historic tax credits. David Hill has put them in touch with a bank that meets their loan needs. The Jefferson School is on the federal and state registry of historic landmarks.

Smith Creek Waterline Project-Easement and right-of-way agreements have been reached. The town is reaching out to property owners to sign the agreements. There were eight contractors at the pre-bid meeting. Bid opening will be on June 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Council Chambers. Mr. Unroe said that he should know the contractor the town will use by mid-June. The work will need to begin within 60-90 days of the contract award, probably starting in mid-October. The project will last approximately 12 months, possibly 18 months if the weather is bad.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Atherholt, VFW Post 1033, Covington, Virginia, spoke regarding the Vietnam Wall that is coming to Covington, Virginia in October. Mr. Atherholt is a member of the Vietnam Wall to Covington Committee. He said that they have exceeded their goal of 11 thousand dollars by 2600 dollars. In giving a backstory to the Vietnam Wall, Mr. Atherholt said that Shawn Wright's father, a marine, came home from Vietnam. He was unwelcome and abused. Ms. Wright vowed to get the wall to come here. The wall is sponsored by VFW Post 1033, Connections Plus Healthcare in Lexington, and the City of Covington. It will travel from Lexington, down interstate 64, through the Town of Clifton Forge, and to the Jackson River Sports Complex in Covington, Virginia. The Vietnam Wall is a truck turned into a museum. It will be open on October 3rd at 10:00 a.m. and will close on October 6th at 2:00 p.m. There will be an Agent Orange ceremony on October 5th at 7:00 p.m. The wall is a three-quarter scale

replica, 375 feet long, 7 ½ feet high. Mr. Atherholt said he is very proud to work on this and that the county should be very happy and pleased that this wall is coming. Councilman Wolfe asked if they were still accepting donations. Mr. Atherholt told Mr. Wolfe they were still taking donations. He provided citizens with the website, www.thewalkthathealscovington.com.

Pamela Lightfoot, 924 McCormick Boulevard, spoke regarding citizens having trouble paying their water bills online. She said the town uses DOXO, which holds the payment for seven days before cutting a check to the town. This affects citizens who are unable to pay their water bill until closer to the due date. She stated that the City of Covington and Alleghany County are switching to MUNIS for their payments and said Clifton Forge may want to look into changing their payment system. She said that there should be an AED device in the Armory. Ms. Lightfoot told Council that, on April 27th, she visited the Virginia Welcome Center on I95 South, and there was nothing on the kiosk regarding the Town of Clifton Forge. She said that Channel 7 is hosting the Blue Ridge Games. Ms. Lightfoot suggested to Council they may want to consider adopting out the flower bowls on Ridgeway to help spruce up the town. She also recommended replanting trees along Ridgeway. She mentioned having murals painted on walls in the area.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Ben Nicely-Councilman Nicely said he was proud to have Sergeant Urban in the Police Department. He congratulated Jo Ann Henson on her appointment to the Planning Commission. He said he was very excited about the wall coming to Covington. He stated that the theatre had several great shows coming up. He went on to say that it is sad when he takes his Special Olympics athletes to play at the park, and the restrooms and other things have been destroyed. The Sensory Trail has also been vandalized. He said that people either need to stop destroying things or go to jail.

Councilman Carl (Shorty) Wolfe, Jr.-Councilman Wolfe thanked Shawn Urban and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He said he cannot wait to see the wall. He then spoke of inflation in our community and how so many individuals are having trouble making ends meet, even ones with full-time

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jobs. He said these are very trying times for people who need help and the people who help them.

Councilwoman Debbie Laudermilk-Councilwoman Laudermilk thanked everyone for coming out. She thanked Sergeant Urban for being vigilant. She said she is over excited about the wall and looking forward to volunteering. She told Pam Lightfoot she appreciates her coming out, and that she will probably look at the issue concerning DOXO herself. She told Chuck to continue the great work and that they appreciate all he does.

Vice Mayor Dale Burdette-Vice Mayor Burdette commended Sergeant Urban for his bravery. He said that officers do not get paid enough for what they go through each day. He thanked the people from the Planning Commission for attending the meeting and Lone Callender for her service on the Planning Commission. He stated that he hopes that Ms. Lightfoot can contribute to the town in some way, and thanked Councilwoman Laudermilk for reserving on the Roanoke Valley and Alleghany Regional Commission. He stated that the Public Works guys were doing a great job with the entrance to the town.

Mayor Jeff Irvine-Mayor Irvine thanked everyone for coming out. He thanked Sergeant Urban for his service and bravery and congratulated Jo Ann Henson on her appointment to the Planning Commission. He thanked Mr. Atherholt for the information he gave on the Vietnam Wall. He said that he had talked to a young lady regarding the murals about pricing, but nothing has been set in stone.

CLOSED MEETING

Town Council will convene in closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3) to discuss the disposition of one property and two adjoining vacant lots beside the property owned by the Town, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of a public body.

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED MEETING-REAL ESTATE

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Councilman Shorty Wolfe motioned Town Council convene in closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3) to discuss the disposition of one piece of real estate property owned by the Town along with two adjoining vacant lots, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiation strategy of a public body.

This was seconded by Councilwoman Laudermilk.

Councilman Nicely: Yes

Councilman Wolfe: Yes

Councilwoman Laudermilk: Yes

Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes

Mayor Irvine: Yes

MOTION TO RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

Vice Mayor Burdette motioned Town Council end its closed meeting and reconvene its regular meeting.

This was seconded by Councilman Nicely.

Councilman Nicely: Yes

Councilman Wolfe: Yes

Councilwoman Laudermilk: Yes

Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes

Mayor Irvine: Yes

CERTIFICATION FOLLOWING CLOSED MEETING

Vice Mayor Burdette moved that pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3712 (D) that the Town Council certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting.

This was seconded by Councilman Nicely

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

Vice Mayor Burdette motioned for the Town of Clifton Forge to retain both vacant lots in the 600 block of Main Street.

This was seconded by Councilman Wolfe.

Councilman Nicely: No
Councilman Wolfe: Yes
Councilwoman Laudermilk: No
Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes
Mayor Irvine: Yes

Mayor Irvine motioned to lease adequate parking spaces to the Red Lantern Inn. There was no second, and this motion died on the floor.

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Ben Nicley motioned to adjourn the meeting.

This was seconded by Vice Mayor Burdette.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Historic Masonic Theatre

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|
| 1) May 18th | 11:00 a.m. | Tour the Theatre |
| 2) May 19th | 3:00 p.m. | Rick Ray-Amazon Adventure Safari |