

October 8, 2024

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2024**

The Council for the Town of Clifton Forge held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, in the Council Chambers of Clifton Forge Town Hall, 547 Main Street, Clifton Forge, Virginia.

The invocation was given by Pastor Shorty Wolfe, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jeff Irvine called the meeting to order with the following members present: Mayor Irvine; Vice Mayor Burdette; Councilwoman Laudermilk; Councilman Wolfe; Councilman Nicely. Also present were Town Manager Charles (Chuck) Unroe and Town Manager, Mike Lockaby.

Special Presentation

Chief Scott Balsler presented Administrative Assistant Linda Wilhelm with a certificate and a badge to recognize her hard work and dedication to the Police Department and Fire/EMS departments.

Consent Agenda-Approval of Minutes

Councilman Nicely motioned to approve the minutes with one correction under Council comments: The statement Mr. Nicely made about Council letting the McConnell's down also included the ARB.

This motion was seconded by Councilwoman Laudermilk.

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

Action Items

- 1) Department Reports
 - a. Code Enforcement
 - b. Police Department
 - c. Public Works
 - d. Library
 - e. Water Plant
 - f. Fire Department

Councilwoman Laudermilk motioned to approve the department reports as submitted and written. This motion was seconded by Councilman Wolfe.

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

October 8, 2024

Mayor Irvine: Yes

- 2) To consider a request from Clifton Forge Main Street to hold a Christmas parade on Friday, December 6th, at 6 p.m. from the 400 block of East Ridgeway Street to the Clifton Forge Fire Department on D Street.

Vice Mayor Burdette motioned to approve the request, seconded by Councilwoman Laudermilk.

Councilman Nicely: Yes

Councilman Wolfe: Yes

Councilwoman Laudermilk: Yes

Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes

Mayor Irvine: Yes

- 3) To consider a request from Clifton Forge School of the Arts for the closure of Church Street on November 22nd and 23rd, 2024, during CFSOTA's KrisKindlmarkt event.

Vice Mayor Burdette motioned to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Wolfe.

Councilman Nicely: Yes

Councilman Wolfe: Yes

Councilwoman Laudermilk: Yes

Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes

Mayor Irvine: Yes

- 4) To consider a letter of interest from Travis Hart requesting to be appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Clifton Forge Public Library.

Councilman Wolfe motioned to approve the appointment, seconded by Councilwoman Laudermilk.

Councilman Nicely: Yes

Councilman Wolfe: Yes

Councilwoman Laudermilk: Yes

Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes

Mayor Irvine: Yes

Update from Parks and Trails Committee

David Elwood spoke of security at the parks. He said that installing Wi-Fi in the parks would satisfy a lot of issues by bringing more people into the parks and cutting down vandalism. He said the next step is installing cameras. They are working with Lumos to possibly have Wi-Fi installed. Discussion regarding the amphitheater and Wi-Fi has also been held. Lumos is requesting promotion of Clifton Forge as well as themselves. Councilman Nicely asked if there could be a cut-off time for the Wi-Fi, so people weren't in the parks late at night. Mr. Elwood advised him he thinks that can be done. Mr. Elwood mentioned AH Trailer Lines and said that they were clearing trails within Clifton Forge. He asked for the town's support, stating that they had cleared 200 plus miles of trails and are non-profit. Clean up day for Washington Parks is this Saturday, the 12th. Mr. Elwood said that Parks and Trails would be selling milkweed seeds at the upcoming Fall Festival and KrisKindlmarkt. He is also hoping to get a grant from Walmart to support holiday

October 8, 2024

lighting. He went on to remind Council that mulch was needed under the swings at Roxbury and Wahington Parks for safety reasons. He advised everyone that the next Parks and Trails meeting would be on October 15th at Linden Park.

Manager's Comments

Town Manager Charles (Chuck) Unroe read a letter inviting the Town Council to the opening of the Fall Festival on the 18th.

He said that the Jefferson School project was moving along, and that Mr. Lockaby is drafting a performance agreement.

Amtrak and CSX negotiations are on track. We are waiting for an appraisal number from CSX.

Negotiations for the Ridgeway Street paving is internal with VDOT. Mr. Unroe stated that the town wants to be sure the water line on Ridgeway is in place before paving, and this may push the project out until spring.

Mr. Unroe welcomed Andrew Wilson, the new livestream host for the town.

He advised Council that, six months ago, auditors were behind on getting the audits completed. The ending fund balance and total net has increased quite a bit since then.

Public Comments

Michael Foster spoke on the Beerfest event, thanking Council for their support of the event. He stated a huge thank you to Public Works. He said there were around 350 people served and \$8,000 in net sales. He stated that the money was paid out in labor, food, musicians, etc. There was \$1500 in tips made by the servers. 560 dollars in tax was paid to the town. He said that people came from all over for the event. The goal is to include other breweries next year depending on the ABC.

Mac Beard spoke regarding possible installing cameras at the parks. He mentioned the 4 foot stainless still figurine that was stolen from the town's LOVE sculpture, and requested money for cameras to be installed at the parks.

Pam Lightfoot, 924 McCormick Boulevard, thanked Mr. Foster for explaining the Beerfest event. She said that public restrooms were needed in the town and mentioned the incident with public urination at the Five Sides building. She said that Section 8 housing for the town needed to be investigated. She inquired about the bright green paint on the now defunct flower shop and said there were no records to help assist with finding out why something was approved or not approved, such as the old palette of acceptable colors. Mrs. Lightfoot said it is vital for records to be turned over to the Town Manager's office for public view. She went on to say that she thinks the town missed an opportunity by selecting another ice cream shop to be located at 600 Main Street.

Joan Vannorsdall, Green Pastures, spoke on Green Pastures. She said that Hill Studio and Chuck had been awarded a grant from Monuments Across Appalachia Virginia. There will be an interpretive trail built. There will be a play at the Underground (Historic Masonic Theatre), written by nationally know playwright, Royal Shiree. There will also be a community listening session regarding Green Pastures, and they will be collecting stories for the second volume of What's Your Story?

October 8, 2024

Council Comments

Councilman Nicely thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilwoman Laudermilk thanked Mrs. Wilhelm for what she does. She congratulated Travis Hart for his appointment to the Library Board of Trustees. She thanked David Elwood for the update on Parks and Trails. She thanked Chuck for his hard work, and Mike Foster for clarifying Beerfest. She said the event was very well attended. She thanked Mac for coming out, and Pam and Joan for everything they do.

Councilman Wolfe said that Mr. Elwood's updates were always good. He said that he is glad we are planning to get the waterline before the paving project on Ridgeway. He told Mac Beard it is a shame we must put up security cameras because people are destroying things. He advised Pam that he had heard the flower shop was not supposed to be the color it was painted, and the information provided to the ARB was misleading. He said that he was glad everyone came out to the meeting.

Vice Mayor Burdette thanked everyone for coming out. He said he appreciated Travis for stepping up and thanked Pam for her efforts for the town. He advised David Elwood that park maintenance is important, such as having mulch under the swings for safety. He went on to say that several areas were not able to host youth football, so Clifton Forge was able to host Buena Vista, Rockbridge, and Bath County. He went on to say that all of Chuck's people should be commended for getting the field ready for this to happen.

Mayor Irvine thanked everyone for coming out. He congratulated Travis on his appointment. He thanked Chuck, the fire department, and Council for keeping the town going forward, and said he is proud to hear about the money Chuck mentioned. He thanked Joan Vannorsdall for her work with Green Pastures. He went on to say that the Agent Orange presentation at the Wall that Heals exhibit was wonderful.

With no further business to come before Council, Councilwoman Laudermilk motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Nicely.

Councilman Nicely: Yes

Councilman Wolfe: Yes

Councilwoman Laudermilk: Yes

Vice Mayor Burdette: Yes

Mayor Irvine: Yes