

Town of Clintwood
Town Council Meeting
248 Clintwood Main Street-Clintwood Town Hall
March 12, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Record of Attendance:

Council Members:

Danny Lambert- Mayor
Ron Kendrick – Vice Mayor
Doris Rife
Talbert Bolling
Jim Childress
Andy Rose

Others Present:

Susan Woods- Town Attorney
Judy Steele- Clerk
Officer Chris Yates

Citizens; Bobby Garrett, Ryder Taylor, Catherine Cummins, Teresa Wright, Allen Taylor, and Parker Taylor

Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silent prayer.

Agenda Item: Approval of the minutes of February 13, 2024

Motion was made by Councilman Kendrick and a second by Councilman Bolling to approve the minutes of February 13, 2024 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Agenda Additions

Mayor Lambert asked for any additions to the agenda.

*Councilman Bolling added under Agenda Item 8- Donation request from Ridgeview High School Band

*Councilman Childress requested a Closed Session for Personnel

*Mayor Lambert added as Agenda Item 11-Health Insurance Renewal

Agenda Item 12 – Support Letters -IDA and Appalachia Service Project

Agenda item 13 – VTC Grant

Councilman Kendrick said he would like to add as Agenda Item #14 -Request from Amy Branson in regard to the Russel County Landfill Resolution

Mayor Lambert asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the additions.

Motion was made by Councilman Bolling and a second by Councilwoman Rife to approve the Agenda with the additions. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item – Clintwood Kiwanis Club - Catherine Cummins and Teresa Wright

Catherine Cummins addressed the council on behalf of the Clintwood Kiwanis Club regarding using the old Clintwood football field for a couple of events. One of those events is the Jeep Jam which was a successful event last fall, and they were asked to hold the event again in the spring. She said they would like to do that on May 4. They will be asking the Sheriff Department and Behavioral Health to help with the children's activities. They will also have concession stands. The Jeep Jam group is organized and clean up after themselves.

Then on May 25, which is a Saturday, will be kid's day with everything being free for them and also doing in conjunction with the town opening the Splash Pad that day. On May 25, it will be the Clintwood and the Clinchco Kiwanis Clubs. They are seeking the council's approval so that they can pursue the planning of the events.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Rife and a second by Councilman Kendrick to approve May 4, and May 25 for the Kiwanis Clubs to have their events at the old Clintwood football field. Motion passed unanimously with Councilman Rose abstaining from the vote because he is a due paying member of the Clintwood Kiwanis.

Councilman Bolling asked about doing a grand opening for the Splash Pad on May 25. Catherine said they are doing a poster contest along with this whereas they are soliciting creative poster submissions from children from around the county and they will be judged and displayed at the library. The Kiwanis is supplying all the materials. Councilman Rose said they had discussed, and they are uncertain about the county's plans for the swimming pool and thought if they could do a big grand opening for the Splash Pad and have other civic organizations take one Saturday over the summer and set up bouncy houses and make popcorn to continue events for the kids and the surrounding community. Mayor Lambert said they will get together and work out an agenda.

Agenda Item: Proposal to repaint the mural on the Jettie Baker Center

Mayor Lambert said they have been receiving information from Ellen Elmes who was the original artist of the mural. She is proposing that they do the mural in sections on a canvas that they will paste on the mural. She wants to apply for a grant from Virginia Folklife. She estimates the overall cost will be Eleven thousand six hundred and thirty-three dollars (\$11,633) with the grant portion being Five thousand five hundred dollars (\$5,500). He had received a quote of around Forty-five hundred dollars (\$4,500) from Shawn Wallace to touch up the paint.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Rife and a second by Councilman Kendrick to talk with Ms. Elmes to see about getting it done. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Kendrick asked Mayor Lambert if he would also discuss with Ms. Elmes the painting on the side of the Modern Hardware building and Mayor Lambert also mentioned the one that says Citizen's Drug to see if those could be included in her grant request and the cost.

Agenda Item: Donation Requests

- *Dickenson County Sheriff's Office Community Outreach Golf Tournament
- *Ridgeview High School Band

Motion was made by Councilwoman Rife and a second by Councilman Bolling to give a donation of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) to the Dickenson County Sheriff's Office -Community Outreach Golf Tournament and the Ridgeview High School Band. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Pro-Art -Virginia Commission of the Arts Creative Communities Partnership Grant

Motion was made by Councilman Bolling and a second by Councilman Childress to apply for the Commission of Arts Grant to partner with Pro-Art Association. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Columbus Phipps Foundation Grant

Mayor Lambert said because of the deadline on the application he had went ahead and submitted the application for funding in the amount of Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the Pickleball and Basketball Courts with the anticipated cost of Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000).

Motion was made by Councilman Kendrick and a second by Councilwoman Rife to approve the submittal of the application to the Columbus Phipps Foundation. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Employee Health Insurance Renewal

Judy Steele, clerk, said they have received the information from The Local Choice Group on the renewal of the health insurance (Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield) for the employees. The rate increase is ten percent (10%) this year and the current annual premium is \$265,188 and the new annual premium will be \$291,732. The benefit coverages remain the same.

Motion was made by Councilman Kendrick and a second by Councilman Childress to renew the health insurance with the Local Choice Group. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item – Support Letters for IDA and Appalachia Service Project

Motion was made Councilman Childress and a second by Councilwoman Rife to approve the letters of support to the IDA and the Appalachia Service Project. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item – Virginia Tourism Grant

Mayor Lambert said this grant will help with advertising and will require a Five Thousand Dollar (\$5,000) match.

Motion was made by Council Bolling and a second by Councilwoman Rife to submit a grant application to Virginia Tourism with matching funds of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000). Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item – Russell County Landfill Resolution

Councilman Kendrick said he did not have a lot of information on it other than what Ms. Branson had sent him and Mayor Lambert. Amy Branson lives in Russell County and works for the Board of Pharmacy. She has started a campaign in opposition to the proposed landfill to be put on Moss 3 property. The Board of Supervisors has not taken any action on it. Ms. Branson sent him a sample letter that the Town of St. Paul had sent to the Board of Supervisors in opposition of the landfill. From what she had told him, that it would be brought in on rail and has the possibility of passing through our county and it could come from as far away as New York. It is not just for the region to use the landfill but will be brought in from different parts of the country. It is a hot topic in Russell County, and he told Ms. Branson he would bring it up for discussion. Mayor Lambert said that it is a private venture and not the Cumberland Plateau doing it. Councilman Childress asked if they are asking for a letter of opposition. Bobby Garrett said that incinerators are getting to be a big thing. Councilman Childress asked if they burn everything, and Mr. Garrett said about everything. There are a lot of them in Philadelphia where his daughter lives. Councilman Kendrick said we would have an indirect effect from it and for that reason he would be in favor of writing a letter similar to what St. Paul wrote. If we could find out what date this was going to be decided on and try to get some more information on it. Councilman Childress said probably what everyone is looking at are the problems with the Bristol landfill they had to close. Mayor Lambert asked if they would like to table until the next meeting to see if some more information could be obtained.

Motion was made by Councilman Kendrick and a second by Councilman Bolling to table until the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

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Old Business:

Agenda Item: Appointment to Board of Zoning Appeals

Motion was made by Councilman Childress and a second by Councilwoman Rife to recommend that Stacy Mullins be appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments:

Reports and Comments:

Town Attorney- Susan asked the clerk to give her Stacy Mullins address to prepare the order for the Judge to appoint him to the Board of Zoning Appeals. She said she did not know how much they want to get into the camper issue, but the camper has been moved. The order has been received from the judge. Susan said she is working on the letters for the burned-out huses. Officer Yates asked if the ordinance in reference to living in campers also applies to vehicles and Susan said she would have to review the ordinance.

Town Council –

Doris Rife - She thanked everyone for their hard work and the police department for their great job and to all the council members.

Talbert Bolling - He thanked everyone and appreciated the support during his family's loss. He asked about the standing water on Brush Creek when it rains. Councilman Childress said in front of his house the pipe going across the road is completely blocked and any little rain the water starts running out in the road. Not only there, but several places on the roadway on Brush Creek. Councilman Bolling suggested getting in touch with VDOT. Mayor Lambert said he would find out who the current resident engineer is and speak to him. Talbert echoed what Doris said about the employees and how hard they work, and it does not go unnoticed and is very much appreciated.

Ron Kendrick - He also said he wanted to say how much he appreciates the town employees and commended Officer Yates on catching a couple of guys breaking into the old sewing factory. We are so fortunate that our police department is doing a lot to prevent a lot things. Without getting into another big discussion on the overtime for the police department he made the following motion.

Motion was made by Councilman Kendrick and second by Councilman Childress that the police department officers be paid \$602.37 in overtime as a one-time payment that they worked in good faith and with the understanding going forth that the employees must work the actual time rather than recognizing holiday, or vacation hours. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim Childress - He echoed the thanks to the wonderful job the employees do. He said he gets a lot of questions about why the town don't clean out the ditches and drainpipes down Brush Creek and that is the responsibility of VDOT and not the town. Councilman Bolling asked Allen Taylor if the town had anything that will clean out pipes and Allen said just something small they use on the sewer lines. A lot of the problems is the private pipe that has been put in over the years.

Andy Rose – None

Councilwoman Rife said she has had a lot of complaints about the state police pulling over so many people left and right. The town has a police department that does a good job. Officer Yates said they are really not stopping that many people. A trooper got complained on for writing a ticket and he wasn't even working that day. You see more troopers around because this is the first time in years that the county has a full staff of troopers. Mayor Lambert said he had gotten complaints and he checked with Chief Mullins and out of the complaint of about fifty (50) tickets being written in a month turned into four (4) tickets and three (3) were written in the county. A lot is blown out of proportions.

Councilman Kendrick said at Food City where you turn left to go into the parking lot and it is exit only and it says do not enter, do you think we could ask VDOT to put up a sign up that says no left turn. Officer Yates said it is getting better since Food City opened. Councilman Bolling agreed VDOT needs to be contacted about a sign.

Mayor Lambert - Street Department has been inspecting the mowing equipment trying to get ready for mowing season and the water department is getting ready for tank inspections. When replacing the steps beside the town hall, it was discovered the porch was hollow, so it had to be taken down. Someone is coming on Monday to start the work. The work should be done for under Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000).

Mayor Lambert asked for a motion for a closed session for personnel.

A motion was made by Council Bolling and a second by Councilwoman Rife to go into a closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3712(A) for the purpose of discussing personnel matters regarding employment pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A) Subsection 1- Personnel. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Lambert asked for a motion to reconvene into open session.

Re: Certification for Closed Meeting

Motion was made by Councilman Bolling and a second by Councilwoman Rife to certify that the town council to the best of their knowledge that only such public business matters as lawfully exempt from the open meeting requirements of Virginia Law were discussed in the closed meeting and only such public matters as identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed, or considered by the Town Council.

Mayor Lambert asked for a roll call vote.

Doris Rife	aye
Talbert Bolling	aye
Ron Kendrick	aye
Jim Childress	aye
Andy Rose	aye

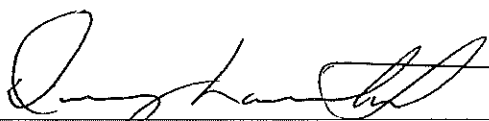
Motion Carried.

Mayor Lambert asked for any motions from the closed session.

Motion was made by Councilman Childress to hire Sara Phillips in a salary position at 32 hours times her rate of pay and to furnish insurance. Hearing no second the motion failed.

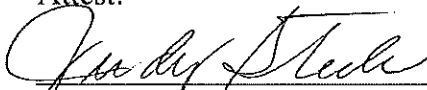
Motion was made by Councilman Bolling and a second by Councilman Kendrick to pay the bills, the overtime and adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

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Danny Lambert, Mayor

Attest:



Judy Steele, Clerk