

Town of Clintwood
Town Council Meeting
248 Clintwood Main Street-Clintwood Town Hall
February 13, 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
Chief Rick Mullins
Officer Lester Turner
Officer Chris Yates

Citizens: Bobby Garrett, Ryder Taylor, Allen Taylor, Parker Taylor, Nathan Mullins-Clintwood Rescue Squad, Robert Stanley and Steven Powers-Clintwood Volunteer Fire Department

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

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes of January 9, 2024 and January 29, 2024 (recessed meeting)

Motion was made by Councilman Bolling and a second by Councilwoman Rife to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Agenda Additions

Hearing none, Mayor Lambert asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Agenda Item: Approve of the Agenda

Motion was made by Councilman Kendrick and a second by Councilwoman Rife to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: Clintwood Rescue Squad- Nathan Mullins

Nathan Mullins gave the council members a handout. He said he had been a member of the Clintwood Rescue since 1994. The Rescue Squad was founded in 1961 and now they have four (4) paid LLS personnel, seven (7) paid DLS personnel, two (2) drivers and four (4) volunteer support personnel. With the cost of fuel, maintenance, tires, supplies to stock the ambulances and minimum wages, it is a challenge to break even. They do bill the insurance companies to

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help with the cost, but there are a lot of write offs due to people not having insurance and due to deductibles. He asked the council for assistance with the service contractor – Styker which is the brand of stretchers they use in their ambulances. This system is in each truck, and it aids in hydraulic and electrical lifting for each patient to ensure safety for the patient and the worker. The stretchers have the ability of lifting up to seven hundred pounds (700) and each lift and stretcher system costs about Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) for each ambulance. Fortunately EMS grants have been able to have one system for each ambulance. This service contract is valid for one (1) year and will cover all the stretchers and lift systems. The contract covers all parts, labor, travel, and annual maintenance. The cost of the contract is Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-three Dollars and 60/100 (\$9,873.60). This price has been discounted fifteen percent (15%) by Styker. One breakdown that they had will cost Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000) without this contract. They approached the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors at their last meeting and was unable to secure any funding through them due to a budget shortfall. They have also had some untimely breakdowns that is in addition to the regular monthly bills in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000). He expressed his appreciation for any and all considerations.

Councilmember Bolling asked if the stretcher was broken or is this a warranty issue. Nathan said the stretcher was broken and they have fixed it for a cost of Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000) just for that stretcher alone whereas they can purchase this maintenance plan and it will back up and take care of that stretcher cost. Mayor Lambert asked what are the coverage dates on the contract and Nathan said they would back up and cover the repair cost in December and it would run through this December. Councilman Bolling asked how many stretchers would this cover and Nathan said three (3) stretchers and three (3) lift systems. Mayor Lambert asked the ratio of calls in the town versus the county and Nathan said probably seventy percent (70%) county and thirty percent (30%) town. Mayor Lambert asked if they had any plans for next year for adding this into their budget and Nathan said yes. Councilman Bolling asked the age of the stretchers and Nathan said one was purchased in 2020 or 2021 and the other two (2) was purchased in 2013 and the service contract would cover all three (3). Mayor Lambert asked the normal life of them and Nathan said as long as you can keep the maintenance up on them, they will last as long as the truck will if not longer. Councilman Childress asked if the preventive maintenance is included in the service plan and Nathan said the plan would cover the preventive maintenance as well as all parts and labor. Councilwoman Rife said they all knew what the Rescue Squad does and if they need help, then they need help in her opinion. They do so much for Clintwood, and she believes in helping our Rescue Squad. Councilman Bolling asked if the county gave an explanation as to why they would not help, and Nathan said because they were Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) in the red. Mayor Lambert said this was not in the town's budget, but would see if they could come up with it if it is council's pleasure. He asked Nathan if he could furnish him the number of runs he made in the county and in the town and maybe he would send a letter to the county to see if they will help with this.

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Motion was made by Councilwoman Rife and a second by Councilman Bolling to try to help them with the entire bill of Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-Three Dollars and 60/100 (\$9,873.60) and to allow the mayor to see if the county will help. Motion passed unanimously with Councilman Ron Kendrick abstaining because of his affiliation with the Clintwood Rescue Squad.

Agenda Item: Fire Department – Steven Powers

Steven Powers said that they had a turbo go down on their 2008 engine which is their first out truck and during that time they had the air brakes system go out on the 1996 ladder truck. The bills on those repairs are around Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) and they are looking for any help on those bills so they can continue to operate. The Fire Programs money can only be spent on training and equipment. They can not spend that money on repairs, light bills, fuel, etc. Steven gave out a handout for the month of January which showed the man hours and the cost if you were paying for man hours and where they were and what they were. Mayor Lambert asked Steven for their calls for in town and out of town. Councilman Kendrick asked if they had a cost estimate on repairs. Robert Stanley gave the council a copy of the invoices and said an estimate of a little over Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000). Councilman Bolling said he was hoping, and this goes for both the Rescue Squad and Fire Department that the Casino money would be allocated to Fire, Rescue, and Law Enforcement. There is no revenue generated from any of these. Steven Powers said if they follow suit next year, he thinks there will be some issues pop up in the county. Most of the stuff is titled in the name of the Town of Clintwood and they are not opposed to stopping at the town limits. Councilman Bolling said the prior Board of Supervisors used Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) to give to the School Board for teachers raises. We depend on the rescue, fire, and police departments. Councilwoman Rife said they are very important.

Motion was made by Councilman Bolling and a second by Councilman Kendrick that after taking out the funds remaining in the budget for the turn out gear the town pays the remaining balance owed on the invoices for repairs for the fire department. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Kendrick said the first responders need to be prioritized and taken care of them. Mayor Lambert asked the councilmembers when they see the supervisors out to talk to them about the casino money going to the fire department and rescue squad. He said he had already spoken to Larry Barton and Chris Hall. Mayor Lambert asked Steven how much casino money did the County get and Steven said around Six Hundred and Forty-two Thousand Dollars (\$642,000). Mayor Lambert said the Legislators completely wrote the town out of the funding. Basically, if the county doesn't use money to help the towns then the towns are not benefiting from the money.

Agenda Item - Flowers for the Town

Mayor Lambert said they had received two quotes on furnishing flowers for the town. Councilman Childress said there had not been any complaints regarding the flowers or the lady we currently deal with, and her quote was cheaper, and he does not see any reason not to stay with her. Councilman Kendrick agreed with Jim that we have had very good success with her, and she has come in much lower than from others we have took bids from. Councilwoman Rife said if you start changing when she has done them all these years and you get somebody new, and they decide they don't want to do them anymore then are you going to go back and ask the other person to do them. She said she agreed with what the other members have said and to stay with the lady that has been doing them.

Motion was made by Councilman Childress and a second by Councilwoman Rife to stay with Kimberly's Greenhouse for the flowers. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item – Replace steps and sidewalk at side of town hall.

Mayor Lambert said if you came in the side door you noticed the steps have deteriorated from years of salt being put on them. Joby was going to try to repair, but they are in such poor condition that he has contacted someone to come and look at repairing the steps and replacing the sidewalk.

Motion was made by Councilman Bolling and a second by Councilwoman Rife to replace the steps and sidewalk at the side of the town hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda item - New Lights at Roundabout

Mayor Lambert said he had met with AEP about two or three weeks ago. They are going to put a pole and light where the fence is at where Ms. McCoy lived and they are going to put two (2) more lights at the entrance of Food City. These will be metal poles and be underground. The town just needs to furnish the conduit. The conduit will be Eleven Hundred Dollars (\$1,100). He said he met with Timothy Kuykendall, project manager for Food City, and sent an invoice to K-Va-T requesting assistance from Food City on the cost for the street lighting which is Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-seven Dollars and 18/100 (\$8,837.18). Councilman Bolling asked about a light for the center of the roundabout. Mayor Lambert said that Mr. Kuykendall agreed to designate a breaker inside the Food City and run the wire to the middle of the roundabout and pay the power bill. At that time, he did not have a quote on what a light would cost. He said he found out that a pole with a light will be a little over Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) and the town would install it. He said AEP would want Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000) if they do it.

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Motion was made by Councilman Bolling and a second by Councilwoman Rife to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the necessary documents to proceed with the lighting of the roundabout. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Agenda Item: Appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals

Councilman Kendrick suggested Gary Hull and Judy Steele said he is on the Planning Commission. Councilwoman Rife suggested Stacy Mullins and Councilman Childress said he would ask him. Mayor Lambert said they would table until the next meeting.

Citizens Comments:

Bobby Garrett said he has noticed the men had been cleaning the curbs in town and they look really nice. He asked about the EB Chargers at Food City and Mayor Lambert said they had the holes dug for the charging stations.

Reports and Communications:

Susan Wood - She said that the updates to the Zoning Ordinance has been finished and ready for for the Planning Commission to review. Mayor Lambert asked if she had finalized the derelict building letter and Susan said she was needing some more information and an address.

Town Council Members:

Doris Rife – She thanked fire and rescue for everything they do and for the wonderful job the police department does and all the town council members.

Talbert Bolling - He said he echoed what Doris said and expressed appreciation for all the employees. A lot is asked of them, and they always come thru.

Ron Kendrick - He said that Talbert and Doris summed it up and emphasized how important the first responders are to our community and how much they are appreciated and all the town workers and everything they do. There are a lot of sacrifices made daily by these employees that people do not realize what they go through.

Jim Childress – None

Andy Rose – None

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Officer Lester Turner - He said they had been working on grants all day . One is for improvements at the firing range, and one is an equipment grant which is a twenty-five percent (25%) match, and one for radar for the new truck which is Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000), and in-car camera for the new vehicle that is Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), new body cameras, and new in car computers. Officer Turner said since there is a match on the grant, he wanted council's approval before he applies.

Motion was made by Councilman Bolling and a second by Councilman Kendrick to authorize the twenty-five percent match on the police grant. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Bolling asked where the body camera footage is stored. Chief Mullins said it was stored on a hard drive in the office. Officer Yates said the cameras are synchronized with their in car camera and body camera and whichever one you turn on turns the other one on. If you are in the vehicle and turn your blue lights on it activates the body camera. Councilman Kendrick asked if the body cameras are motion activated and Chief Mullins said no that it must be pushed on. He asked about a tag reader. If you have a car come through the intersection that is wanted somewhere and the tag has been entered then does it alerts you. Chief Mullins said it does and even if the tag is entered after the vehicle went through the intersection it will go back and pick it up.

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

Motion was made by Councilman 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 in regard to the police department pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A) Subsection 1-Personnel and legal in regard to pending ligation pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) Subsection 8. This motion was amended to include Judy Steele, Clerk and Chief Mullins in the closed session. Motion passed unanimously.

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

RE: Certification for Closed Meeting

Motion was made by Councilman Bolling and second by Councilman Kendrick to certify that the Town Council to the best of their knowledge that only such public business matters as lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of Virginia Law were discussed in the closed

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session and only such public matters as identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Town Council.

Mayor Lambert asked for a roll call vote.

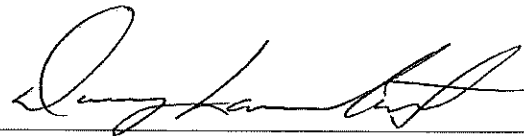
Doris Rife	Aye
Talbert Bolling	Aye
Ron Kendrick	Aye
Jim Childress	Aye
Andy Rose	Aye

Motion Carried.

Mayor Lambert asked if there were any motions from the closed session and hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

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Danny Lambert, Mayor

Attest:



Judy Steele, Clerk