



**CLIFTON TOWN MEETING MINUTES
FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010 7:30 PM
CLIFTON TOWN MEETING HALL
12641 CHAPEL ROAD
CLIFTON, VA 20124**

Town Council members present: Mike Anton, Tom Peterson, Deborah Dillard, Pat Layden, Wayne Nickum.

Absent: Chuck Rusnak

Town Officials present: Kathleen Barton, Clerk; Marilyn Barton, Treasurer

Before the start of the meeting, Mayor Tom Peterson invited Bob Lazero to speak. He stated that he was there to introduce himself to the Town Council and let everyone know that they are here to help the Town serve its community. They are committed to the Clifton/Fairfax community. He then further explained his center. Rebecca Hileman was also present and spoke, and discussed the Fairfax NOVA campus. It is very broad, and has a lot to offer; they are looking forward to working with the Town.

Tom Peterson called the Public Hearing to order at 7:34 pm concerning proposed changes to the commercial parking regulations. The Town Council inquired if the audience had any comments, questions, or concerns, and there were none.

Motion: Wayne Nickum made a motion that the Public Hearing concerning the Parking Ordinance to adjourn. Tom Peterson seconded the motion, then asked if there was any discussion.

Susan Yantis brought began discussion. This subject came before the Planning Commission, and at that time she did have some comments on the ordinance. A lot of those comments were incorporated in the ordinance. One initial comments she had, however, was that she felt that the parking space geometrics weren't consistent with the Fairfax County requirements. They were constantly changed. She suggested that they meet with an engineer to arrange. She spoke to Joe about it briefly – he then asked to look at the code, and then offered some comments on it. One notable comment he made was that the space geometrics being proposed in the ordinance are significantly less. It is proposing 16 feet – that is tiny. She also added that she feels converting the spaces is not going to benefit the commercial district, rather, weaken it. If the Town is trying to get people to come to Clifton and keep coming, people shouldn't have to own a small car. They need to be able to fit in the parking space. The Town Council needs to consider the public's perspective on this.

Motion: Wayne Nickum reinstated the motion to adjourn the public hearing. Tom Peterson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Order of Business-

Tom Peterson called the meeting to order at 8:06 pm.

1. Reading of Minutes of last regular meeting and any subsequent special meetings.

Motion: Wayne Nickum made a motion to approve the March 2010 Minutes. Tom Peterson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

2. Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer Marilyn Barton presented the Treasurer's Report. For the period ended March 31, the cash balance report was \$45,177.88. Checking, \$20,845.65. LGIP funds, \$911.65, and total, 66,935.18. For the profit and loss budget, year to date ending March 30 was a total current assets was \$66,935.18.

Motion: Wayne Nickum made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Pat Layden seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Motion: Wayne Nickum made a motion to accept the financial statements. Tom Peterson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

3. **Communications**

Tom Peterson reported that he received 15 additional communications concerning the meal's tax.

4. **Reports:**

a. **Planning Commission**

The Planning Commission reviewed and discussed the following-

1. The proposed parking ordinance with one change, which was the depth of all spaces be 18 feet not 16 feet.
2. Flood Plain Park, there needs to be a public hearing held. The park is in conformance with the new town plan. April 27 is the Planning Commission's Public Hearing.
3. The proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

b. **ARB**

Chuck Rusnak was not present, however it was announced that the 25th of March was the last ARB meeting, with one application approved for the town application to put a porch back on the Pink House.

Virginia Buersmeyer, for VA Spa at 12644 Chapel Road brought up a request. The town code says there can only be one sign per business. She explained that she has two windows on the upstanding side - - so with the old town code it is, in a way, discriminatory against businesses who are growing and spreading out. The code is, in addition, asking for a 2 by 8 foot sign. Thirdly, she does not run a retail business. Her business is service oriented, so it is customary to have a phone number on the sign for people driving by, as a reference for those who are interested in making an appointment. However, the code also says that there are to be no phone numbers on the sign. As of now, she continued, the ARB has approved that she put up one sign. She would, however,

like to request the Town Council to give her permission to have more than one sign, and to have a sign under each window. The Town Council was not able to make a decision at the time, so they tabled the discussion to the following meeting, in May.

c. Committee Reports:

Bob Peterson, Town Hall Manager Report:

The income was \$790. There were no approved invoices partially because the cleaning crew was out of Town. The main activities of note were that there were problems with the internet. This has been an ongoing problem, however, but there has been some progress. He is trying to get this resolved. Mr. Bob Peterson had the floor professionally cleaned and waxed; he installed a new key lock box (the key is in the mechanical rooms, which is also kept locked now). He gave thanks to Wayne Nickum, who did all of the work. There were also plumbing repairs done in the men's bathroom and lastly, kitchen supplies purchased for the kitchen. The goal for the month of April is to find the keys for the box in the bathrooms.

CBC:

- 1.** To start, she wished to recognize Donna Netschert, who worked extremely hard on the Easter Egg hunt. There was a total deficit \$68.77.
- 2.** There was need for discussion concerning signage for the town – at Tim Hugo, 29 and Clifton Road, Braddock and Clifton Road, and 123 and Chapel Road. There is an outstanding need of a letter from the mayor. There was one question: blue signs are free, while brown would cost some money, however the color brown was recommended. They will report back with the cost.
- 3.** Letters received in opposition to the meals tax have been printed out and have been given to each town council member in an envelope.

4. Another membership check was received for Holistic Veterinarian Services. They're going to celebrate in Clifton on Sunday, May 16th, from 6 pm to 10 pm. They are hoping everyone participates. The event is going to be held at Trummer's. More information will be given out soon. The funds received for this event will go toward the Town and benefit the business community.

Motion: Wayne Nickum made a motion to have the "Historic Clifton" signage be blue, which will be free of cost. Tom Peterson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Park's Committee:

Donna Netschert reported on the Park's Committee. Concerning the mowing contract, received were three applications. Out of the three, Bid A was the highest, bidding every other week 8 acres, and on those weeks, A said on the high weeks their bid would be \$300. Bid B was \$310, and Bid C was \$435.

Motion: Wayne Nickum made a motion to approve the lowest bidder, Bidder A for \$300, for mowing in Town. Bidder A was Green Valley, who has been mowing for the Town for 10 years. Pat Layden seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Netschert continued - - for the children's playground, mushrooms carved out of a wood are presently being crafted. It will cost \$1,000. Thirdly, the insurance inspectors came and conducted a safety inspection on the playground. All changes that were noted as needed will be attended to.

Traffic Safety:

Dwayne Nitz presented the traffic safety committee report. Members were given the opportunity to express interest in continuing with the committee. Only 1 member cannot continue, so the committee needs someone to replace this

person. Someone, preferably, from Clifton Heights, he explained, because they have a different perspective. Also, he continued, the "one-way" project on Pendleton Avenue has begun. So far, only one person has been seen going the wrong way. Thirdly, there was some discussion about the possibility of taking out the speed hump on Main Street. Treasurer Marilyn Barton made a good point, to consider the fact that the speed hump on Main Street does in fact slow people down enough for those who are trying to pull out onto Main Street from the side roads, such as Chapel Street and Chapel Road. If the speed hump wasn't there slowing rush hour traffic down, it would be impossible to pull out.

5. Citizen's Remarks

Ann Barlow stood up and spoke about the Therapeutic Riding Program, located in Clifton. She is a board member. The program has grown a great deal, and it is going on 30 years this year. She thanked the citizens of Clifton for support. This year, 2010, the program is going to be celebrating their 30th birthday, with a big celebration on September 19th. One of their ponies, coincidentally, is also turning 30 this year: Peachy Keen. As a celebration, Ms. Barlow inquired on behalf of the Therapeutic Riding Program if the Town Council would be willing to issue a proclamation to make September 19th "Peachy Keen Day".

Motion: Wayne Nickum made a motion to pass the resolution to recognize Peachy Keen on September 19th. Tom Peterson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Karen Arnold brought up some judgments concerning the public hearing process. She used tonight as an example for her suggestion: if there could be a slight presentation of the public hearing item before the meeting is called to order. This would allow all citizens who are present to speak and be aware of what is going on. There should never be a public hearing where people who wanted to speak were denied.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Old Town Hall

Pat Layden presented the Old Town Hall sale update. Someone approached him and asked if they could put in a bid for the Old Town Hall - - and he believes this might be something the Town Council might want to consider as part of the process: accept bids on the property, and go from there. Deborah Dillard added that she did speak to several people about some different ways to go about selling the property. Afterwards she came up with putting a request for a bid. Wayne Nickum noted that this is something that should be discussed in an executive session. The Town Council agreed.

b. Town Records

Wayne Nickum presented that the town records are gone and taken care of - - they were transferred to the Fairfax County Library at the Springfield storage area. He noted that amongst the town records he found the original minutes from 1902, handwritten. Tom Peterson added that storage sheds should be moved on. There are residents all around town that are storing town property, and it all needs to be centralized. The Town Council agreed, however tabled it to a later date.

c. Pink House

Pat Layden presented the electric and front porch update on the Pink House: the report on NOVEC's work since the last meeting. There was a trench dug from the pole behind Tim Hugo's building ground to the front of the building. Last week, they filled part of the ditch back in after it was inspected by NOVEC. They came back again this week and filled the rest of the ditch back in. Next in the process is to have NOVEC coordinate with an electrician - - everything will then be put into place. Next week, the electrician will come back and split the circuit between the two buildings. The front porch estimates: bids were asked for in order to do the front porch projects. There were three bids that came in - - 1 was very high, \$10,036; 2 was \$7,176; 3 was \$6800. All contractors were able to do the work. Bidder number 3 would be the recommended choice, however.

Motion: Pat Layden made a motion to approve bid 3 for \$6800, to be funded effective on July 1, in order to do electric work,

reconstruct and restore the porch on the Pink House. Tom Peterson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

d. Fiscal Year Budget

Wayne Nickum explained that there are only 2 committees left that he is aware of. This is something, he added, that the Town Council needs to take a look at.

e. Community Hall Lease Negotiation

Tom Peterson announced that they are going to go with the Town Council's suggestions. He hasn't been able to sit down with them due to his business, Peterson's Ice Cream Depot, opening, and due to spring break – however they promise they will give us dates by the next meeting.

f. Parking Ordinance

Mike Anton questioned whether the Town Council will be asking people to give suggestions, or enforce the parking spaces to be a certain length. Tom Peterson responded that he believes everything should stay as is unless someone comes in and requests to create additional parking.

Motion: Wayne Nickum made a motion to approve the Planning Commission's request to make depth of the spaces under parallel all 3 parallel lines, and under universally spaces all three lines. Pat Layden seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

7. New Business

a. Holiday Homes Tour

The Town Council agreed to table Item A.

b. Pump and Haul Operation

Pat Layden proposed the Town Council send a letter to the management in the County in order to get information on the changes the town has seen over the past 6 months. Four years ago, everybody noticed they put in something new down there; as a result, there were less truck visits. The trucks are now operating on a 12 hour shift- - at times there are 2, 3 trucks at one time. The collection vault is getting to its capacity more

frequently than it has done in the past. They are also using the engine pump on the truck to pump out the collect vault. Mr. Layden again proposed that the mayor send a letter to management to inquire why it changed - - there is a high pitched noise that goes on for hours and annoys residents. Wayne Nickum recommended that not only should the Town Council write a letter, but invite management to a town council meeting.

Motion: Pat Layden made a motion to send a letter to the director in order to cover points and get response back from them. Deborah Dillard seconded the motion and Wayne Nickum abstained, however the motion passed.

c. 5K Race Banner

Mike Anton presented that the banner was proposed to be put up 2 weeks before June 12, and have the Wine Festival banner taken down beforehand. Also it was requested that the area of Clifton Road and Newman be closed from 5 – 7 pm on June 12, the day of the event.

Motion: Mike Anton made a motion to accept this request. Tom Peterson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

d. Signage

Pat Layden explained that the ARB provided a list of the signs that were in violation of the ARB code. This list was supposed to have been sent out to those locations of those people who did not follow up, however he was not aware whether this had been done yet or not. They might need to regenerate the letters and re-send out. Mike Anton stated that he would add that to the agenda at the next meeting.

e. FEMA Flood Plain Map

Tom Peterson presented that they will be receiving the FEMA flood plain map soon. They are supposed to have a response ready for them in 60 days, and have to go through and do compliance lists.

Motion: Wayne Nickum made a motion to authorize funds to pay the election judges for the town election on

May 4. Tom Peterson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Adjournment-

Motion: Wayne Nickum made a motion to adjourn the Town 0 pm. Tom Peterson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The Minutes were prepared by Kathleen L. Barton, Town Clerk.