

MINUTES OF THE STRASBURG TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2017, AT 7:00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE STRASBURG TOWN HALL.

Call to Order:

Mayor Orndorff called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Council Member Le Vine**.

Invocation

Rev. John Haynes, Pastor of the Strasburg United Methodist Church, gave the invocation.

Roll Call:

ROLL Called with the following members present: Mayor Orndorff, Vice Mayor Terndrup, and Council Members Bishop, Hall, Le Vine, Maddox, Newman, Plitt, and Vena.

Introduction and Recognition of Visitors and Guests:

The Artist-of-the-Month is **Michelle Miller Warren**. **Ms. Warren** has been active with the development of the Dog Park and owns a business on West King Street.

Ms. Warren said her paintings are silhouette paintings and are all plants and animals.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Orndorff thanked the Police Department for hosting National Night Out. All departments – police, fire, and rescue - were very well represented.

On July 24, the Brill Building sign and the date stone were presented to the Strasburg Museum. The sign is already adorning the wall at the museum.

The Strasburg Express plays tonight in the Championship Game. On July 25, the Town of Strasburg sponsored the Express game.

Council served the Community Dinner on July 26 at the St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Shenandoah County Public Schools started yesterday, August 7th.

Citizen Comments:

Action Items:

1. Approval of Minutes: July 11, 2017, Town Council Regular Meeting.

The minutes of the July 11, 2017, Town Council Regular meeting were approved as presented.

Town Officer Reports:

Town Manager Pearson: Staff will be applying for Revenue Sharing Grant for the Borden Mowery Drive Extension this month. After this application is ruled on, it will become a two year cycle. If we do not receive the funds as part of this application, it is time to seriously consider self-funding.

Staff will be submitting our final Comprehensive Plan incorporation of the UDA that Council voted on to the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment for review this month.

Line and Grade is working to make the suggested VDOT corrections to their 100% plan submittal for the Gateway Trail.

In regards to zoning permits, in speaking with realtors for both residential and commercial, it is thought the surrounding area, including Strasburg, is experiencing a micro bubble that is really pushing some developers to initiate old plans and talk about new developments. It is felt this could

be coming from the building of the Amazon and Proctor and Gamble facilities. For the month of July, thirteen zoning permits were issued (three new residential, three residential accessories, one site plan amendment, two signs, and one major modification).

Director of Public Works McKinley: A Certificate of Operate (CTO) was signed by the project engineer and submitted to DEQ on August 3rd with the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade. It is now up to DEQ as to when they will perform a final inspection and issue the CTO. The performance issues of meeting 15 percent dewatered solids and a total nitrogen limit of 3.0 mg/L have been resolved. While we wait for DEQ to issue the CTO, we will begin the loan close out process.

Staff is working with VRA to close out the loan on the Public Works Facility project. We are assembling all documents needed to submit the final pay application.

Director of Public Works McKinley said he had a recent conversation with VDOT in regards to the Downtown Streetscape Enhancement project. VDOT indicated they had begun the review process of the design plans.

During the past month, the Public Works Department had 11 sewer backups, three water leaks, and 51 meter service requests.

In conclusion, **Director of Public Works McKinley** said we are utilizing 40 percent of our Wastewater Treatment Plant capacity and operating with a 31 percent system gain. We are utilizing 20 percent of our Water Treatment Plant capacity and operating with a 26 percent system loss. Our system is clearly operating more efficiently than three years ago, but we need to continue investigating our underground infrastructure.

Council Member Le Vine asked about the figures on the plants given in the monthly reports. If you look at the plant utilization of the water, it is only at 19 percent. If you look at the Wastewater Treatment Plant capacity, it is at 36 percent. It appears we could still be using the old plants, but admitted he was ignoring the upgrades in the quality, but in the water plant, we are producing less water than we did before we built the plant. So it is depressing that there is a lot of money there and we aren't making use of the excess capacity; the good news is that we can provide for any development we might get. He continued by saying the difference between billed and produced is just stubborn now; it dropped down over the last year or so and now it appears to be static. He asked why this is. **Director of Public Works McKinley** said we did have a 40 percent loss in the water system and this was coming from some leaks we knew about. We need to find the other leaks, but it will take some new technology. It is not budgeted for in this year's budget, but we need to tighten up the sewer system. We are actively camering the sewer system and the camera only works on the sewer system. Another type of technology is needed to find the leaks in the water system. **Director of Public Works McKinley** feels there is about 50 percent loss in the leaks in water and sewer.

Town Attorney Miller: Stated he is working with **Town Manager Pearson** on the UDO edits.

Director of Finance Mullins: Staff has been busy processing delinquent tax bills. **Director of Finance Mullins** said she has been working with VRA on closing out the Public Works facility loan.

Council Member Le Vine asked if there were any changes in the numbers of delinquent bills being sent and **Director of Finance Mullins** said there is not an appreciable difference.

Clerk of Council Keller: Thanked all for their help with the Community Dinner. The pool season is winding down. During the season, there were some upgrades done to the pool house and

area, a new freezer and refrigerator were purchased which has made for much better working conditions for the pool staff, and new Adirondack chairs, picnic tables, and lounge chairs have arrived and are in use. Town Staff painted rocks and finders can bring into Town Hall and receive a free children's one day pass to the pool for the last few days of the season.

Vice Mayor Terndrup said he spoke to a lady from Mount Jackson who was very complimentary of the Town Park and the amenities offered and especially the cleanliness of the bathrooms. **Clerk Keller** said the care of the bathrooms is done by the Public Works Department.

Chief Sutherly: In the absence of **Chief Sutherly**, **Capt. Sager** said National Night Out was a huge hit. He thanked **Town Manager Pearson** for doing the dunk tax. The department joined in the hiding of rocks as they, too, painted and hid rocks. The department will be hosting an active shooter workshop. The Yard Crawl will be starting on Thursday afternoon and Route 11 will be shut down on Friday afternoon until all buses are through.

Council Member Newman asked why he doesn't see State Troopers on the highway. **Capt. Sager** said they are understaffed by about 250 people.

Economic Development and Marketing Manager Bixler: Reported that staff provided support to seven potential new businesses in the areas of location assistance, workforce identification, and connecting potential businesses to building owners.

In an effort to provide a pipeline for our new and existing businesses, the RevUp Marketing program will begin on September 6 and includes six marketing classes for businesses. **ED&M Manager Bixler** reviewed the classes being offered. Strasburg participants will submit their marketing plan for an opportunity to win money to implement the plan.

The community branding process is well underway. Using a Branding Advisory Group made up of six community members, one council person, the mayor and two staff, the group has provided Mikula Harris with the direction needed to begin the design phase of the project.

Councilwoman Plitt and staff are attending planning meetings for the Community Garden to be located in the Town Park. Location options will be discussed at the next Recreation, Parks and Trails meeting.

The Gateway to Shenandoah Visitor Center continues to be on the high end of the five-year average with 819 visitors stopping by in July.

Staff is working with County Tourism staff, Staufferstadt Arts and two local businesses to provide dinner and activities in Strasburg to seven travel writers who will be in the area in mid-September.

Council Member Hall asked if the Town had taken over the Visitor Center and **ED&M Manager Bixler** said we have and the MOU is signed and rent is being paid. The apartment is empty now.

Standing Committee Reports

Special Committee Reports:

NSVRC: **Council Member Vena** said they took a vote on the Regional Solid Waste program. She discussed this with **Town Manager Pearson**, prior to voting, to understand the issue better.

Old Business:

New Business:

Council Member Plitt said the Community Garden idea has been brought to the town by Lord Fairfax Rural Water people who have received a grant to find a location to do a demonstration

garden, as well as providing space to groups such as FFA or Master Gardeners.

Council Member Newman asked if the gardens would be fruits and vegetables and it will be and **Council Member Plitt** said they also hope to provide classes on how to prepare the food. It is hoped that some of the food will also be donated to food pantries.

Meeting Dates:

Rec/Parks/Trails	Mon., Aug. 21	10 a.m.
Planning Commission	Tuesday, Aug. 22	7 p.m.
ARB	Thursday, Aug. 10	7 p.m.
CDBG	Tuesday, Aug. 22	10 a.m.

Closed Meeting:

Vice Mayor Terndrup moved to enter into a closed meeting pursuant to Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3) for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. The subject of the closed meeting is to discuss a proposal for disposition of publicly held real property and acquisition of land. **Council Member Bishop** made the second to the motion. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned to a Closed Meeting at 7:29 p.m. and reconvened at 8:06 p.m.

Mayor Orndorff said the Council of the Town of Strasburg hereby certifies by Roll Call vote that to the best of each member’s knowledge (1)only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies and (2)only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council of the Town of Strasburg.

Each member should respond “I so certify” by Roll Call vote.

Council Member Bishop	I so certify
Council Member Hall	I so certify
Council Member Le Vine	I so certify
Council Member Maddox	I so certify
Council Member Newman	I so certify
Council Member Plitt	I so certify
Council Member Terndrup	I so certify
Council Member Vena	I so certify
Mayor Orndorff	I so certify

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.