

MINUTES OF THE STRASBURG TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024, AT 7:00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE STRASBURG TOWN HALL.

Call to Order: Mayor Boies called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance: Council Member Woodson led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation: Council Member Lowder offered the invocation.

Roll Call:

ROLL Called with the following members present: Mayor Boies, Vice Mayor McCornyn, and Council Members Carter, Hooser, Kimmons, Lowder, Monahan, Stover, and Woodson.

Absent:

Public Hearings: None

Introduction and Recognition of Visitors and Guests:

Town Manager Coggsdale recognized **Clerk of Council Keller** as “Clerk of the Year” for the Virginia Municipal Clerks Association, Region III.

Mayor’s Comments:

Mayor Boies asked all to keep **Debbie Miller** in thoughts and prayers in the loss of her husband, **Mike**. **Debbie** has worked for the Town of Strasburg for almost 30 years.

Today is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. **Mayor Boies** read a letter to the officers which was signed by all of Council.

Citizen Comments:

David Lassiter, 188 West King Street, Strasburg, VA: Stated they are about 80% complete in the cleaning of the property. The greenhouse has been covered and if it had not rained so much today, they would have had more completed. He just wanted to update Council on their progress.

Consent Agenda:

- 1) Minutes of the December 4, 2023 Work Session
- 2) Minutes of the December 12, 2023 Regular Council meeting
- 3) Minutes of the December 19, 2023 Joint Planning Commission and Town Council meeting

Council Member Kimmons moved to approve the consent agenda; second by Council Member Carter. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business (Discussion and/or Action Items):

- 1) **Acceptance of the Town’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Audit) for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

Description: Request for a vote to “accept” the Financial Report as presented by Mr. James Kelley with Robinson, Farmer, and Cox at the January 2, 2024 Work Session.

Vice Mayor McCornyn moved for acceptance of the Town’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Audit) for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023; second by Council Member Monahan. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

2) Water Cutoff Policy

Description: Request to set a public hearing for Tuesday, February 13, 2024, for public comment on proposed change to Section 86-39 of the Town Code.

Mayor Boies said this is a request to set a public hearing at the February 13th Council meeting.

Council Member Lowder moved to schedule a public hearing for **Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 7 p.m., to receive public comment on proposed changes to Section 86-39 of the Town Code; second by Vice Mayor McCorn. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.**

3) 178-188 W. King Street Update

Description: Council allowed a 45-day extension for clean-up of 178-188 W. King Street. The starting date of the extension was December 4, 2023. Staff is seeking guidance on next steps if the work is not completed satisfactorily.

Director of Planning and Public Services Otis said that during the appeals hearing, it was agreed to have a meeting between staff and **Mr. Lassiter** two weeks prior to the deadline. They met on January 4, and he agrees with **Mr. Lassiter** that a lot of movement has taken place on the property; we are about 80 percent there. He identified two items, one being the skinning of the greenhouse, and the second are items that are out that could go in the greenhouse. **Mr. Lassiter** agreed this would be done. On Monday, January 8th, a fence permit was issued for this project. The 45-days ends on January 19, and he plans to go on the following Monday to make an inspection. He would like to have the flexibility to work with the owners to get any odds and end items completed if not done by inspection. The last thing staff wants to do is go to court; we don't want to go that route if we don't have to.

Consensus was to allow staff to use his judgement with this.

Director of Planning and Public Services Otis said if we need to revisit this issue, it would happen at the February Work Session.

New Business:

Reports:

Departmental Reports:

*****Complete reports are provided in the Council packet which is available on the town's website at www.strasburgva.com. Reports are also found on the "Meetings" page of the website (<https://www.strasburgva.com/meetings>).*****

Director of Planning and Public Services Otis said he talked to the Berkley Group and the next joint meeting is scheduled for March 14 at 7 p.m.

Council Member Monahan asked we have heard from Claytor/Aikens. **Director of Planning and Public Services Otis** has not but will be reaching out to **Mr. Claytor**. **Council Member Monahan** said she has heard they are looking to build a gas station in Middletown, so she doesn't want to continue waiting on them to improve the house if they are not building the station.

Mayor Boies asked about the feasibility study on 115 W. King Street. **Town Manager Coggsdale** said **Chief Sager** and he will be meeting with the engineers and he hopes they will be coming to Council with a report.

Council Member Kimmons asked about the bathrooms at the park. **Asst. Town Manager Shippe**

said a contractor looked at it and said we had a good, sound structure and we should do a remodel. She is working on an RFP, and the cost should be below \$300,000.

Council Member Kimmons said he and other committee members met about the plantings along Town Run. The question of height came up. How tall do we want these plantings to be?

Council Member Carter thinks we need to keep in mind the kids playing on it.

Mayor Boies said it should be intentional planting and maybe paths, so they don't get trampled. She thinks the height could vary as long as there are intentional paths. Also, we need to keep in mind the Duck Race at Mayfest as she has learned this is a big deal.

Vice Mayor McCorn said people sit on the sidewalk so don't make it so dense that people can't enjoy the music from the sidewalk side of the Town Run.

Council Member Kimmons said once the design phase is finished, it will be brought back to Council. He noted that the plantings will be going from the bridge on King Street to the walking bridge.

Council Member Monahan asked about the Dupont Grant. **Asst. Town Manager Shipe** has drafted the proposal, and this will be taken to the NSVRC. The first step is removal of trees as there are some trees that will need to be removed and they must be removed before March because of some nesting issues with bats.

Asst. Town Manager Shipe said we need to separate the project into different phases or projects in hopes of getting more funding. The Dupont group is looking into this possibility and will get back to staff. There are six different portions of this project. Everything will be taken up to the edge of the water.

Town Attorney Helm said there is a hearing on Thursday on the land that we had trees removed (South Loudoun Street). Hopefully, will be able to move forward with the judgement after this hearing.

Special Committee Reports:

Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission: **Council Member Kimmons** submitted a written report which read: "The Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission did not meet in December. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18th. At that time, an updated commission staff report will be given, and **Council Member Kimmons** will forward to all of Council."

Council Member Items:

Council Member Stover will be having hip replacement surgery next Tuesday. He hopes to avoid problems but asked for prayers.

Council Member Lowder thanked Public Works for clearing the streets. Our town is blessed in their care of the streets.

Council Member Hooser said he had a citizen call him at 3:57 a.m. because the road in front of his house got plowed. **Town Manager Coggsdale** said not everyone thinks we do a great job.

Mayor Boies said she spoke at a Women's Conference, and she was asked how she handles the negativity of "What's Happening Strasburg". We are a town of 7,000 and we know it is a small percentage that goes onto this site and complains. But, Council needs to listen and be aware of what is being said on this site.

Council Member Carter took a tour of the Strasburg Reservoir. It was very interesting, and a report will be given soon about our water issues.

Closed meeting:

Council Member Kimmons moved to enter into a closed meeting pursuant to Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7) for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; second by Council Member Hooser.

With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously, and Council adjourned to a closed meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:57 p.m.

Mayor Boies 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.

Vice Mayor McCorn	I so certify
Council Member Carter	I so certify
Council Member Hooser	I so certify
Council Member Kimmons	I so certify
Council Member Lowder	I so certify
Council Member Monahan	I so certify
Council Member Stover	I so certify
Council Member Woodson	I so certify
Mayor Boies	I so certify

Being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.