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**Town of Louisa
Monthly Meeting
February 16, 2021**

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Please note that this meeting is being held by all-electronic means with no physical quorum of council members assembled together and no staff or members of the public assembled together. This meeting is being conducted pursuant to Va. Code 2.2-3708 (A) 3 as authorized when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with Va. Code § 44-146.17, provided that (i) the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and (ii) the purpose of the meeting is to address the emergency.

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Present: R. Garland Nuckols, Mayor; A. Daniel Carter, Bud Dulaney, John J. Purcell IV, Sylvia Rigsby, Council members; Jeff Gore, Legal Counsel; Elizabeth T. Nelson, Town Manager; Jessica M. Ellis, Clerk/Treasurer; Tom Leary, Chief of Police

Absent: Jessie Lassiter, Vice-Mayor

Also in Attendance: Officers Julius Morton, Julie Taylor, and Travis Williams of the Town of Louisa Police Department; Sergeant Terry Tussing, Town of Louisa Police Department

All copies, including: reports, handouts, and documents can be found following the minutes.

Mayor Nuckols called the Louisa Town Council meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Nelson and Mayor Nuckols noted the need for the following changes to the agenda:

1
2 Change order no. 3 still has not been received– in regards to the
3 sewer system improvements project, therefore item no. 2 under Old
4 Business should be tabled. A discussion for potential funding from
5 USDA for a water system improvements project was recommended
6 by the Water/Sewer Committee under New Business as item no. 2.
7 (The Police Department report can be found in the supplemental
8 packet.)
9

10 Council member Dulaney made the motion to approve the agenda as
11 amended. Council member Carter seconded the motion. The vote
12 went as follows: 4-0 in favor.
13

14 Mayor Nuckols took a moment to report that he had received five
15 calls from citizens commending the Public Works Department for their
16 hard work clearing the sidewalks and streets in town during the past
17 few snow and ice storms.
18

19 **OLD BUSINESS**

21 **1) Discussion/Action: Sewer Rate Increase Ordinance**

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23 Mayor Nuckols questioned if the town office had received any calls
24 about the increase to which Mrs. Nelson stated that no calls or
25 correspondence had been received on the matter except for a call
26 asking for the dollar amount of the increase - dating back from when
27 the increase was first advertised for public hearing until this
28 evening.
29

30 Council member Purcell then made the motion to adopt the Sewer
31 Rate Increase Ordinance. Council member Rigsby seconded the
32 motion. The vote went as follows: 4-0 in favor.
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34 **2) Discussion/Action: Change Order #3 – Sewer System 35 Improvements**

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37 *This item was tabled during the approval of the consent agenda.*
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NEW BUSINESS

1) Discussion/Action: Budget Workshop Schedule

A brief discussion was held wherein Council collectively deferred the preliminary budget work session discussions to the Finance Committee – to set up necessary meetings to discuss the upcoming budget and be report back to Council at the March 16th meeting.

2) Discussion/Action: USDA Water System Improvements Project Funding Resolution

Council member Purcell, and Mrs. Nelson, reported on behalf of the Water & Sewer Committee stating that the committee recommends that the town move forward and apply for USDA RD funding - for the full loan amount - for the water system improvements project to lock in the best rates obtainable for the town.

Council member Dulaney made the motion to adopt the USDA RD Water System Improvements Funding Resolution. Council member Purcell seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 4-0 in favor.

Council member Dulaney thanked the committee for getting the process started as it is much needed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Matters:

Council member Dulaney gave a brief update stating that the committee met on February 2nd and discussed the following: the accreditation process; the newly vacant Administrative Assistant position; the Chief of Police position; and the parking enforcement program.

STAFF REPORTS

Police:

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Chief Leary reported on the following:

- Increases foot patrols.
- Using more warning forms vs. issuing tickets.
- Have had to issue speeding tickets on Main Street – speeding has been problematic – the department is trying to reduce speed in an effort to calm traffic as warmer months approach and restaurants begin to offer outdoor/parklet dining, and the overall increase in pedestrian traffic.
- DMV grant patrols are ongoing.
- Training has been rescheduled due to COVID – will be held in the coming months.
- In-car cameras are being installed.
- Officer Morton discovered a chimney fire while on patrol and alerted homeowners and emergency personnel.
- Officer Taylor recently bought coffee to the Public Works crew as they worked into the late night/early morning hours on a water leak.

Chief Leary then took a moment to present the following awards:

Officer Julius Morton - a Letter of Accommodation for his assistance to county/town residents by purchasing turkeys/meals (on his own time/from his own pocket) for those in need around the Thanksgiving holiday.

Officer Julie Taylor – a Letter of Accommodation for her hard work and assistance with setting up needed websites for the department and the development of the new parking tickets while helping save the department money.

Officer Travis Williams – a Life Saving Award for the administering of Narcan (an opioid reversal agent) during a call wherein the person had overdosed and was nonresponsive.

Mayor Nuckols and members of Council commended the Police Department for their dedication and service.

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Legal Counsel:

Mr. Gore made mention of:

- Local elections will now be held in November as opposed to the spring beginning in 2022 – the General Assembly passed the bill this morning. Will report back with more details as he hears more.

Clerk/Treasurer:

No report.

Manager:

No report.

COMMUNICATIONS

Council member Dulaney took a moment to commend the Police Department again and also commended Chief Leary for his support of the department and town as he continues to work past his retirement date to assist with the Chief of Police search.

Mayor Nuckols then posed a question to Chief Leary in regards to camera footage and if it is obtainable via FOIA and if there were any policies on the matter. Chief Leary responded that in such an incident he would defer to the FOIA officer for the town, Mrs. Nelson, as well as Mr. Gore, legal counsel.

Mr. Gore then responded stating that it depends on the situation – whether an investigation were involved – as to if footage would be available, however, in many situations video footage is obtainable via FOIA request.

Council member Dulaney reported that the department is currently working on updating and writing such policies.

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ADJOURNMENT

Council member Carter made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk