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**Town of Louisa
Monthly Meeting
June 16, 2020**

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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; Jessie Lassiter, Vice-Mayor; A. Daniel Carter, James S. Artz, Bud Dulaney, John J. Purcell IV, Council members; Jeff Gore, Legal Counsel; Elizabeth T. Nelson, Town Manager; M. Brad Humphrey, Project Manager; Tom Leary, Chief of Police; Kellye Throckmorton; Administrative Assistant

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Absent: Jessica M. Ellis, Clerk/Treasurer

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Also in Attendance: Sergeant Terry Tussing, Town of Louisa Police Department; Sylvia Rigsby, town resident and newly elected Town Council Member at 115 Cammack Street; Michelle Dmytryszyn, The Central Virginian

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

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Mayor Nuckols called the Louisa Town Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

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Deana Wilson, wife of Brian Wilson – former officer of the Louisa Police Department, spoke expressing concerns regarding the police department.

CONSENT AGENDA

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Two items were requested to be added to the agenda for discussion:
1) Communications Appropriation, and 2) Police Department Staffing.

Council member Carter made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Council member Dulaney seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Discussion/Action: Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Resolution

Council member Dulaney made the motion to approve the FY 2020-2021 Budget Resolution. Council member Purcell seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

2) Discussion/Action: Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Water/Sewer Rate Ordinance

Council member Lassiter made the motion to approve the FY 2020-2021 Water/Sewer Rate Ordinance. Council member Artz seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Discussion/Action: USDA Loan Deferral Resolution

Council member Purcell made the motion to approve the USDA Loan Deferral Resolution. Council member Lassiter seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

2) Discussion/Action: Maturing Certificate of Deposit

Council member Lassiter made the motion to reinvest the certificate of deposit with LGIP (as recommended by the Town Manager due to low certificate rates). Council member Purcell seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: Carter, abstain; Artz, for; Purcell, for; Lassiter, for; Dulaney, for (4-0 in favor).

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3) Discussion/Action: Committee Appointments

Council member Carter made the motion nominating Council member John Purcell to serve on the *Planning Commission*. Council member Lassiter seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

Council member Lassiter made the motion nominating A. Carter Cooke, current chairman, to serve on the *Planning Commission* again. Council member Dulaney seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

Council member Carter made the motion nominating Brian Gilbreth and Jim Artz to serve on the *Board of Zoning Appeals*. Council member Artz seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

** Mayor Nuckols noted that he has been in discussions with Ronald Bullock about potentially filling the final vacant position on the BZA.*

** The nominations for the BZA will be turned over to the Louisa County Circuit Court for approval.*

Council member Lassiter made the motion nominating Council members Danny Carter and Bud Dulaney to serve on the *Economic Development Authority*. Council member Artz seconded the motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

4) Discussion/Action: Budget Appropriation – Communication Cable

Mrs. Nelson stated that the initial approval for the communications cable to be run over the railroad tracks to town hall was for \$5000, however, the actual cost is \$6350, therefore, an appropriation is needed of \$1350 to cover the total cost.

Council member Dulaney made the motion to approve the budget appropriation of \$1350 for the additional cost to complete the

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2 communication cable project. Council member Lassiter seconded the
3 motion. The vote went as follows: 5-0 in favor.

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5 **5) Discussion/Action: Police Department Staffing**

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7 Mrs. Nelson began the discussion by speaking of Council's
8 decision to put a hold on hiring for vacant positions due to how the
9 town is currently being affected by the pandemic (and how the town
10 may be affected in the coming months). Mrs. Nelson stated that she
11 understands the town's position, however, she feels that it would be
12 in the town's best interest - based on public safety - to hire one new
13 police officer now, and another later in the year.

14
15 Chief Leary then spoke of: the police department's new
16 Administrative Assistant, Emily Shiflett; the auxiliary program;
17 training; and the time frame involved in obtaining a 5th officer.

18
19 Council member Lassiter stated that she agreed with Mrs. Nelson;
20 and Council member Purcell stated that did not feel a vote was
21 necessary in regards to the staffing change.

22
23 **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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25 **Water and Sewer:**

26
27 Council member Purcell and Mrs. Nelson reported:

- 28
29 • The town will not be applying for funding for the WWTP at this
30 time.
31
32 • There are three sites that will benefit from the continuation of the
33 relining project: the water tower; Loving Street; and W. Main Street
34 near the car wash.
35
36 • The water main break in the vicinity of Cammack Street and South
37 Street was not Dominion's fault. The water lines were not marked
38 correctly.

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2 **Police Matters:**

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4 Council member Dulaney reported:

- 5
- 6 • He recently met the new Administrative Assistant for the Police
7 Department and spoke kindly of her.
 - 8
 - 9 • Spoke of the Auxiliary Officer Program and training new officers.
 - 10
 - 11 • Spoke of the proper protocol for parking ordinances.
 - 12
 - 13 • Requested that the Chief research the use of force policies.
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15 **COMMUNICATIONS**

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17 Mrs. Nelson stated that, as a result of the Governor's recent
18 declaration of Virginia entering Phase 3 of reopening, the town office
19 is planning to reopen its doors on July 1st after coordinating with the
20 Arts Center. She stated that she hoped the July meeting would allow
21 us to meet in person, with social distancing guidelines in place.

22

23 Mrs. Nelson also took a moment to thank Council member Jim Artz
24 for his service and wish him well - as his term expires on June 30,
25 2020. All of Council chimed in thanking Mr. Artz for all his time
26 served over the years. Jim thanked everyone and wished newly
27 elected Council member Sylvia Rigsby the best as she begins her
28 term in July.

29

30 Mayor Nuckols spoke of reaching out to VDOT regarding pedestrian
31 safety near the Shell Station on W. Main Street.

32

33 Mayor Nuckols relayed that Howard Donovan, of 104 Leigh Street,
34 thanked the Public Works Department for the work done on West
35 Street.

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37 Council member Dulaney stated that the EDA will be buying the
38 replacement signage for the public parking lot at the corner of Cutler

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Avenue and W. Main Street. Mr. Dulaney also noted that research is still being conducted to determine the ownership of the entryway signs.

ADJOURNMENT

Council member Lassiter made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk