

July 10, 2023

A work session of the Town Council of the Town of Grottoes was held on Monday, July 10, 2023 at the Grottoes Town Hall, Grottoes, Virginia.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Plaster called the work session of July 10, 2023, of the Grottoes Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** Council Members present: Mayor Jo Plaster, Tim Leeth, David Raynes, Joshua Bailey, Jim Justis, Michael Kohl, and Mark Sterling.

Other town officials present were: Town Attorney Nathan Miller, Town Manager Stefanie McAlister, Deputy Clerk Jennifer Whetzel, Treasurer Rhonda Danner, Public Works Director AJ Hummel, Parks Director Austin Shank and Police Chief Jason Sullivan.

Mayor Plaster stated the first item on the agenda is discussion on Capital Improvement Projects and ARPA fund use. She then turned it over to Town Manager Stefanie McAlister who provided a handout entitled “General Fund Related Projects.” Manager McAlister stated that ARPA funds must be allocated by December 2024 and spent by the end of December 2026. Manager McAlister asked the council to consider setting up a different workshop to discuss Capital Improvement Plan related projects. Mayor Plaster asked when the council would like to set up a separate workshop. August was discussed as a possible month to set a date. Council member Kohl asked if it could be a part of the August work session, possibly starting at 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. All in agreement to have work session August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Plaster said the next item on the agenda is Police Department surplus supplies. Chief Sullivan stated that his department had switched to 9mm handguns and that he has 12 cases of 40cal ammunition that he would like to ask the council to allow him to offer to other police departments or sell. Chief Sullivan also stated the police department has switched to nylon duty belts and he has leather duty belts to get rid of. Chief Sullivan states there are also non ballistic tactical gas vests that have been in the police surplus. Last year they updated the heat shield and flashlights for their patrol rifles, and he also has the old ones to get rid of. Council member Justis made a motion to allow Chief Sullivan to sell or get rid of excess equipment. Council member Raynes seconds the motion. The vote was carried by a vote of 6-0, voting recorded as follows: JUSTIS – AYE; BAILEY – AYE; STERLING – AYE; RAYNES – AYE; KOHL – AYE; LEETH – AYE.

Mayor Plaster stated in other business is the Quiet Zone Establishment. Manager McAlister stated she reached out to the railroad and received information back indicating that there is an administration fee in relation to the request. Manger McAlister stated she does not have clear direction from the council and needs to know how they would like to proceed. Council member Bailey stated that he would like some more information on it. Mayor Plaster asked if the consensus of council is to see what the scope of work is. Council member Raynes and Kohl stated they were against taking the whistle away. Council member Bailey stated that a lot of localities in the Commonwealth do it. Council member Justis suggested that they get the scope of

the work and see what they say. Council was not wanting to move forward if cost were involved. Manager McAlister will take the next step with the railroad and include VDOT.

Mayor Plaster adjourned the work session at 6:17 p.m.

July 10, 2023

A regular session of the Town Council of the Town of Grottoes was held on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Grottoes Town Hall, Grottoes, Virginia.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Plaster called the regular session of July 10, 2023, of the Grottoes Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Plaster called for a roll call.

**ATTENDANCE:** Council members present: Jim Justis, Joshua Bailey, Mark Sterling, Mayor Jo Plaster, David Raynes, Tim Leeth, and Michael Kohl.

Other Town officials present: Attorney Nathan Miller, Town Manager Stefanie McAlister, Deputy Clerk Jennifer Whetzel, Parks Director Austin Shank, Treasurer Rhonda Danner, Public Works Director AJ Hummel and Police Chief Jason Sullivan.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Council member Raynes, seconded by Council member Leeth, and carried by a vote of 6-0, voting recorded as follows: JUSTIS – AYE; BAILEY – AYE; STERLING – AYE; RAYNES – AYE; KOHL – AYE; LEETH – AYE; the council approved the minutes of the meetings on June 12, 2023.

### **PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND CLAIMS (PUBLIC COMMENT):**

Kathy Andes addressed the council stating that she has been a lifelong resident of Grottoes and that her family has lived in Grottoes for 100 years. She stated that she had two things to share. First, kudos to the Mayor and the town council for the Memorial Day Ceremony. Secondly, she wanted to share that she is in favor of saving the pool and has been attending town council meetings in regards to the pool and has been impressed with the comments being made. She stated that the senior citizens in town benefit from the pool. Ms. Andes spoke about going to the pool after having surgery on her shoulder and about all the people she had seen there that she knew. She had told her husband how good the pool looked after recent renovations and that she felt the town had never had so much to offer as it does now with its two nice parks, a few restaurants, and an affordable public pool. She, like many others, was shocked when she learned of the closing of the pool. She would like to commend the pool committee, their efforts, and their outside the box thinking to save Grand Caverns Pool for both the young and the young at heart.

### **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE:**

**FINANCE** – Council member Raynes made a motion, seconded by Council member Leeth, and carried by a vote of 6-0, voting recorded as follows: JUSTIS – AYE; BAILEY – AYE; STERLING – AYE; RAYNES – AYE; KOHL – AYE; LEETH – AYE, to approve the financial reports for the month of June.

**WATER AND SEWER** – no report

**ORDINANCE, HEALTH, AND PROPERTY** – no report

**STREETS AND STREET LIGHTS** – no report

**PARKS, RECREATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES** – no report

**SPECIAL EVENTS** – Council member Leeth announced that there is Bluegrass in the Park every Friday starting at 7:00 p.m. in July, Grottoes Cardinals’ games start back this week, First Responders Day Ceremony, and re-dedication of John Painter Park July 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Council member Leeth stated that this is a community event and that the Grottoes Fire Chief, Police Chief and a representative of the Grottoes Rescue Squad will be in attendance.

**PERSONNEL, FIRE AND POLICE PROTECTION** – Mayor Plaster announced the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grottoes Fire Department and stated there will be a celebration on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. with a ceremony representing the departments past, present, and future. Mayor Plaster stated that this is a community event. Mayor Plaster also stated that the Party in the Park on June 24, 2023, was a nice event and hopefully we can expand on that and see what we can change or improve. Mayor plaster also thanked personnel and staff for their help with the event.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

TOWN MANAGER. Manager McAlister wanted to point out item #3 on staff report regarding Virginia’s state budget. She stated that although there is an approved budget, the General Assembly goes through it every year and makes amendments, addendums, appropriations, etc. This year the legislature has not come to an agreement on the budget, so if they make changes, that could affect local government and the funding we receive from the state. Manager McAlister says she does not expect it to affect our budget, but that there is a possibility.

ATTORNEY. Attorney Miller stated that he has no issues to report.

TREASURER. A written report was provided. There were no additional comments from staff and no questions or comments from Council Members.

ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN MANAGER. Manager McAlister wanted to report on The Shady Creek Subdivision and that they have been working with VDOT and landowners to obtain easements and rights-of-way to put in the left turn lane to be able to resume construction. She stated that they have gotten all the easements and they submitted a new site plan for approval through the Town and Rockingham County. Manager McAlister also mentioned that Shady Creek Subdivision is approved for 167 additional housing units.

POLICE CHIEF. A written report was provided. There were no additional comments from staff and no questions or comments from Council Members.

PUBLIC WORKS. A written report was provided. There were no additional comments from staff and no questions or comments from Council Members.

RECREATION AND TOURISM DIRECTOR. A written report was provided. There were no additional comments from staff and no questions or comments from Council Members.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Council member Justis made a motion that the town does a second ground penetrating radar and obtain a report from an engineering firm regarding safety of the pool and cost determination for repairs to or below the pool. Council member Kohl 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The vote was 2-4, voting recorded as follows: JUSTICE – AYE; BAILEY – NAY; STERLING – NAY; RAYNES – NAY; KOHL – AYE; LEETH – NAY. Council member Leeth stated for the record “I think its very important we hear what our attorney has to say. I am not unopposed to the pool. I am opposed to making rash decisions without hearing what our attorney has to say,” regarding fundraising and the pool committee established by council.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Council member Justis made a motion, seconded by Council member Bailey, and carried by a vote of 6-0, voting recorded as follows: JUSTIS – AYE; BAILEY – AYE; STERLING – AYE; RAYNES – AYE; KOHL – AYE; LEETH – AYE, to deny the sale of Town property located on 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

Mayor Plaster declared the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.