

March 13, 2023

A regular session of the Town Council of the Town of Grottoes was held on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Grottoes Town Hall, Grottoes, Virginia.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Plaster called the regular session of March 13, 2023, of the Grottoes Town Council to order at 7:01 p.m. Mayor Plaster asked for a roll call.

Mayor Plaster said we would need a motion to approve for Council member Justis to participate by phone. Council member Bailey replied so moved. Council member Leeth seconded the motion. The vote was recorded as follows 5-0: BAILEY – AYE; STERLING – AYE; RAYNES – AYE; KOHL – AYE, LEETH – AYE.

ATTENDANCE: Council Members present: Joshua Bailey, Mark Sterling, Mayor Jo Plaster, David Raynes, Jim Leeth, and Michael Kohl. Council member Jim Justis participated by phone.

Other Town Officials present: Attorney Nathan Miller, Town Manager Stefanie McAlister, Clerk Tara Morris, and Police Chief Jason Sullivan. Parks Director Austin Shank arrived at 7:12 p.m. Absent: Treasurer Rhonda Danner and Public Works Director AJ Hummel.

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 February 13, 2023 meetings as presented.

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 February 7, 2023 workshop meeting as presented.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND CLAIMS (public comment)

Scott Sacra addressed the Council with a concern about the solid boxes Mr. Chittum brought up at the last meeting. He said reading the minutes there seems to be some ARPA money that could go into hiring a contracting company to come in and assist with pumping these tanks out. Mr. Sacra said he knows that public works is behind on servicing these tanks and if we don't maintain them now, they will eventually cost the town more.

Melissa Mays addressed the Council asking if they had approved for chickens to be allowed in the town. She said she is asking this because there is house on 8th Street that has chickens, and she didn't remember Chapter 48 being changed. Mayor Plaster stated that the ordinance has not changed.

Eddie Chittum addressed the Council asking about the school board elections. He said our children go to school in district 2 and the Town of Grottoes votes for district 3. He wanted to know if the Grottoes citizens were going to be able to vote for district 2.

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 February.

WATER AND SEWER – no report

ORDINANCE, HEALTH, AND PROPERTY – no report

STREET AND STREET LIGHTS – no report

PARKS, RECREATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES – Mayor Plaster said she attended the Grottoes Community Little League meeting and is asking for a member of council to serve as the liaison. Council member Bailey volunteered to serve at the liaison for the Little League. Council member Justis agreed to fill in when needed.

SPECIAL EVENTS – no report

PERSONNEL, FIRE AND POLICE PROTECTION –

STAFF REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER. Manager McAlister said the bid opening for the Aspen Avenue waterline replacement was held on February 28, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. She said we received one bid by the deadline and one bid was received late. She said the timely bid was submitted by Frank Loyd and that he is known to be a responsible contractor with all licensures. She said he is familiar with the town's water system. Manager McAlister said his bid came in \$34,580.00 and recommends we proceed with contracting Mr. Loyd's services for the Aspen Avenue water line replacement project. On a motion by Council member Bailey, 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 contract Mr. Loyd for the Aspen Avenue waterline replacement project.

ATTORNEY. Attorney Miller reminded the council that the call-in option is only allowed twice a year for each council member.

TREASURER. Manager McAlister pointed out from the Treasurer's staff report that the FY19 audit is complete. She said we are still waiting to hear from the Town's auditors PB Mares when FY20 audit will start.

ASSISTANT TO TOWN MANAGER. A written report was provided. There were no additional comments from staff and no questions or comments from Council members.

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

PUBLIC WORKS. Manager McAlister said there is a lot of information included in the staff report and asked the council to read it over.

RECREATION AND TOURISM DIRECTOR. Director Shank apologized for his tardiness and said he just wanted to inform the council that the Blue Ridge Heritage Project will be holding a groundbreaking ceremony at Grand Caverns Park on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 11:00 and invited all to come.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Plaster stated in the past couple years the council has donated their council salary to cover the cost of the Senior Banners/Signs. She said she is trying to get an early start this year and wanted to see if the council wants to proceed with sponsoring this recognition for our Senior Class of 2023. Mayor Plaster said she would need a motion to proceed. Council member Leeth replied so moved, 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.

Mayor Plaster said she has talked with Caleb Bailey who will now be coordinating the Friday Night Bluegrass in the Park. She said that Caleb would like to rename the concert series to honor Mr. Roger Randall for all he has done to bring this series to town. Mayor Plaster said Caleb would like to come to next month’s meeting to recognize Mr. Roger Randall. She said in the past the town has sponsored the event with a \$1,500.00 donation and asked Council if they wanted to do that again and if so suggested to present it that night. Council member Leeth made a motion to donate \$1,500.00 to the Friday Night Bluegrass series. Council member Sterling seconded the motion. The vote was recorded 5-0-1 voting recorded as follows: JUSTIS – AYE; BAILEY – ABSTAIN; STERLING – AYE; RAYNES – AYE; KOHL – AYE, LEETH – AYE.

Mayor Plaster stated that in the Town Manager’s staff report she stated that she is working on quotes for the demolition of the pool. She said once the quotes are obtained, they will be brought to the Council for directions on how to proceed.

Mayor Plaster declared the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk