

July 14, 2025

A work session of the Town Council of the Town of Grottoes was held on Monday, July 14, 2025, at the Grottoes Town Hall, Grottoes, Virginia.

Mayor Plaster called the work session of July 14, 2025, of the Grottoes Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Plaster turned the meeting over to Town Manager Kyle O'Brien who introduced Nate Riddle from Open Doors and the Navigation Center. Nate spoke of the history, a nonprofit dating back to 2007 that works closely with the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, the location where it operates at 1111 North Main Street in Harrisonburg, Va. Nate shared a lot about the mission it serves on assisting individuals and families facing housing instability. This service is for adults experiencing homelessness and any community members in need of daytime health, housing, and human services through a drop-in clinic. Nate provided Town Manager O'Brien with information that the town provide residents with.

Town Manager O'Brien spoke on the Comprehensive Plan and stated that the plan is solid and fully ready to move forward for approval. Council member Taylor asked Jeremy Crute and Elizabeth Goodloe from CSPDC if they feel all areas have been covered in the Plan and they both agreed that they cannot think of anything that has not been covered, and that it can be amended if necessary or as needed. Mayor Plaster asked if anyone else had comments or questions, at that time there was no further discussion.

Town Manager O'Brien shared the introduction of a new audio/visual equipment and program designed to enhance transparency and accessibility for council meetings. The quote from AVIA would include necessary equipment, training, and software. Town Manager O'Brien noted that while the \$25,000 cost for AVIA is not currently listed as a line item in the budget, it would not be a problem to get the funding. Council member Taylor asked if there would be additional costs for media storage. Attorney Helm stated the recordings would not be stored forever and that the minutes are the official record. Council member Kohl feels it's a good idea and that we can use funds from the interest we are earning to cover the cost. Council member Taylor stated this would bring more transparency and is worth the investment. Mayor Plaster feels everyone should be trained if it is launched. Council member Raynes asked about allowing outside comments and Town Manager O'Brien responded that is would just be recorded and posted or live streamed without accepting comments. Council member Taylor asked about the timeline on this project and Town Manager O'Brien said by the end of the year. Council Member Chittum suggested a trial period to gauge interest.

On a motion by Council member Kohl, seconded by Council member Bailey and carried by a vote of 6-0, voting recorded as follows: CHITTUM – AYE; BAILEY – AYE; JUSTIS-AYE; RAYNES - AYE; KOHL – AYE; TAYLOR – AYE, to approve the purchase and installation of audio/visual equipment in the Council Chambers up to \$25,000.

At 6:45 p.m. Mayor Plaster adjourned the work session.