

Lebanon Town Council  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Government Center, Lebanon, Virginia  
Monday, July 13, 2020  
6:00 P.M.

Council Members Present: Nelson A. "Tony" Dodi, Mayor  
DeAnna C. Jackson, Vice- Mayor  
A. Doyle Fields, Council Member  
Mary J. Stanley, Council Member  
M. Elijah Leonard, Council Member  
W. Bradley Lambert, Council Member

Council Member Absent: Scott J. Gilmer, Council Member

Staff Members Present: Kevin L. Blankenship, Town Manager  
A. Diane Nunley, Clerk of Council  
Richard Eric Deskins, Chief of Police  
Kevin D. Tiller, Town Attorney

- I. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dodi.
- II. Prayer: Mr. Blankenship
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Edit for items not on the agenda:

Mayor Dodi requested to add under Other Business Item B, July 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 Celebration. Mr. Lambert requested to add under Other Business Item C, Allow Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief to meet with Mr. Blankenship to discuss bids for new and used fire trucks. Mr. Blankenship requested to add under the Town Manager's report, executive closed session for personnel to discuss Town Manager's benefits.

Upon motion made by Ms. Stanley, seconded by Ms. Jackson, the agenda with amended items was unanimously approved. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

- V. Edit and approve minutes from the 06/08/20 regular council meeting, 06/12/20 reconvened council meeting, 06/15/20 reconvened council meeting, 06/29/20 reconvened council meeting and 07/01/20 organizational meeting.

Upon motion made by Ms. Stanley, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the minutes from the 06/08/20 regular council meeting, 06/12/20 reconvened council meeting, 06/15/20 reconvened council meeting, 06/29/20 reconvened council meeting and 07/01/20 organizational meeting was unanimously approved. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

VI. Approve accounts payable and capital assets for the month of June:

Upon motion made by Mr. Fields, seconded by Ms. Stanley, the accounts payable for the month of June was unanimously approved. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

VII. Public Hearing to consider:

Conley Greg Fields applied for a conditional use permit for a subdivision of property and to place doublewides on the property adjoining 240 Fields avenue in a R-2 General Dwelling District.

Planning Commission Members Present:

Donnie Ramey, Chairman  
Tim Coleman, Vice-Chairman  
R. D. Snead, Member  
DeAnna Jackson, Member  
Kevin L. Blankenship, Member

Planning Commission Members Absent

J. S. Easterly, Jr., Clerk  
Leonard Kegley, Member

- A. The Town Council recessed from regular session, 6:05 P.M.
- B. Mr. Ramey, Chairman, opened the public hearing: 6:05 P.M.
- C. Mr. Snead spoken on behalf of Mr. Fields. He presented a detailed map showing how the land would be subdivided into four lots, locations of the water lines, sewer lines and the underground utilities. He advised that Mr. Fields would change the traffic pattern to one way in and one way out.
- D. Mr. Snead advised that Mr. Fields would like for the purchaser of the said lots to be able to place doublewides on the property. Mr. Snead advised that Mr. Fields would require certain guidelines for doublewides, which would include removal of wheels, foundation based upon Modular compliance and at least 1200 square foot foundation and minimum of 500 square foot porch on front.
- E. No one spoke to oppose the application.
- F. Upon motion made by Mr. Blankenship, seconded by Ms. Jackson, the Planning Commission voted to approve the subdivision of the property as presented for mapping only with the restrictions as presented for the doublewides and modular to be on a permanent foundation and subject to change the water lines after further testing. The vote was as follows: Mr. Ramey, Aye; Mr. Coleman, Aye; Mr. Snead, Abstain; Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Blankenship, Aye.

G. Upon motion made by Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Blankenship, the Planning Commission voted to approve for doublewides to be placed on a permanent foundation with the fact that Mr. Fields will bring back a plat approved by his attorney for final approval. The vote was as follows: Mr. Ramey, Aye; Mr. Coleman, Aye; Mr. Snead, Abstain; Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Blankenship, Aye.

VIII. Mr. Ramey closed the public hearing, 6:21 P.M.

IX. The Town Council returned to regular session, 6:21 P.M.

X. Mr. Ramey recommended upon behalf of the Planning Commission the application for Greg Fields to subdivide the property be approved based upon the stipulations by which the motion was made.

Mr. Ramey recommended upon behalf of the Planning Commission the application for Greg Fields for doublewides to be placed on said lots be approved based upon the doublewides and modular be placed on permanent foundations and the other restrictions be followed based upon the motion.

XI. Upon motion made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Lambert, the Town Council unanimously voted approve the subdivision of property based upon the recommendation set forth by the Planning Commission. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

Upon motion made by Ms. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the Town Council unanimously voted the approval for doublewides to be placed on said lots based upon the guidelines set forth by the Planning Commission. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

XII. Public Request:

A. Will Osborne-Sons of the Confederate Veterans

Mr. Osborne stated that monuments were considered war memorials and he thanked the Town of Lebanon for keeping the monument up and the area nice. He advised that the Battle flag of the Confederacy is displayed behind the monument. Mr. Osborne advised the purpose of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans is to encourage the preservation of history, to aid and support all members and to perpetuate the record of the services of every Southern soldier. Mr. Osborne, to him the monument is a representation of all men and women that have fought for our freedom,

B. Larry Hughes-Monument Statue

Mr. Hughes stated his interest to protect the monument and shared his views of the United States Constitution and how it guarantees our rights. He advised that the monument is public property and he feels the Town Council should protect the monument.

C. Craig Sowers

Mr. Sowers shared his support for the local Police Departments, he stated his concerns to Back the Blue with different ideas to recognize all the local law enforcement by banners, flags or murals.

D. Shawn Vance

Mr. Vance, a Russell County citizen, advised that he agreed with the previous speakers and supported their remarks.

E. Steve Breeding, a Russell County Board of Supervisors member, advised the Town Council that he had sentimental attachment to the monument. He has received numerous calls from other Town & County citizens supporting the monument not being moved. He advised that he desired to see an ordinance for support of public monuments

F. Dustin Keith advised that he spoke on behalf of many young people who were born in this area but had left to attend college or find jobs. Many have reached out to him to support the Black Lives Matter. He expressed his interest in relocating the monument to a more appropriate location on Quillen Hill at the Confederate cemetery and in place of the monument place a memorial in honor of Ryan McGlothlin, a Lebanon native hero.

G. Faye Bays, a Lebanon resident for 55 years, shared her support for keeping the monument at its present location.

XIII. Recess: 7:03 P.M.

XIV. Resume: 7:19 P.M.

XV. Town Managers Report

Mr. Blankenship requested the Town Council's pleasure regarding water rate charge for swimming pool fill up for in Town Citizens and out of Town Citizens. The Council requested more information before they would make a decision.

Mr. Blankenship requested the Town Council's guidance concerning Town Citizens purchasing any parts or material from the Town. The Council agreed to leave the decision up to Mr. Blankenship due to each situation being different.

Mr. Blankenship advised he received a quote from Keith Steffey to purchase and install railing in front of Wanda Lou's diner in the amount of \$4,350. Mayor Dodi requested for Mr. Blankenship to reach out to Debbie Milton to see if the Town can use the Downtown Revitalization funds to pay Mr. Steffey for this project.

Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve for Keith Steffey to purchase and install the railing in front of Wanda Lou's diner for the amount of \$4,350.00 and check to see if the Town can be reimbursed for this purchase. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

Mr. Blankenship advised that he met with J. R. Watson to discuss the streets and roads in the Town Limits that are not maintained by the Town. The roads are required to meet VDOT standards which would cost the Town money from their general fund. Mr. Leonard expressed his interest regarding the Career Tech Drive Road. The Council requested Mr. Blankenship check to see who owns the property on Career Tech Drive.

Mr. Blankenship advised the Council that he had contacted Cleco Corporation and Patrick Construction for quotes to repair the bridge located near Hardees.

Mr. Blankenship presented an update on the nuisance properties. Mr. Lambert requested Mr. Blankenship visit the properties to make a description of necessary repairs or clean up and make a list by priority for all the nuisance properties. Mr. Leonard advised that he would contact the Homeowner Association regarding the Sykes Property.

Mr. Blankenship advised the council regarding the police officer vacancy. Chief Deskins advised that Officer Romano failed to pass the run to enter the Police Academy, therefore Mr. Romano resigned from his position. Mr. Leonard requested the Council hire two Police Officers because the police department is down three officers.

#### XVI. Town Chief of Police Report

Chief Deskins discussed the Police report. He requested the Council's pleasure regarding officers with tattoos.

#### XVII. Town Attorney Report

Mr. Tiller advised that he would update the Town Council concerning the Fire Department responding to fire scenes in closed session.

#### XVIII. New Business

##### A. Industrial Revitalization Fund Resolution

Mr. Blankenship advised that he met with Debbie Milton with Cumberland Plateau Planning District concerning the Industrial Revitalization Fund grant, the amount that the Town is applying for is \$600,000. This grant will require the Town to match the \$600,000. There was a discrepancy in the match amount, therefore the Town Council agreed to wait until the July 20, 2020 reconvened meeting to pass the resolution.

Mr. Blankenship advised the Town Council concerning the Downtown Revitalization project that the Lane Group was waiting on a couple of items in order to complete their plans. They are waiting on Mr. Higgins to response concerning the lighting and sound for the Russell Theater. Also, the Lane Group needs the engineering group that conducted the survey to complete a more

detailed survey which would include the contours. The Council agreed for Mayor Dodi to contact Mr. Higgins and Mr. Blankenship to contact the Engineering Firm that conducted the survey.

XIX. Recess: 8:48 P.M.

XX. Resume: 9:03 P.M.

XXI. Committee Report and Recommendations

None

XXII. Other Business

A. Quote from Wright Way Cleaning for waxing floors at the Lebanon Community Center

The Council agreed for Mr. Blankenship to get another quote and go with the lowest bid for waxing the floors at the Lebanon Community Center and to get with Mr. Farmer to finalize all the necessary cleaning to get the facility opened.

B. July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration 2021

Mayor Dodi advised that July 4, 2021, is on Sunday, the Mayor of Honaker contacted him and asked which day the Town of Lebanon would be celebrating before he made a decision for the Town of Honaker. Mayor Dodi polled the Town Council, the vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Monday; Mr. Fields, Saturday; Ms. Stanley, Saturday; Mr. Leonard, Saturday; Mr. Lambert, Monday.

C. Town Manager meet with Fire Department Chief and Assistant Chief

Mr. Lambert advised that the Chief and Assistant Chief of the Fire Department had prepared a spec document for a new and used fire truck. They are ready to submit these out for bids and would like to meet with Mr. Blankenship to discuss before advertising the bids.

Upon motion made by Mr. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Stanley, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve for the Fire Department Chief and Assistant Chief to meet with Mr. Blankenship to discuss the spec document and advertise for bids for a new and used fire truck with financing options. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

XXIII. Enter closed session: 9:11 P.M.

A. Upon motion made by Mr. Fields, seconded by Ms. Stanley, the Town Council unanimously voted to go into closed session under Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) (7) for the purpose of personnel to discuss Town Manager benefits and legal to discuss billing for emergency services. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

B. Upon motion made by Ms. Stanley seconded by Mr. Fields, the Town Council unanimously voted to return to regular session. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

C. A. Diane Nunley, Clerk of Council, presented the Roll Call Vote:

Virginia Code, 1950. Section 2.2-3712(D)

Do you certify that to the best of your knowledge, (1) the Town Council in its' closed session; only discussed public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this Chapter and (2) that only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the Town Council. Any member of the Town Council who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of clauses (1) and (2), shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in their judgment, has taken place.

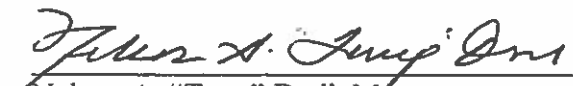
The roll call vote was as follows: Mayor Dodi, Aye; Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye; Mr. Blankenship, Aye; Mr. Tiller, Aye.

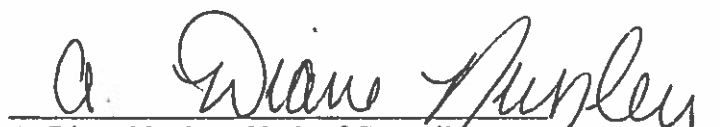
XXIV. Adjourn closed session: 9:47 P.M.

XXV. Upon motion made by Mr. Fields, seconded by Mr. Leonard, the Town Council unanimously voted to amend the Town Manager benefits as discussed in closed session. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

XXVI. Adjourn: 9:50 P.M.

Upon motion made by Ms. Stanley, seconded by Mr. Lambert, the Town Council unanimously voted to adjourn to reconvene July 20, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. The vote was as follows: Ms. Jackson, Aye; Mr. Fields, Aye; Ms. Stanley, Aye; Mr. Leonard, Aye; Mr. Lambert, Aye.

  
Nelson A. "Tony" Dodi, Mayor

  
A. Diane Nunley, Clerk of Council

Minutes recorded by: A. Diane Nunley, Clerk of Council  
Minutes prepared by: A. Diane Nunley, Clerk of Council