

**PURCELLVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020, 7:00 PM
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kwasi Fraser, Mayor
Tip Stinnette, Vice Mayor
Joel Grewe, Council Member
Ted Greenly, Council Member
Nedim Ogelman, Council Member (arrived 7:01pm)
Ryan Cool, Council Member
Chris Bledsoe, Council Member (arrived 7:13pm)

STAFF PRESENT:

David A. Mekarski, Town Manager
Sally Hankins, Town Attorney
Hooper McCann, Director of Administration
Chief Cynthia McAlister, Police Dept.
Deputy Chief Dave Dailey, Police Dept.
Dale Lehnig, Capital Projects & Engineering Manager
Jason Didawick, Asst. Director of Public Works
Patrick Sullivan, Director of Community Development
Andy Conlon, Senior Planner
Diana Hays, Town Clerk/Executive Assistant
Kimberly Bandy, Deputy Town Clerk

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Fraser called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL:

Council member Grewe suggested that 9g. Plan Purcellville Comprehensive Plan be struck from the agenda. Mayor Fraser and Council agreed.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 24, 2019 Work Session
- b. Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2019 Meeting
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2020 Special

Council member Grewe made the motion that the Purcellville Town Council approve the Consent Agenda, item 5a-c, as presented in the January 28, 2020 Town Council Meeting Work Session agenda packet. Council member Greenly second the motion and carried 6-1 absent.

Motion:	Council member Grewe
Second:	Council member Greenly
Carried:	6-1 absent

Greenly:	Aye
Grewe:	Aye
Bledsoe:	Absent
Stinnette:	Aye
Cool:	Aye
Ogelman:	Aye
Fraser:	Aye

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

a. An Ordinance to Partially Vacate a Plat Restriction and Create a New Stormwater Management Easement-Valley Industrial Park Subdivision
(Presentations on file at the Clerk's office)

Mayor Fraser opened the public hearing at 7:03PM. He stated the purpose for this hearing is to hear public comments regarding An Ordinance to Partially Vacate a Plat Restriction and Create a New Storm Water Management Easement-Valley Industrial Park Subdivision with a supplemental agenda submitted.

Sally Hankins, Town Attorney, stated that a copy of the Bohler Engineering presentation should be before Council. She also introduced Mark Nelis, attorney for applicant Frank Leone and Keith Simpson, Bohler Engineering who would speak to the power point. She continued that this has been a pending site plan application for several years pertaining to a Self Storage Facility on plat note 5 from 1989 subdivision plat and the note in question on plat says that lot 6, which would like to be built upon, reserved for a Stormwater Management Facilities, if required. The issue has been how do we reserve and protect the rights of the draining lot owners that send water to this Lot 6f continue to do so and also to improve lot 6f if needed to further develop on their own properties.

Mark Nelis stated he was representing Valley Self Storage and began the presentation, Valley Self Storage; Replacement of Storm Water Management Facility. Mr. Nelis shared that Mr. Leone would like to replace the existing pond and build a facility that would be a modern facility that would meet state standards. He continued to state a case for Mr. Leone's project and brought this to Council under Virginia Code 15.2-2272 Vacation of Plat after Sale of Lot.

Mr. Keith Simpson, Bohler Engineering, presented the technical side of the construction of this facility which was first proposed to the town in 2015 and an oversight of the application in the presentation on file at the Clerk's office, Valley Self Storage; Valley Industrial Park, Lot 6F Self Storage Facility TP15-10.

David Mekarski, Town Manager, stated that this application was not taken lightly and this was his first project when he began his position 1 year 9 months ago. This development meets current storm water management criteria and the engineering far exceeds existing capacity, flow rate, and provides water quality with a superior maintenance agreement along with property owner's rights.

There was citizen or business comments. Mr. Mark Miller, 17008 Hamilton Station Road, Hamilton and his business Valley Welding, 37241 East Richardson Lane stated he owned the lot next to the proposed project. The group of owners understands that this development is for water retention and quality up to state standards, but if the state standards change what happens to the used space? By the time the project is complete the standard could change, we may need 4x the capacity and be no place to put it is his concern. Another question, all other existing retention ponds in Purcellville will be able to be further developed and do the same? He stated that there are more questions than answers. The statement of round versus rectangle pipe being used and the right to add to it, but with redeveloping your own property you may have to add and also replace the piping to get to the capacity.

Council member Ogelman questioned Mr. Miller what would need to happen to address his concerns. Mr. Miller stated if this goes forward the underground capacity should be the maximum possible, and the obstruction of business is a concern and also cutting up asphalt (parking lot) of other owner's property. Mr. Keith Simpson, Bohler Engineering, addressed the three questions; He cannot predict future standards and design for it, what is the maximized capacity ability that is a realistic threshold on how high you go and already going over, any other developer would still have to bring up current facility to standards, to address existing retention ponds today, in general, are being replaced all over Virginia with Storm water Management Facilities, and the statement of round versus rectangular, which is rarely used, and they would be using arch pipe which provides more storage than the round. Sally Hankins confirms Mr. Simpson's comment that a draining lot owner currently can stay at the "below" standard, but if they wanted to redevelop or add on to their property, they would be

responsible to incur costs and placement for meeting current standards of the storm water management. If lot 6F is developed with this new storm water management facility, the owner of lot 6F would help incur the costs for them and be advantageous to surrounding lot owners.

Benjamin Leigh, Attorney of Atwill, Troxell, and Leigh, 50 Catocin Circle, Leesburg, and Denise Schulze owner lot 14 F, Loudoun Collision, 37232 E. Richardson Lane introduced themselves. Mr. Leigh continued that Ms. Schulze is a long term business owner and Loudouner with vested rights and private rights as landowners by virtue of their site plans and the note on plat 5. He continued that Mr. Leone had been demanding lot owners to agree with this development and calling them up to six times a day. He made a case for the town possibly making things more expensive for the other surrounding land owners in this public hearing exercise and how it could be a negative impact on other arguments. Answers should be binding in the set of documents and leave no questions. Mr. Mark Nelis stated his position again.

Mayor Fraser requested a risk assessment be done and Council member Grewe questioned Ms. Hankins to follow up with Bohler to perform evaluation on how far away are we of the maximum development and storm water management. Mr. Simpson stated that there are acres impervious that exist offsite that drain to the lot and could be changed over to pervious. Council member Stinnette tasked staff to have a win-win in this situation and tighten up the language to be equal and protected amongst all landowners and the applicant.

Mr. Ken Walsh, 37261 E. Richardson Lane across from the storm water management pond, commented that the area has not been touched since 1989. His lot was developed in 1995 and what has been changed since then? Valley Self Storage has a fence across property lines with a fence and currently storing vehicles which should not be there and effecting impervious flow that is not being recognized. What else is not up to code and/or complies?

Dale Lehnig, Capital Projects and Engineering Manager, reiterated on the requirements and the arrangements in the maintenance agreement with the new facility. She stated that the fence is an encroachment onto lot 6F and that the vehicles being stored on lot 6F are not in compliance.

Mayor Fraser questioned is this all being captured to be put into a risk assessment?

David Mekarski stated that this was something that Community Development code enforcement would address.

Ms. Hankins stated that there are two issues being discussed one of which pertains to code enforcement and that are not being looked at right now. The other issue is the question of the actual impervious cover out there today not with Loudoun County land records and not on site plan, but what was actually built which can only be an estimate.

Mr. Mekarski stated he would like to refine the documentation to get it right for all landowners and the applicant. Two public meetings of 3-4 hours each with only 4 in attendance of 14 plat owners have been held. He would like a collaboration on this matter with all involved with more meetings if needed.

Mr. Leigh stated that he was contacted by his client, Ms. Schulze, out of great frustration that she was told by someone from Public Works that she would have to FOIA the town for any information and this would be a lengthy process. Ms. Hankins said that was not the case and she would gladly share all information that the town has with Ms. Schulze. Mayor confirmed that this would be a collaboration and a partnership going forward. Mayor Fraser closed the public hearing at 8:07PM.

b. SUP19-Ruff and Tumble Corp. DBA: Dogtopia of Purcellville

Mayor Fraser opened the public hearing at 8:07 PM. He stated the purpose for this hearing is to hear comments regarding the Special Use Permit SUP19-01 – Ruff & Tumble Corp, DBA: Dogtopia of Purcellville and the special use of a “kennel” for domestic animals in the first floor suites A, B, C & D and adjoining side yard area within the Purcellville Plaza located at 201 N. Maple Ave.

Andy Conlon, Senior Planner, introduced more detail on the subject. This proposed use includes dog daycare, spa, grooming, and overnight boarding. The use is defined as a dog kennel through the Purcellville Zoning Ordinance, and therefore requires a special use permit application. The proposal was considered by the Purcellville Board of Architectural Review (BAR) on November 19, 2019 and they granted a Certificate of Design Approval, including a stipulation concerning the color of the fence that would be less than an enclosed 991 square feet. SUP19-01 was considered by the Purcellville Planning Commission on December 19, 2019. The Planning Commission suspended rules and took action that night to recommend approval, subject to a condition limiting the number of domestic animals to 125.

Tom Payne of Leesburg read a letter on file at the Clerk's office and attached to the end of these minutes.

Council member Greenly confirmed that this is a daycare that is overnight as well. He confirmed that other local business were open to this concept and addressed the noise question and sanitation being under control.

Council member Ogelman questioned how many caregivers would be in the outside area monitoring the dogs. Mr. Payne stated that 2-3 canine coaches would be in the outdoor area depending on the number of dogs being monitored.

Council member Stinnette questioned more information on the Dogtopia model and energy management of the dogs. Mr. Payne stated that the model is based on Open Play by vaccinated dogs, size and temperament of the dog are grouped together, and what ends up happening is they work as a pack. A canine coach will manage the energy in the room to prevent conflicts and scuffles.

Mayor Fraser stated that this item will be moved to the first meeting in February for action. He closed the public hearing at 8:18pm.

CITIZEN/BUSINESS COMMENTS

None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council member Grewe commented that over the weekend he attended the Purcellville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad Appreciation dinner for awards, recognitions, and sworn in new officers. He noted that to make these emergency services work for our town that the community volunteerism is generated. Tip, Mayor, and he attended Community Faith Breakfast with members of COLT and Purcellville Baptist to partner between different leaders of congregations and elected members to address issues in the community. He is grateful for community input and engagement from email, note on Facebook, a formal letter, and in person attendance to these meetings.

Council member Greenly stated recognition of Stephanie Boylan for her employment of 17 years with the town of loyal service and her upcoming retirement. He stated that there was a meeting with ULYFL elected officials, himself, David Mekarski, Hooper McCann, and Amie Ware to discuss possibly bringing the league back to Fireman's Field. There were no decisions made, and the town was linking them in discussions with the County.

Council member Cool stated that he agrees about the comments about volunteerism and quite amazing the work of these individuals. He further stated a saying, "The blessed don't beef with the miserable." In that, he states, there comes a tipping point which is reached and he stated there is so much negativity that he is hearing and has to address it. He believes that there are a lot of positive people that won't get involved in government because of the toxicity that exists. Council member Cool shared a quote from Thomas Payne and further addresses having no regrets in how he

responds to social media and personal attacks. He stated examples of personal experiences that he has had confronting negativity. Council member Cool confirmed with Mr. Mekarski that there has been no taxpayer dollars been spent to the Sister City item and does not understand why this item is an issue and drawing such negativity.

Council member Bledsoe commented on the Cabin Fever Film Festival this past weekend was held and there was a nice write up in the newspaper. He thanked Amie Ware and Liz Jarvis for their work on this and appreciated the number of community members that he spoke with.

Council member Ogelman stated that he appreciated the public comments on the public hearing and that it was very helpful and productive.

Mayor Fraser agreed that the two public hearings were productive. He attended the Cabin Fever Film Festival which has grown over the years from first 6 films to 9 to 14 films presented this weekend. He attended the Community Faith Based Ministry Breakfast with 60 other people where he was asked two questions of what were the most stressing issue or challenge in the community and the ministry would want to assist. Mayor Fraser stated that he attended the Purcellville Fire and Rescue Banquet and was a privilege to induct the new officers and present the \$45k contribution. Also, Chief McAlister and Hibah Salah were recognized for Community Excellence and asked for a round of applause. The evening also brought honoring Buddy Colby who passed in August of the young age of 60 years old.

DISCUSSION

a. Update on Water Tower Project

David Mekarski stated that he and Ms. Hankins with Matt Ames, outside Counsel, met and the most recent update on leases of money procured to go forward with construction was with one hang up with Verizon and discussed different methodologies. He stated when that gets nailed down, they could meet the timeline. Dale Lehnig commented as David stated that the leases are being negotiated and there will be another meeting January 30th. Once they are agreed upon and complete it will be easier to abide by a schedule. The costs of foundation work would be agreed upon and then the schedule would be; Contractor foundation work: 6-8 weeks, Contractor railing/catwalk work (note that this cost is to be borne solely by the carriers that will install on the catwalk railing, Verizon and T-Mobile): 4-6 weeks, Cell carriers begin to install antennas onto the tower: each carrier 2-3 weeks, so a total of 8-12 weeks. Council member Stinnette stated that this timeline would be from August to December this may be complete with Ms. Lehnig confirmation. Council member Ogelman wanted on record for follow up for the Cell Tower RFP status and Mr. Mekarski stated that the goal was to get it out in a few weeks and was shelved in December. He planned on regrouping on Thursday with staff to get a handle on the timeframe of the rewrite of the RFP.

Council member Bledsoe echoed Tip's comments on the timeline and questioned before the foundation work begins it is relying on the Verizon contract. Mr. Mekarski stated he would like to get a verbal confirmation. He then questioned Ms. Lehnig if there was any overlap on work and will there be any outages. Ms. Lehnig does not expect a lot of outages. He confirmed that the temporary tower removal would not interrupt service.

Council member Grewe would like to have the citizens notified ahead of time if we know in advance of possible upcoming outages.

Mayor Fraser questioned if there was any opportunity of DISH network to be a part of this project. Dale Lehnig stated that there was no room for a fifth carrier and Ms. Hankins stated she would look further into it.

b. Update on Parking Lot Behind West End 7-11

Mr. Mekarski stated that Brian Roden, Zoning Technician, researched this item of a code violation and found that an unauthorized expansion of the parking lot was done and an unauthorized dumpster placement with no enclosures. Mr. Mekarski stated that there will be a

processing of a formal violation and Mr. Roden is working with 7-11 Corporate in a soft manner because of intersection improvements needed in that area and the need of negotiations for some of the solutions.

Mr. Mekarski stated that in Plan Purcellville there is comment for prohibiting driveway cuts on 32nd St. and there is an unauthorized cut. Dale Lehnig further explained the potential round about or traffic signal to shift those entrances to 7-11 and redesign the 7-11 parking lot.

Council member Stinnette stated that he wanted to confirm that driveway cuts on 32nd were not prohibited, but possibly restricted.

Council member Ogelman stated that there were other citizen proposals other than a light and round about and wanted to be sure they were not dismissed. Ms. Lehnig stated that they were not being dismissed and the engineering firm was doing further research with another public information meeting being planned.

c. Update on Joint RFP Process for a Refuse and Recycling Services Regional Contract

Hooper McCann, Director of Administration, stated that through discussions by COLT created The Town Consortium; Hamilton, Haymarket, Hillsborough, Lovettsville, Middleburg, Purcellville, and Round Hill that began meeting in November on the RFP document and hoped to get it out to the public with a goal of March 20th for submissions. Ms. McCann plans on presenting council with a Resolution at the February 11th meeting to authorize the Town to participate in this group with developing this RFP.

Mayor Fraser was questioned that the RFP include residential and businesses to support at the same rates similar to Middleburg. Ms. McCann stated to be cautious of the 323 businesses in town and need to provide some sort of service at different levels. There is a need for reasonable rates for all refuse and recycle services. Mayor Fraser referenced the audit done recently by our trash company, did they look at mixed use of someone that shares a facility that is residential and commercial? It is his understanding that February 5th that facility will no longer have a trash pickup unless there is an agreement met. Ms. McCann stated that there was a review of 2900 addresses from the utility system both commercial and residential and for those that were commercial because of these unique situations we utilized not only our utility system classification and the Loudoun County assessment data assessing that property as commercial, we went with commercial.

Council member Ogelman confirmed that the Resolution presented would be to go forward to work with these other towns on this Refuse and Recycle RFP and he would appreciate, as information unfolds on this audit related topic, for staff to share as quickly as possible with Council so he is prepared for questions from citizens.

Council member Stinnette confirmed that November 30th is the end of the current contract and Ms. McCann confirmed consortium RFP has to be done before then. He would like to address expectation management and the vast experience in the trash business as the town has a favorable contract when it comes to compare with the other municipalities. He questioned if it is reasonable to expect a windfall of savings to go with the RFP consortium perspective and if we go forward and negotiate as a separate contract we would have a higher cost contract. He also questioned and confirmed with the RFP that there would be a certain amount of adaptability of needs to be custom to each jurisdiction.

d. Approval of Segra's Request for a Permit to Install Broadband Fiber Optic Cable in the Right of Way for Schools

Sally Hankins, Town Attorney, stated that the town sent to Segra, also known as Loomis, a draft license agreement that would allow them to install broadband fibers in certain right of ways within the town limits and the roadways that would be affected are Maple, Orchard, A Street, Hatcher, and Main St and Alder School Road. The purpose of the fiber installation is to serve the schools with a contract with Loudoun County Schools. In order to occupy public right of way there is typically some sort of arrangement

between the locality that owns the right of way and the company that would like to occupy the right of way. She would circulate these terms agreed upon with Segra by email tomorrow to Council and pricing (rent due) is still being discussed and she would have recommendations tomorrow. Segra would like to do the work this summer and is working with our engineering department.

e. Update on Nutrient Credit Initiative

Sally Hankins circulated an email on Friday, January 24th updating the Council concerning the Aberdeen Property and the search to grandfather through the state the credit formula for Nutrient Credits. The credit formula is changing in the near term and if the town application can be submitted before that change gets adopted then we can have a much higher rate of roughly twice as high and means more credits-more value to sell.

Council member Ogelman applauded staff on these two creative attempts of the Cell Tower Project and the Nutrient Credit Initiative, as a government, to monetize assets to be able to take pressure off the cost of our government, rates, and taxes that people pay.

Council member Stinnette also applauded staff for the wealth of discovery on this item. He commented on the three substantive updates from Ms. Hankins email: 1) Submit the application as a municipality without the use of a third party 2) With respect of the timing issue being portrayed initially as decision to be made before the first of January, but through research there was a discovery of having until the end of February, and 3) The fact that there is legislation before the Commonwealth that requires us to sell the credits through a third party and Ms. Hankins is proposing a letter of opposition to be signed by the Coalition for Loudoun Towns that in the case of a municipality, we think the municipality should be able to enter into the market place without a third party facilitator.

Ms. Hankins further commented on Council member Stinnette's third substantive update that there is a discretion legislatively if it is meant that a municipality must use a third party to sell the credits or if it is even approved for a municipality to be able to sell credits at all and either way she objectives and this needs to be raised to the State. She is looking for direction from Council to submit this opposition letter. Mayor Fraser has already sent the draft letter to COLT requesting feedback from Mayors and Ms. Hankins would still get a Resolution to Council for the letter's adoption and possibly send all the letters from the Mayors as a group.

Council member Grewe made the point that February 12th is the crossover day of the legislative session in Richmond when the bills switch from one house to the other and at that point limits the ability of flexibility of Senators and Delegates. Ms. Hankins commented that in the interest of that time she decided to read a sample of the letter to be submitted for public record:

Dear Senator Bell,

The Town has recently been become aware of proposed Senate Bill 747 which appears to prohibit Virginia localities from selling nutrient credits that were generated by the locality on public property. The legislation would allow only private third parties to generate nutrient credits on public property and sell them for profit and would continue to allow a locality to generate nutrient credits on public property only for the purpose of using those credits to meet their regulatory obligations. The Town of Purcellville is in the process of creating an application to DEQ for nutrient credits on a 189 acre public property. The Town would like to preserve it's right to sell these credits for the sole financial benefit of its citizens while maintaining its right to use any nutrient credits generated on public lands for the purpose of meetings its regulatory obligations. The Town does not believe that Senate Bill 747 serves the public interest. It removes from the public opportunity to generate nutrient credit revenues from publically owned property and expressly requires that any such revenues belong only to the private sector.

Council member Grewe commented that he would like to expand the letter to be sent to more attentions. Council member Ogelman requested that more people be included in the letter.

Council member Ogelman made a motion for Town Council authorize the staff and the Mayor to submit the letter read to us by Sally Hankins, Town Attorney, to all parties deemed relevant to the towns in our area. Council member Greenly second the motion.

Motion:	Council member Ogelman
Second:	Council member Greenly
Carried:	7-0

Greenly:	Aye
Grewe:	Aye
Bledsoe:	Aye
Stinnette:	Aye
Cool:	Aye
Ogelman:	Aye
Fraser:	Aye

f. Letter of Map Revision Request, Due to Fill, for South Fork of Catoctin Creek-Chapman Property on Hirst Road

Sally Hankins stated that there has been a series of meetings on the Letter of Map Revision that would alter the floodplain map regarding the area of Old Dominion Valley Subdivision and along Hirst Road. The last step in that process, that started a number of years ago, that first a conditional Letter of Map Revision which allows you to make changes to property and at the end when you have made these changes you submit a letter that you have made the changes in accordance of the regulations and ask for a sign-off from FEMA. FEMA is requesting explanation of why the town is not signing the Letter of Map Revision.

Sally Hankins read the following proposed response:

The Town has reviewed the data and methodology for the completed project as submitted by the applicant, and finds the data and methodology to be accurate, and within the Town's floodplain management requirements. However, residents of the Town who reside along the South Fork Catoctin Creek are concerned about the proposed changes to the Flood Insurance Rate Map shown on the LOMR. They have expressed concern about the encroachment of the new floodplain line onto their property, including its effect on property values, resulting from: (a) the 3±-foot rise in the floodplain boundary, caused by the increased BFE's due to changes in modeling methodology, and (b) the 6±-inch rise in the floodplain boundary resulting from the placement of fill on the subject property. For that reason, the Town is not signing the LOMR.

Ms. Hankins stated that this is how the letter would read if Council approves.

Council member Ogelman suggested that the Town's Ordinance for Floodplain Policy be changed and Ms. Hankins stated that this could be voted upon to direct staff to research this. Mayor Fraser requested that item be placed on the next agenda. Council member Stinnette stated that a stronger argument should be made in the sample letter read and Ms. Hankins stated that she would make changes and bring it back before Council.

Dogtopia Of Purcellville Statement

I am Tom Payne and am joined this evening by my wife and business co-owner, Leslie and Mark Fontaine who represents the landlord through Renaud Consulting. Dogtopia corporate office provided representation at the 12/19 Planning Commission meeting and is both committed and stands behind Dogtopia of Purcellville.

Dogtopia is a popular and growing retailer with more than 125 stores open. Our business niche does not fit neatly into existing definitions. As a result, it has become routine for Dogtopia stores to obtain Special Use Permits - a process they have never failed at and I hope not to be the first. We have been able to use Dogtopia developed and refined noise control and waste management plans and included a noise engineering study to provide Purcellville leaders a comprehensive application package. Dogtopia stores are designed to be located in retail spaces and provide that safety and convenience to our customers. Noise and odor control are always a concern in these locations which is why our stores are engineered with state-of-the-art sound proofing and odor control features.

This engineering, along with our pet safe cleaning products, employee training and our processes are the essence of Dogtopia's intellectual property.

We plan to provide dog daycare, spa, grooming and overnight boarding for our customers. Our location at the end of the Purcellville Plaza is ideal. It allows us store front visibility from the street, convenience for our customers and is situated far enough from residential housing to be a non-factor for either noise from the outdoor play area or odors. We are compatible with other businesses nearby.

We will be good neighbors in Purcellville and provide community pet parents with a level of care they cannot receive elsewhere. A big part of what drew me to Dogtopia is the chance to work in and give back to this community. Dogtopia's noble cause, is: to enhance the joy of dog pet parenthood and enable dogs to positively change our world. We "enhance the joy of dog pet parenthood" through our daycare that provides safe socialization, exercise and education - making better canine citizens. And, we enable dogs to positively change our world through our foundation that supports: service dogs for veterans, youth literacy programs and employment initiatives for adults with autism.

ACTION ITEM(S)

a. Sister City Proclamation Support

Mayor Fraser began with covering three points and was very specific in his remarks and not wanting to be misquoted. He stated in summary: 1) The Ancestry.com argument that there is much history between US and Guyana and not only because of the Mayor's heritage, 2) The Walk and Chew Argument that staff resources will not be used, and 3) The Teenage Car argument in establishing this Proclamation it would be absent of funding from the Town.

Mayor Fraser stated:

"As I reflect on the matter before this Town Council for support on the proposed Sister City proclamation, I'll address three potential arguments from those who may disapprove of the proposed proclamation.

1. The Ancestry.com argument that the Mayor is doing this only because he has roots in Guyana and there is no deep connection between the US and Guyana. In fact the connection between Linden and the United States dates back to World War 2. Aluminum from Linden's high-grade bauxite was used to produce American aircrafts, and roughly 2/3 of Allied aircrafts manufactured during the war years used that aluminum. Further, at the Atkinson Field, just outside of Linden, the United States Army Air Forces 430th Bombardment Squadron 9th Bombardment Group was assigned from November 4, 1941 to October 31, 1942 and flew anti-submarine sorties in Douglas B-18 bombers. The 430th was replaced by a detachment of the 35th Bombardment Squadron (25th Bombardment Group) from November 1, 1942 to October 7, 1943. After the detection of U-Boat activity was taken over by the United States Navy, the 91st Reconnaissance Squadron (344th Reconnaissance Group) was assigned to the airfield during 1944 and 1945 to fly the F-10 photo-recon version of the B-25 Mitchell bomber on various mapping missions. War planes purchased by the British from the Americans were also ferried to North Africa through Atkinson Field. So, Linden supported the war effort that led to victory against the Axis.
2. The we are forcing staff to suck cane and whistle at the same time, as they say in Guyana, or walk and chew gum argument. As stated this effort is not intended to use any staff resource. The goal is for a volunteer effort absent of staff resource and funding to engage and collaborate with communities of interest in Purcellville and Linden to advance academic initiatives, economic development, trade, comprehensive planning, and cultural and artistic projects across borders. For example, without any town resources I am meeting with the owner of Catocin Creek Distillery to brainstorm ways to introduce his product to the Guyanese market which is projected to experience an 86% GDP growth this year.
3. The teenage car argument that once this proclamation is declared there may be future cost to the Town that has yet to be revealed. In establishing this Sister City arrangement we can specify that there will be no funding required from the Town and the expectation is that funding if needed will be obtained from external relationships."

Council member Ogelman confirmed with Sally Hankins that there has been no funding by town/ staff resources towards this effort outside of the conversation at this meeting.

Council member Cool questioned the Mayor who purchased the lapel pins for Linden Mayor and Mayor Fraser confirmed that he shared only on how they could purchase the pins themselves and he did not use town funds to travel to Guyana.

Council member Greenly addresses the Mayor's earlier remarks of his three points. Council member Greenly thanked the Mayor for sharing the historical connection and he stated at the January 14th meeting where the Mayor stated that he wanted to give back to his native country and how he could give back to his native land, the comment regarding forcing staff resources that he has seen these programs in action overseas concerns leaning on staff, and additionally the impact on the budget that may happen or not happen. He stated he is not in favor of this Proclamation.

Mayor Fraser commented that he acknowledged the statement that it was his time to give back to his native country, but this was only a partial statement from a larger statement made by Senator Black and Mayor of Linden and this was only a small portion of the reason, he addressed use of town

resources for Comprehensive Planning and he being Mayor would be in a role of mentorship to local and global municipalities on this subject and not use staff, and the \$400 fee for Sister City International does not come from the Town budget, and the Mayor officially stated that there would be no costs for travel or expense to the town.

Council member Stinnette stated to articulate this concept of being a government sponsored enterprise that is used to authorize a third party to facilitate a goal on behalf of the government ie. Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the US Post Office not funded by the government. He stated that there is direct/indirect costs to this project. Council member Stinnette referenced emails that messaged "great idea", but don't use taxpayer money and he proposes to be crystal clear on this matter through the Resolution. He stated different "where as" statements for the Resolution.

Council member Grewe appreciated Council member Stinnette's attempt to be the "triangulator" and get seven to yes. Council member Grewe has ideas about minor edits to give strength to the changes Council member Stinnette shared and would like this brought back to Council after some more thought. He would like Council to be carefully articulated and clear because this is something new. He did want to mention and be clear on his travel pertaining to Canada for his day job and he teaches government; civics, history, international relations and leery of this being a conflict of interest for him because of the same model of government in Canada as also used in Guyana. Council member Grewe was approached some time ago, before this idea developed, if my day job would be interested and has ironically put him in an odd spot and looking at a vote for this may conflict. He would be hard to get to a yes.

Mayor Fraser stated that he had exchanged emails with Council member Stinnette and he would not want to place any more time on this subject and would like to move to a vote.

Council member Ogelman disagreed and did not want to rush a vote. He made statements to support on waiting that the majority of Council stated to want reflect more on this idea and review the language. He committed to applying more time to this matter and Council member Greenly committed to partner with him.

Council member Bledsoe shared he believed that this does not fit into the strategic initiatives and stated it's been some distraction. He stated he is not prepared to get behind this at this meeting, but have it be more declarative as far as our position as a town and explore it further

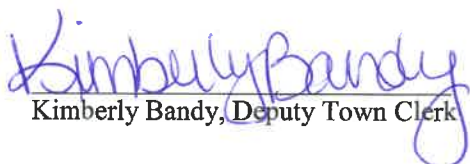
Mayor Fraser restated that he didn't need approval, but needed support, and stated his interpretation of Sister City could be as broad or as tight as possible with the Mayor on Council or not with future Council.

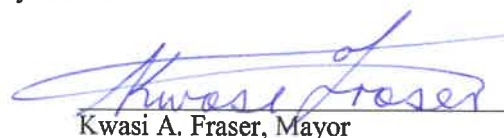
Council member Cool stated that sometimes Purcellville gets into Purcellville's way. He agrees with the discussed language and he is fine with more time to get to six.

Mayor Fraser commented after hearing Council remarks that he would put this off for two weeks. It would be placed on the February 11, 2020 Town Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Council member Grewe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30PM. The motion was second by Council member Greenly and carried 7-0.


Kimberly Bandy, Deputy Town Clerk


Kwasi A. Fraser, Mayor