



**Minutes of the
Colonial Beach Town Council
Regular Meeting held on
Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

Colonial Beach Town Center
22 Washington Avenue

Present

Eddie Blunt, Mayor
Robin Schick, Vice Mayor
Frank Alger, III, Council Member
Patrick Ey, Council Member
Dallas Leamon, Council Member
Steve Cirbee, Council Member

Absent

All Council Members were present, with the exception of Vicki Roberson.

Also Present

Town Manager, Quinn Robertson
Town Attorney, Jim Cornwell
Town Clerk, Kathleen Flanagan
Deputy Town Manager, Rob Murphy
Zoning Administrator, Richard Douglas
Chief of Police, Bruce Hough
Chief Financial Officer, Lisa Okes
Assistant Town Clerk, Heather Oliver

Call to Order

Mayor Blunt called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Blunt led a Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Members

Mayor Blunt noted that all Council Members were present, except Ms. Vicki Roberson due to prior commitment.

Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Ey made a motion to add a Presentation by the CBYAA Cheer Team. Ms. Schick seconded the motion.

Mayor Blunt called for a roll call vote. Mr. Alger voted “aye,” Mr. Ey voted “aye,” Mr. Cirbee voted “aye,” Ms. Schick voted “aye,” and Mayor Blunt voted “aye.”

The Presentation by the CBYAA Cheer team was added to the agenda.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Cirbee made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Ms. Schick seconded the motion.

Mayor Blunt called for a roll call vote. Mr. Alger voted “aye,” Mr. Ey voted “aye,” Mr. Leamon voted “aye,” Mr. Cirbee voted “aye,” Ms. Schick voted “aye,” and Mayor Blunt voted “aye.”

The motion to approve the agenda as written passed with a unanimous vote of council members present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cirbee made a motion to approve Minutes for the January 12, 2019 Work Session. Mr. Ey seconded that motion.

Mayor Blunt called for a roll call vote. Mr. Alger voted “aye,” Mr. Ey voted “aye,” Mr. Leamon voted “aye,” Mr. Cirbee voted “aye,” Ms. Schick voted “aye,” and Mayor Blunt voted “aye.”

Council Member Announcements

Council Members had no announcements.

Presentations

Jennifer Grigsby, Cheer Director, CBYAA Cheer Team

Ms. Grigsby discussed the CBYAA Cheer Team and how they have become a competitive team along with supporting the CBYAA Youth Football teams.

Ms. Grigsby reviewed the competitions they have attended this season. The first being at the Richmond Classic at the Richmond Convention center where they won first place in the traditional recreation youth (12 years and under) and were awarded Grand Champion in the Traditional Recreation Division (all levels.)

Later, they participated in the Holiday Spectacular, at Gaylord National Harbor where they were awarded First Place in their division and placed Second in their overall division with only 0.6 points away from being awarded Grand Champion out of 15 teams

Lastly, in their final competition they were awarded First Place in their division out of 5 teams, Best of Levels out of 10 teams and Grand Champion out of 17 teams from the DMV area.

Ms. Grigsby further noted that the young ladies work extremely hard and show their character through cheerleading, school and the community.

Ms. Grigsby announces that a video of the last performance by the CBYAA Cheer Team is going to play for council and attendees.

Ms. Grigsby noted that the CBYAA Cheer Team was the only recreation cheer team in the Northern Neck to compete.

Ms. Grigsby informed that a competition cheer teams charge around \$1,000 a year, whereas the CBYAA Cheer Team is only charged \$100 a year and the rest of cost is covered through fundraising.

Ms. Grigsby announces the names of the cheerleaders on the CBYAA Cheer Team

Mayor Blunt presents the CBYAA Cheer Team with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Town of Colonial Beach and the Town Council for their Outstanding Achievement through the 2019-2020 Competition Season.

Proclamation, 128th year anniversary of the Town's Incorporation

Mayor Blunt read the Proclamation:

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Town of Colonial Beach was incorporated on February 25, 1892; and

WHEREAS, the upcoming date of Tuesday, February 25, 2020 will commemorate the 128th year anniversary of the Town's incorporation; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Colonial Beach Town Council hereby make a public proclamation expressing their pride, commitment and dedication to our Town and our founding principles in commemorating this very distinguished date in our history.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Town Council urge all citizens of the Town of Colonial Beach to take a moment to reflect upon and acknowledge the historical importance of February 25th as the date commemorating and celebrating the incorporation of our town.

Palm Tree Donation Podium, Maggie Lane

Ms. Lane reported on the Palm Tree sponsor program. They purchased a podium to display a certificate acknowledging the sponsors of the Palm Tree. The podium will be placed near the Town Pier and the certificate can be replaced every year.

Ms. Lane then noted that if anyone was interested and wanted to partake in sponsoring the cost is \$260 per Palm Tree and is due by the end of May.

Rivah Dogs, Dr. Caryn Self-Sullivan

Dr. Self-Sullivan reviewed a brochure that she has made with rules regarding pets within Town and Westmoreland County.

Dr. Self-Sullivan noted that since the start of Rivah Dogs, 14 Pet Waste Stations have been purchased by donations by sponsors and were installed by volunteers. Volunteers throughout the community take care of the stations by dumping waste and relining the bins.

Dr. Self-Sullivan reported on the status of the dog park in Robin Grove Park. They are working on being ready in advance for a \$25,000 grant through Pet Safe for in May. One of the many documents they would need is a need a letter from a civic leader in support of the dog park.

Dr. Self-Sullivan further noted the design of the park and included estimates obtained for various equipment.

Dr. Self-Sullivan is hopeful to amp up the fundraising this season to help fund the development of the dog park.

Mr. Cirbee asked if the design of the dog park would interfere with the living shoreline project.

Mr. Cirbee noted he would not want the plans for the living shoreline to hold back the grant for the dog park.

Mr. Cirbee further asked what the timeline is for receiving the award of the grant.

Dr. Self-Sullivan stated she was hopeful that the money would be awarded in time to build this fall.

Ms. Schick stated that the living shoreline site plan should be shared with the engineer doing the dog park site plan.

Ms. Schick further stated the design and site plan for the dog park should be approved by council prior to sending it in with the application for the grant.

Dr. Self-Sullivan assured council that the plan required for the application is only an “ideal” plan and not mandatory after grant is awarded.

Mr. Robertson agreed that it is beneficial to have an approved site plan, it increases the success rate of the grant being awarded.

Ms. Schick stated the council needs a basic plan to review. In addition, if the grant is not awarded the town can maybe match fund.

Mayor Blunt noted that he wants to see a different approach and wants the dog park completed by May or June.

Mayor Blunt further noted we need something now and it can be basic. We can add on to the park as funds are available.

Mr. Cirbee recommends waiting until the living shoreline is completed due to equipment access.

Mayor Blunt explained that based on the design idea presented by Dr. Self-Sullivan, there would be plenty of space for equipment to have access.

(Multiple Conversations about the site plans for Robin Grove Park)

Dr. Self-Sullivan noted her appreciation for the Town’s support for the project.

The RAFT(The Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool), Angela King & Tanya Denckla Cobb

Ms. Angela King stated that she is the Assistant Director of the Virginia Coastal Policy Center at William & Mary Law School.

Ms. Tanya Denckla Cobb stated that she is the Director for the UVA Institute for Engagement & Negotiation.

Ms. Denckla Cobb explained what RAFT was and their goal of helping Virginia’s coastline localities improve against flooding and storm hazards while remaining/becoming a viable locality.

Ms. Denckla Cobb reported that the RAFT team is a partnership between three Universities: Old Dominion, William and Mary Law and University of Virginia. Each school bringing a specific skill to the team. UVA handles the urban and environmental planning, William and Mary oversee the coastal policy and Old Dominion University works on the science and the communication within the project.

Ms. Denckla Cobb noted that rate of flooding has increased annually beginning in 1994. In 2019, there has been 12 days of flooding and a total of 600 hours of flooding.

Ms. Denckla Cobb stated that rising tides, storm surge, groundwater extraction, surface runoff and increased precipitation are the contributing factors to flooding.

Ms. Denckla Cobb explained the map showing the risk of future flooding due to sea level rise throughout the Town of Colonial Beach.

Ms. Denckla Cobb reported what was at risk in the town and how we can increase the resilience to flooding. She described the RAFT 3-step process: the scorecard, the resilience action workshop and implementation.

Ms. King explained the scorecard and the 5 categories: 1. Policy, Leadership and Collaboration, 2. Risk Assessment and Emergency Management, 3. Infrastructure Resilience, 4. Planning for Resilience and 5. Community Engagement, Health and Well-being.

Ms. King informed the council that the Town of Colonial Beach scored a 54/100.

Ms. King reported the Town's top strengths and top opportunities. Information was given on how to increase the Town's resilience through workshops, implementation and assistance from the RAFT Team.

Ms. King noted the examples of the RAFT Teams assistance throughout the Eastern Shore.

Ms. Denckla Cobb stated that this program is no cost to localities and is funded by grants. The RAFT Team is to make localities aware and assist in improving the localities resilience to flooding.

Colonial Beach Schools

Mr. Turner was not present.

Westmoreland County Supervisor, Tim Trivett

Mr. Trivett reported he had just finished up a meeting with the County Board of Supervisors addressing the hire of Pearson Appraisal Service to conduct the 2022 General Reassessment based on their experience and relationship with the county and town.

During the Board of Supervisor meeting, there was a long discussion about the EMS. They decided that they would hire 4 Captains in the upcoming budget cycle. These captains would be paramedics and will have chase vehicles. The goal is to eventually hire an 8-person squad to be housed in Oak Grove.

Mr. Trivett further reported that a tax raise was discussed, 7 cents for real estate and 50 cents for personal property to go towards the school. He stated that he was assured that the tax raise would not apply to the Town of Colonial Beach.

Mayor Blunt recommends to the council that they have the Town Manager look into a obtaining a study of EMS calls to determine where exactly the best use of a medic use would be. Emotional decisions sometimes end up being the wrong decisions.

Mr. Trivett asked the county for numbers from the EMS calls and the county was unable to provide them.

Mayor Blunt advised that the staff or council needed to put together a letter to the county stating that an outside agency needs to conduct a study of the EMS calls.

Mr. Cirbee responded that he feels like the town is penalized for having their own volunteer squad and until we rid of the volunteer charter, they will not come any closer than Oak Grove.

Mr. Trivett stated he doesn't want to speculate but feels the county thinks we had our chance and we ruined it, but that the numbers are what need to be looked at, the response times and number of calls.

Planning Commission, Vicki Luna

Ms. Luna introduced herself as the new chair of the planning commission.

Ms. Luna reported that after their public hearing this month, they will have ordinances ready to present to the Town Council that will address changes in signs and landscaping.

Ms. Luna further reported that a draft of the capital improvement plan will be ready by the next budget hearing.

Ms. Luna noted there will be having a public hearing on a special use permit for a major home occupation located at 11 Marshall Ave.

Downtown Colonial Beach, Joyce Reimherr

Ms. Reimherr presented roses to Mitzi Saffros for all her efforts in fundraising for the organizations share of funds for the cost sharing grant.

Chamber of Commerce, Susan Mack

Ms. Mack reported the Chamber of Commerce coordinated with Northern Neck Tourism, Tourism on The Move. They rode a tour bus and visited places throughout the northern neck. There were 18 Colonial Beach stakeholders that attended the tour.

Ms. Mack further reported that she will be working with Northern Neck Tourism to include Colonial Beach in their tour.

Ms. Mack stated that the 2020 Art Walk calendar is completed. In April, they will be showcasing Bird Art and in June, they will be showcasing Beach Artwork.

Members of the Chamber of Commerce attended a Bridal Show in Fredericksburg and showcased Colonial Beach. It drew lots of interest and it went well.

Ms. Mack thanked Joanie Millward, Cindy Maupin and Robert Townsend for their production and submission to the HGTV Town Takeover contest. She also thanked Mayor Blunt, Vice Mayor Schick and Eric Nelson for volunteering their time to star in the video. The video really showcased the Town of Colonial Beach.

There will be an awards dinner in March at High Tides to celebrate and award people throughout the town for their contribution to the town.

Colonial Beach Foundation, Eric Nelson

Mr. Nelson reported the Chocolate and Wine fundraiser this past Friday went well. He was able to promote the event on Channel 13.

The next fundraiser will be a Wine and Design, on April 18th.

Colonial Beach Recreation Association

Ms. Mack presented on behalf of Ms. Karen Griesevich, she reported that she is excited to hear the news about the progress for the CB Parks and Recreation Commission.

CB Greenspace, Steve Kennedy

Mr. Kennedy reported planning a trash pick up day and concentrate around the school area and classic shores. They want to set up a station to separate trash and recycle and hopes to do a PSA on the radio for volunteers.

Mr. Kennedy noted that we have beautiful parks that are being underutilized. We could put adult equipment to encourage exercise, these things are readily available through grants. Projects like this would enhance the greenspaces. He wants to look into relocating the playground equipment from Castlewood Park to Eleanor Park.

Mayor Blunt asked public works to come up with a price to move the equipment from Castlewood to Eleanor Park. He wants to see if parking could be increased in Castlewood if the playground equipment is moved.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Draft Ordinance No. 704, AMENDS CHAPTER 5 “BEACHES, WATERWAYS, BOARDWALK, PARK, RECREATIONAL AREAS AND FACILITIES” ARTICLE I “IN GENERAL”, SECTION 5-9 “ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED ON PUBLIC BEACHES, PARKS, RECREATION AND PARKING AREAS, OR OTHER PUBLIC AREA WITHIN IN THE TOWN”

Mayor Blunt stated that the added language would help the police enforce concerns at the parks. The added language would close parks at dusk and prohibit the riding of skateboards and bicycles on the tennis and basketball courts.

Mayor Blunt further stated that this ordinance would come for a vote at a public hearing in March.

Resolution #10-20, Authorizes the Town Manager to Proceed with the Sale of Town Property

Mr. Cornwell reported this resolution just needs a vote and a close session is not required.

Mr. Cornwell further reported that the sale had been addressed in a public hearing.

Mr. Leamon made a motion to adopt resolution #10-20. Mr., Ey seconded the motion.

Mayor Blunt called for a roll call vote. Mr. Alger voted “aye,” Mr. Ey voted “aye,” Mr. Leamon voted “aye,” Mr. Cirbee voted “aye,” Ms. Schick voted “aye,” and Mayor Blunt voted “aye.”

The motion to adopt resolution #10-20 as written passed with a unanimous vote of council members present.

RESOLUTION #10-20, Authorizes Town Manager to Proceed with the Sale of Property

WHEREAS, the Town of Colonial Beach owns a tract of land known as “water reservoir property” and identified as 6B BK 30 Water Reservoir “Robin Grove Park” at Robin Grove Point, adjacent to 413 Wirt Street: and

WHEREAS, the Town of Colonial Beach has determined that approximately 15,428 square feet of this property may be sold; and

WHEREAS, an appraisal performed by Robert T. Lynch, dated October 1, 2019, indicates the current estimated fair market value for this portion of the property to be \$110,000; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2020, the Colonial Beach Town Council has conducted a duly advertised public hearing on the sale of this property.

WHEREAS, that the Colonial Beach Town Council, at the regular meeting on January 29, 2020, authorized the sale of an approximately 15,428 square foot portion of Town-owned property, known as “water reservoir property” and adjacent to 413 Wirt Street at Robin Grove Point, and authorized the Town Manager to negotiate conditions on a sale that are in the best interests of the Town of Colonial Beach.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Manager has completed negotiations on the sale that are in the best interests of the Town of Colonial Beach and is hereby authorized to proceed with the sale of the property.

Citizen Input

Peter Fahrney, Riverwood Drive noted he is speaking for himself and not in affiliation with any organization. He noted that he is not in support of the palm trees and we do not have the climate for them. He stated that as a tax paying citizen, the palm trees are a waste of the citizens money. He further stated the money would have been better used for the tourism council. He further noted there was a need for more shade trees to replace the ones that were taken out by storms. He further reported that visitors were only found under the shade trees and not the palm trees.

Walter Kern, The Meadows reported that the CBHS varsity basketball team won their game tonight and were #1 in the regionals. The next game would be against Lancaster. He thanked public works for cleaning up the north end of the beach.

Closed Meeting

Ms. Schick made a motion to go into Closed Meeting pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711(A)(3) for acquisition or of disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body AND pursuant to VA code 2.2-3711(A)(7) for consultation with legal counsel pertaining to probable litigation , where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. AND pursuant to VA code 2.2-3711 (A)(8) for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision if

legal advice by counsel, issues related to Westmoreland County and issues related to collecting town debts. AND pursuant to VA code 2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion or consideration of specific public employees. Mr. Cirbee seconded the motion.

Mayor Blunt called for a roll call vote. Mr. Alger voted “aye,” Mr. Ey voted “aye,” Mr. Leamon voted “aye,” Mr. Cirbee voted “aye,” Ms. Schick voted “aye,” and Mayor Blunt voted “aye.”

The motion to go into closed session passed with a unanimous vote of council members present.

At 8:19 p.m. Council moved into Closed Meeting.

Certification/Reconvene

At 9:01 p.m. Mayor Blunt reconvened the meeting.

Mr. Leamon made a motion that Council certify that only those matters as were identified in the motion to go into closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered. Mr. Ey\ seconded the motion.

Mr. Alger, Mr. Ey voted, Mr. Leamon, Mr. Cirbee, Ms. Schick and Mayor Blunt all so certified.

All council members present certified that only those matters as were identified were heard, discussed or considered during Closed Meeting.

Adjournment/Recess

Mr. Leamon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ey seconded the motion.

At 9:02 p.m. Mayor Blunt adjourned the meeting.

Kathleen Flanagan, Town Clerk

Heather Oliver, Assistant Town Clerk