

Special Council Meeting

Municipal Building
April 5, 2008

The Council of the Town of Culpeper convened in special session at 10:04 a.m. with Mayor Pranas A. Rimeikis presiding. **Present:** Calvin L. Coleman, Duke M. duFrane, F. Steve Jenkins, Michael T. Olinger (arrived 1:03 p.m.), Emma F. Richards (arrived 10:08 a.m.), James C. Risner, Christopher H. Snider, William M. Yowell, Council Members. **Also Present:** Thomas E. Huggard, Interim Town Manager.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilmember Coleman moved, Councilmember duFrane seconded, Council enter closed session to interview candidates for the town manager's position pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(1).

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote (7-0—Aye-Coleman, duFrane, Jenkins, Rimeikis, Risner, Snider, Yowell; Nay-None; Absent-Olinger, Richards). Council entered closed session at 10:03 a.m.

Note: Councilmember Richards arrived at 10:08 a.m. and joined the closed session. Councilmember Olinger arrived at 1:03 p.m. and joined the closed session.

RECESS

Council recessed at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened in closed session at 1 p.m. Councilmember Coleman left the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Council entered open session at 3:23 p.m.

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Rimeikis polled the members for approval of the certificate of closed session that to the best of each member's knowledge, only business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711 and 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 public body.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote (8-0—Aye-duFrane, Jenkins, Olinger, Richards, Rimeikis, Risner, Snider, Yowell; Nay-None; Absent-Coleman).

No announcements were made following the closed session.

RECESS: Council recessed at 3:25 p.m. and reconvened at 3:35 p.m.

Consolidation Issue

Mayor Rimeikis and council discussed entering closed session pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) to discuss or consider possible acquisition and/or disposition of publicly held real property, specifically, the potential sale of the Town's water and sewer infrastructure.

Mayor Rimeikis stated the next step was for Council to prepare a package/plan for presentation to the County of Culpeper for their consideration, including the pros and cons of consolidation.

Councilmember Risner believed at a minimum, Council needs to determine the mandatory terms as stated in Code of Virginia Sections 15.2-3529(1) thru (5) and 15.2-3532(1) and (2).

Councilmember Jenkins questioned if this was the appropriate time to discuss the pros and cons of hiring a consultant to assist Town staff with creating this plan. Councilmember Risner agreed the Town should hire someone to gather all the required information as the County is doing; the task is too large for staff to handle alone. The optional items (tax rates and tax districts, for example) also need to be fully considered, an agreement needs to be developed, etc. Mr. Risner noted that if the Town decides to hire someone to work solely on this issue, the individual could visit other jurisdictions that have consolidated and report back to the Town and County on what was discovered.

Discussion ensued on the scope of services for a potential consultant, spending resources on mandatory items first and then the optional items, special tax districts (shires), and fully informing the citizens (voters) on the issue.

Councilmember Risner noted that during this process, council needs to either meet more frequently than once a month to discuss the various issues or create a special committee to meet with the consultant and regularly report its progress to council.

Councilmember duFrane questioned if it would be financially advantageous for a member of Attorney Carter Glass' firm to prepare a draft (skeleton) plan while the Town staff gathers the information it can (vehicle and property inventories). Mayor Rimeikis believed a project manager would be needed to keep the process on track.

Interim Manager Huggard agreed on the need for a project manager particularly with staff being heavily involved in the budget reviews in the upcoming two months. He believed the individual should be empowered by Council to obtain the necessary information from various sources.

Mayor Rimeikis stated staff should begin gathering all of the information it can as shown in Attorney Glass' list of mandatory and optional terms of a consolidation.

Council agreed that staff should begin gathering all of the information it can as required in Attorney Glass' list of mandatory and optional terms of a consolidation dated March 17, 2008. Council also requested the interim manager contact Attorney Glass' to determine what type of package his firm can provide to the Town.

Councilmember Risner questioned if the Mayor would write a letter to Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Chase indicating Council would like to meet with the Board of Supervisors to discuss optional terms to be put into a consolidation agreement. Mayor Rimeikis noted the County's list of assets is also needed.

Vice Mayor Yowell requested this issue be added to the closed session discussion for the April 8 regular council meeting at which time the Town Treasurer can provide the debt and assets listings to council. Mayor Rimeikis indicated this would be done.

Mayor Rimeikis stated he would prepare a letter to send to the Board of Supervisor's chairman requesting the mandatory information needed for the plan.

ADJOURNMENT: Council adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Interim Town Clerk

Mayor