



**SOUTH HILL TOWN COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, JULY 13, 2020, 7:00 P.M.**

The regular monthly meeting of the South Hill Town Council was held on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the South Hill Town Hall located at 211 South Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, Virginia 23970. To practice physical distancing, public seating was limited to 15 and attending staff was reduced. Attendees were asked to wear a mask/facial covering. The public was encouraged to view the Town’s Council meeting live stream via YouTube.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Honorable Mayor Dean Marion called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. INVOCATION**

Mayor Marion rendered the invocation.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Marion called upon Anna Cratch to call the roll, which was as follows:

**A. Council Members**

Lillie Feggins-Boone	Gavin L. Honeycutt	Delores B. Luster
W.M. “Mike” Moody	Shep Moss	C. Leroy Sasser
G. Ben Taylor	Joseph E. Taylor, Jr.	

**B. Staff in Attendance**

Stuart Bowen, Police Chief	Kim Callis, Town Manager
Anna Cratch, Town Clerk	Sheila Cutrell, Dir. of Finance and Admin.
C.J. Dean, Dir. of Municipal Services	David Hash, Code Compliance Official
Brent Morris, Business Devt. Manager	

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 8, 2020**

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, second by Councilman Moody, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 8, 2020 as submitted by Anna Cratch. Motion carried unanimously.**

Councilman Honeycutt asked for clarification on who was “him” on page 3 of the minutes, last paragraph, beginning with the first sentence which reads, “Councilman Taylor commented that James White and Jabin Walker should be commended, and he hopes there is no blowback. Councilman Taylor reported that in the last month, Chief Bowen tried to hold a ceremony recognizing his police officers. One

of the incoming Council members called the Attorney General's Office on him and another incoming member called the Commonwealth Attorney."

Councilman B. Taylor commented Mr. Moss was the one who contacted the Commonwealth Attorney and Mr. Honeycutt contacted the newspaper through the District Attorney's Office; they subsequently responded to the Attorney General's Office. Councilman B. Taylor asked and Councilman Honeycutt agreed his concern was regarding social distancing. Clarifying the minutes, Councilman B. Taylor stated "him" was Mr. Callis. Councilman B. Taylor asked if that was a true statement, and Councilman Honeycutt answered that was Councilman B. Taylor's allegation. Councilman B. Taylor shared pictures of Council members Honeycutt and Moss not practicing social distancing (not 6' apart, no masks) during this time period. Councilman B. Taylor requested that the record reflect that he doesn't know why Councilman Honeycutt wouldn't bother to call Chief Bowen, Mayor Marion, or the Town Manager to ask if something is legal but instead called the Commonwealth Attorney, newspapers, and God knows who else - because he (Honeycutt) wanted the hyperbole and drama.

At Councilman Moss's comment that this is a great way to get started, Councilman B. Taylor stated it sure is, absolutely; we don't need drama and hyperbole. Stating that Councilman B. Taylor indicated at the last meeting that Shep Moss did not support local law enforcement, Councilman Moss asked to read his quote from the newspaper. Councilman Taylor agreed he made the accusation Mr. Moss and Mr. Honeycutt were trying to throw the Chief of Police under the bus and stated Chief Bowen is an honorable and reputable man. Stating he could back it up with many phone calls, emails, and messages from local and surrounding law enforcement agencies, Councilman Moss read his quote from the Mecklenburg Sun as follows, "Shep Moss, who heads The Shops of South Hill, a local merchant association, said he has only praise and support for the Town employees who've continued to work during the pandemic. At the same time, Moss said he is worried about the message that Town Manager was sending to business owners who are hurting economically because of forced business closures. We are following orders and guidelines that the Town Manager is choosing to ignore, he said." Councilman Moss said that has nothing to do with Chief Bowen or our Police Department whom he 100%, wholeheartedly supports. Councilman Moss went on to say he has had a private conversation with Chief Bowen about this matter, which he thinks was very cordial and productive. Councilman Moss asked that Councilman B. Taylor be factual if he is going to continue to make allegations. Councilman Moss went on to say his comment has zero to do with our outstanding Police Department. In answer to a question from Councilman B. Taylor, Councilman Moss stated he did not recall if his call to Chief Bowen was made before or after he called the Commonwealth Attorney. Councilman B. Taylor said he could tell him when it was made. Councilman B. Taylor went on to say Councilman Moss did not quote the paper correctly either as it said, "Moss said he is worried about the message that Town Hall was sending to business owners who are hurting economically because of forced business closures". Councilman B. Taylor stated the Town Manager did not ignore guidelines; he did his homework. Councilman B. Taylor informed Councilman Honeycutt he could roll his eyes all he wants and went on to say Council members Moss and Honeycutt did not do their homework and did not call the people who are in charge.

## **5. INTRODUCTION OF LJ DORNAK**

Mayor Marion reminded Council that at the June meeting, LJ Dornak was appointed as Alternate Representative to the Roanoke River Service Authority Board of Directors. As some Council members expressed an interest in wanting to meet him, LJ Dornak stood so they could "put a face to the name".

## **6. SERVICE AWARDS**

Chief Bowen recognized Police Sergeant Michael Watters for 20 years of service, effective July 27. Chief Bowen commented Sergeant Watters also does great work as Range Master and keeping our officers properly qualified.

**7. CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL** (Comments are limited to three minutes.)

**A. Pat Thompson, 1332 Goodes Ferry Road – Noise Ordinance**

Pat Thompson of 1332 Goodes Ferry Road requested Council strongly consider amending the existing noise ordinance in the Town, one for residential and one for commercial. Ms. Thompson commented she understands the noise level is measured in decibels. She reported that since Thanksgiving of 2019, her adjoining property owner Bruce Robinson has rented his property for parties and special events every weekend. Alcohol is being consumed, and some events have lasted until 1:00 a.m. Ms. Thompson has called law enforcement on multiple occasions for noise and unruly behavior, but their hands have been tied because the noise level was under the existing code. When COVID-19 hit, the parties stopped but they have started again. Ms. Thompson has contacted the property owner who said it is necessary for him to rent the property to pay the utilities. The property owner did say if contacted he would talk to the partygoers, but they calm down when he enters the premises. Currently, the property is being rented to a family. Ms. Thompson thanked Chief Bowman and Kim Callis for their patience and taking time out of their busy schedules to address this issue. She went on to say this could happen to any existing neighborhood and she wants to prevent it.

Kim Callis stated he and Chief Bowen will take another look at it. One of our challenges is attendees settle down when police arrive, so it is not witnessed. He commented that sometimes, citizen cooperation is required to swear out a complaint.

**8. TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Kim Callis submitted the following report for June 2020:

**A. Proposed Parade Ordinance Amendment**

Mr. Callis reminded Council that at its June 8, 2020 regular meeting, Council voted to waive the 30 day filing period for a parade permit required by Article III – Parades of the Code of the Town of South Hill so that the March for Equality event could be approved and held in a timely manner. Council further directed staff to review and recommend ordinance amendments to allow expediting parade permit issuance under certain circumstances. Mr. Callis presented Council with a draft of the amended ordinance, which has been reviewed by the Town Attorney.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, second by Councilwoman Luster,** to hold a Public Hearing at the August 10, 2020 Council meeting to receive comments on the proposed amendment to Article III – Parades of the Code of the Town of South Hill. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Facilities Reservation Calendar**

Mr. Callis presented Council with a calendar of activities and reservations at Centennial Park, Parker Park, the South Hill Exchange, and other Town facilities. The calendar changes frequently as new reservations are made.

With Phase 3 of the Re-opening of Virginia now in effect, Centennial Park and Parker Park were reopened to the public on July 6. Signage was posted throughout both parks to remind the public of limits on capacity, to observe physical distancing, and to take health-related precautions. Meetings were held with Dixie Baseball, Dixie Softball, and Adult Softball leadership to discuss guidelines and responsibilities for using the Parker Park playing fields.

The Chamber of Commerce is holding its first Sunset Sounds event on July 16. Until the electricity issues at the amphitheater are resolved, this and future Centennial Park events will be held at the upper field. Mr. Callis mentioned he, Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, and Councilman J. Taylor have a Southside Planning District Commission Quarterly Board Meeting that night.

On July 17, the American Legion Riders will be hosting their scholarship run through South Hill. They will be having lunch at the American Legion Hall. Because 120 riders are expected, they may go down to the Centennial Park pavilion. The run is held to raise money to benefit the families of fallen veterans. The (state) commander for the Virginia American Legion plans to attend.

This agenda item was for informational purposes only; therefore, no Council action was taken.

### **C. Resolution for Highway 58 Smart Scale Funding**

Mr. Callis informed Council that Chad Neese of the Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC) has been working with Town staff and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) personnel to develop an application for Smart Scale program funding for the Highway 58 Arterial project. Applications must be submitted by August 3, 2020.

As a reminder, on June 20, 2019, Michael Baker International, a consulting firm engaged by VDOT, presented the Highway 58 Arterial Plan design to the Council Street Committee. The Street Committee approved the plan for presentation to the full Council and the public. A public information meeting was held on July 31, 2019 to provide an overview of the plan and recommendations to Council and the public and to answer questions. The project area is generally the Highway 58 Bypass from the South Hill eastern corporate limits to just west of the Country Lane intersection.

At its August 12, 2019 regular meeting, Council adopted a resolution approving the VDOT Highway 58 Arterial Preservation Plan for inclusion in the South Hill Comprehensive Plan to ensure the Town's eligibility for Smart Scale funding. Due to the large scope and cost of the project, VDOT recommends approaching the work in phases. The initial phase would be to fund and improve both outer boundaries of the project.

Councilman B. Taylor commented that during the process of the Public Hearing and the Street Committee meeting with VDOT staff and others, we were informed we could move up on the list if we could come up with funds that would help promote this. As he thought the number was \$3,000,000, Councilman B. Taylor asked if that was still on the table. Mr. Callis commented it is still on the table. Smart scale funding is on a score system and is very competitive. Putting up matching funds can help. This project can be anywhere from \$20,000,000 to \$35,000,000. This not only involves Highway 58 but also some side streets that will affect our residents and businesses. We wanted to make sure we have good access for everyone to get to and from Highway 58 as well as travel on it. The Country Lane intersection is one of the more dangerous ones we have. Mr. Callis mentioned where you come off northbound 85 to go eastbound, it is ugly; we want our Town to look better. We need to think about a \$3,000,000 match for

the whole project, which would really help our application be more competitive. It could be approved soon but the funding will likely not come through for three to four more years. We would submit the application for consideration, they will come back with questions, and we can tell them how much we are willing to commit. Mayor Marion added that it is important that the Town have input in the final recommendation. Mr. Callis agreed and stated we want a connector between Cycle Lane and High Street to keep traffic flowing when the roundabout is installed. We also want a connector to Thompson Road for the residents.

In answer to a question from Councilman Moss, Kim Callis stated the area in front of the gym where the standup pole dividers are located is maintained by VDOT. We don't like the dividers either, but it prevents tractor-trailers from cutting across the highway. We control the traffic signal at the intersection of Highway 58 and Cycle Lane. Everything else is maintained by VDOT.

**A motion was made by Councilman Moody, second by Councilwoman Luster,** to adopt the resolution supporting and endorsing the application for VDOT Smart Scale funding for the initial phases of the Highway 58 Arterial Plan. A **roll-call vote** was requested and voiced as follows:

Councilwoman Lillie Feggins-Boone-Aye	Councilman Gavin Honeycutt-Aye
Councilwoman Delores Luster-Aye	Councilman Mike Moody-Aye
Councilman Shep Moss-Aye	Councilman Leroy Sasser-Aye
Councilman Ben Taylor-Aye	Councilman Joseph Taylor-Aye.

#### **D. CARES Act Funding Resolution**

Mr. Callis informed Council he received a resolution from Wayne Carter this afternoon regarding CARES Act funding. As Mecklenburg County is the recipient of just over \$2,600,000 and is responsible for the funds, the Board of Supervisors is requiring towns to adopt a resolution to receive a share of the funding based on population. Our share would be just over \$380,000. The funding period runs through December 30. Our current identified expense is \$27,000 so far.

Generally, the resolution states that if towns receive funding that is determined to be for expenses not in compliance with CARES Act guidelines, the funds must be repaid. The funding must be used for COVID-19 response purposes. If unqualifying amounts are not timely repaid, the County will withhold sales tax funding.

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, second by Councilman Honeycutt,** to adopt the resolution explaining steps to receive CARES Act funding from Mecklenburg County and to repay funds that do not comply with CARES Act guidelines. A **roll-call vote** was requested and voiced as follows:

Councilwoman Lillie Feggins-Boone-Aye	Councilman Gavin Honeycutt-Aye
Councilwoman Delores Luster-Aye	Councilman Mike Moody-Aye
Councilman Shep Moss-Aye	Councilman Leroy Sasser-Aye
Councilman Ben Taylor-Aye	Councilman Joseph Taylor-Aye.

<In answer to a question from Alpheus Lee Jones, Kim Callis stated he will try to find out and call Mr. Jones as to when the DMV in South Hill will open.>

## **9. FINANCE REPORT**

### **A. Monthly Financial Report**

Sheila Cutrell presented the financial report for month ended June 30, 2020 as follows:

General Fund	-	\$ 6,720,030.02	Total Investment Accounts	-	\$17,412,649.30
Water and Sewer Fund	-	1,108,974.37	Total Police Dept. Savings	-	\$ 27,636.38
Cemetery Fund	-	10,003.01	Total Taxes Due Thru 06/30/20	-	\$ 278,008.31
Food Hub	-	<u>3,005.73</u>	(Real Estate and Personal Property, all years)		
Total in Checking	-	\$ 7,842,013.13			

Councilman Honeycutt inquired about the rate of return on the investment accounts. Ms. Cutrell said it varies depending upon what the investment is. We currently have investments with Touchstone Bank, First Citizens Bank, and the VML VACO. The money is in different commodities and CDs. We are part of a billion-dollar pool. Since mid-March, we have earned \$132,000 with VML/VACO in interest and unrealized gains.

**A motion was made by Councilman B. Taylor, second by Councilman Honeycutt,** to approve the financial report for month ended June 30, 2020 as submitted by Sheila Cutrell. Motion carried unanimously.

**10. CODE COMPLIANCE REPORT**

**A. Monthly Report**

David Hash submitted the report of activity for June 2020 as follows:

Inspections Completed	-	60
Permits Issued	-	19
Fees Collected	-	\$ 1,325.86
UEZ Exemption	-	\$ 0
Rehab Exemption	-	\$ 0
General Exemption	-	\$ 0
Work Value	-	\$ 189,980.00

New businesses for June included:

- Healthy Weight Loss Solutions, 201 W. Danville Street (weight loss coaching)
- Tammie’s Tan and Tone, LLC, 900 E. Atlantic Street (tanning)

**B. Dilapidated Properties**

David Hash submitted a report on the status of the following 32 dilapidated properties:

- 211 East Atlantic Street
- 400 Goodes Ferry Road
- 402 Goodes Ferry Road
- 210 Park Lane
- 923 West Atlantic Street
- 110 Third Street
- 315 West Danville Street
- 906 Plank Road
- 212 North Mecklenburg Avenue
- 109 East Third Street

- 201 East Atlantic Street
- 507 Moseley Lane
- 117 Clay Street
- 706 Brooke Avenue
- 112 Center Lane
- 930 West Danville Street
- 932 West Danville Street
- 211 Bryan Street
- 118 South Lunenburg Avenue
- 1179 Country Lane
- 208 Pennington Street
- 112 East Atlantic Street
- 403 North Mecklenburg Avenue
- 419 East Atlantic Street
- 660 Lombardy Street
- 456 Old Hwy. 58
- 506 Moseley Lane
- 609 West Danville Street
- 617 West Danville Street
- 603 West Danville Street
- 418 Old Highway 58
- 154 Buena Vista Circle

**C. Code Inspector Activity Report**

Jamie Velvin submitted the Code Inspector Activity Report for June 2020 as follows:

- Met with Sam Allen in reference to 110 East Third Street
- Met with Chuck Lynn in reference to his building at 609 West Danville Street
- Met with Paul Duffer in reference to his properties on the Item B list
- Met with Willie Bob Smith in reference to his property at 418 Old Highway Fifty-eight
- Spoke with Mr. Shaw about getting grass cut at the Days Inn
- Met with William Clark about getting work started at 201 East Atlantic Street
- Spoke with Sin Lee in reference to her property at 617 West Danville Street
- Spoke with Edgar Hart in reference to his property at 603 West Danville Street
- Spoke with Jody Hash about grass complaint on North Matthews Street
- Met with Clyde Wilson in reference to the property located at 1214 Plank Road
- Contacted Joe Capparet in reference to the single wide at 660 Lombardy Street and inoperable vehicles in the trailer park
- Spoke with Bobby Robbins in reference to his house at 112 East Atlantic Street
- Met with Tawanda Walker about lot on South Hill Avenue
- Spoke with Tommy Stanley in reference to grass at 205 and 208 East Atlantic Street
- Spoke with Barry Ashworth about grass at 510 Moseley Lane
- Handle debris complaint, 116 Clay Street, notify property owner
- Handle tall grass complaint, 651 West Danville Street, notify property owner
- Handle grass complaint, empty lot on Brook Avenue, notify property owner
- Forty-seven addresses checked for inoperable vehicles
- Two inoperable vehicle letters sent out
- Inspected all properties on the Item B list (four properties removed, five added)
- Removed eight off-premise advertisement signs

- Sent out six notifications to cut grass and checked lots to ensure they had been mowed

**A motion was made by Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, second by Councilman Moody,** to approve Items A, B, and C of the Code Compliance Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **D. Unnamed Street Vacation**

Mr. Hash reported Bryant and Debra Pearce have requested the vacation of an unnamed street right of way (ROW) located between two parcels owned by them. The unnamed ROW extends generally north from Westover Avenue to a parcel owned by S&S Mecklenburg, LLC.

Under Virginia law, a ROW vacation requires that we:

- Hold a Public Hearing to allow affected parties to be heard,
- Appoint a three-person committee to view the property and report on potential issues arising from vacating the ROW, and
- Adopt an ordinance vacating the ROW. All expenses related to the vacation are to be paid by the persons making the request.

**A motion was made by Councilman Moss, second by Councilman Moody,** to appoint a three-person committee to view the unnamed street ROW extending north from Westover Avenue and located between parcels owned by Bryant and Debra Pearce and to report findings to Council; and to further move to hold a Public Hearing at the regular Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. on August 10, 2020 to hear comments regarding the unnamed street vacation. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Marion will appoint the committee.

#### **E. Requested Public Hearing for August**

David Hash reported the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on August 3 for the following item:

- The proposed amendment adds to Section 94.1-76, the Table of Permitted Uses. The use of a Medical facility for long-term care (nursing home) is proposed to be added as a permitted use in zoning district Office and medical district (O-M) with a Special Exception Permit.

Staff is requesting that Council hold a Public Hearing on August 10 to receive comments on this issue. Councilman Honeycutt commented he assumes this is for the existing Hundley Center to be moved. Kim Callis stated this is for construction of a new facility. In answer to a question from Councilman Moss regarding the old facility, Mr. Callis shared he has had a number of conversations with Scott Burnette. VCU has looked at different alternatives; nothing has come to fruition yet. The hospital has assured us they want to do something good with it. We have invited them to reach out to us if we can help.

**A motion was made by Councilman Moody, second by Councilman Moss,** to approve holding a Public Hearing on August 10 to amend the table of permitted uses to include nursing homes in O-M with a special exception permit. Motion carried unanimously.

### **11. REPORTS TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED**



For efficiency, the following reports were grouped to approve as presented.

**A. Police Report**

**i. Monthly Report**

For the police report for June, there were 190 activity incidents, 31 reportable criminal offenses, 574 calls for service, and \$3,748 property recovered. Other miscellaneous included 0 court hours, 24 training hours, 19 warrants issued, and 0 inoperative vehicles tagged.

The following administrative news was shared:

- Carl (John) Childers, Jr. and Amanda Parker were hired and sworn in as new Officers on June 27. They will begin Basic LE on July 1.
- Detectives Ryan Durham and Carie Watters completed three days “Strategic Interview and Interrogation Concepts” training at Chesterfield Police Training Academy.
- Captain Shane Johnson instructed Defensive Tactics at the training academy.

**ii. EMT-B Hybrid Class Update for Southside Rescue Squad (SSRS)**

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the squad building has been set up as a test site for National Registry testing. Students have begun testing and retesting. One Junior Member has resigned his membership and will reimburse the \$585 owed for not completing the agreements of his signed contract.

**B. Municipal Services Report**

CJ Dean submitted the municipal services report for June 2020 as follows:

- Adams Construction Company completed the paving of Lombardy Street; the line painting should happen very soon.
- The Town continues to work on buildings that have leaked due to the abundance of rainfall in the past few weeks.
- As the Governor has allowed the Parks to start opening, Parks crews have been busy cutting grass and other beautification projects around Town. The Town officially opened park facilities on July 6.
- Public Works crews continue to replace water and sewer infrastructure in preparation for the next round of asphalt paving that will occur as part of next year’s budget.
- The Town is awaiting the cost estimate from engineers on the brick wall collapse between the Memorial Park and the Amphitheater. A budget will be developed before any actions are taken. Safety and stabilization are of utmost concern as planning continues on how to move forward.
- The next round of paving of Town streets is being prepared in an RFP format and will be bid out as the Public Works crews complete several water line enhancements.
- The paperwork for the streetlight conversion to LED lights has started. The conversion should begin soon.

**C. Business Development Report**

Brent Morris submitted the business development report for June 2020 as follows:

- Mailed 20 informational packets to prospective industries with a focus on E-commerce
- Met with SVCC to continue discussion on the LOVE sign that will be placed outside of the depot; filed for the Loveworks grant through Virginia Tourism Corporation to help offset the cost, which will be paid for by the Chamber of Commerce
- Met with the marketing team from Microtel to discuss community involvement as they are preparing to open in mid-August
- Attended the first Public Hearing for the CDBG Small Business Recovery Assistance Grant; will be serving on the review committee representing South Hill
- Mr. Morris reported he has met with numerous real estate agents and rental agents to discuss our current housing crisis. We have a shortage of homes for sale or rent in South Hill. Housing availability plays a vital role in our ability to attract new industry. We are continuing to discuss solutions and have sought out investors to build new housing developments.

Councilman Moss asked if we have any solutions to help with the current housing crisis. Brent Morris stated we are making significant progress. Meetings have been held with investors and we are working with B&B Consultants to draw up plans for future development. We would like to see urban development with retail in the front and residential in the back. Councilwoman Feggins-Boone asked if plans include some of the vacant top floors of some of the local businesses. Kim Callis commented conversations have been held about that as well. Current talks have been more about subdivision development.

#### **D. Human Resources Report**

Carol Hutchinson presented the following administrative news for June 2020:

- A VRSA webinar entitled “Supervisors and Safety: I’m Responsible for What” was held June 24 in Conference Room A. The training focused on safety awareness and the impact of responsibility throughout the organization. Town Superintendents and Supervisors attended the training as well as the Director of Municipal Services and HR.
- Training has been established for the VRS Employee Life Insurance and was presented July 9. Joseph Chang of Minnesota Life will be the facilitator.
- Position Openings for Maintenance Operator I were advertised in June for:
  - Parks and Grounds
  - Street Maintenance Department
 The hiring process will continue with interviews being held mid-July.

**A motion was made by Councilman Honeycutt, second by Councilman Moody,** to approve the Reports to Approve as Presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **12. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Kim Callis reported the Policy Review Committee will meet July 15 to discuss the proposed Code of Ethics and the policy to speak at Council meetings.

#### **13. ELECTION OF VICE-MAYOR**

Mayor Marion stated that Council needs to elect a Vice-Mayor. After 36 years of serving as Vice-Mayor, Councilman Sasser requested that his name be removed from consideration. He nominated Councilman Moody to serve as Vice-Mayor. Mayor Marion asked if Council had any other nominations.

Councilman B. Taylor mentioned this caught him by surprise. Councilman Sasser was thanked for the many years he has served as Vice-Mayor. Councilman Honeycutt also spoke in support of Councilman Moody's nomination for Vice-Mayor.

**A motion was made by Councilman Sasser, second by Councilman B. Taylor,** to close the nomination process and approve the election of W.M. "Mike" Moody as Vice-Mayor to a four-year term expiring June 30, 2024. A **roll-call vote** was requested and voiced as follows:

Councilwoman Lillie Feggins-Boone-Aye  
Councilwoman Delores Luster-Aye  
Councilman Shep Moss-Aye  
Councilman Ben Taylor-Aye

Councilman Gavin Honeycutt-Aye  
Councilman Mike Moody-Aye  
Councilman Leroy Sasser-Aye  
Councilman Joseph Taylor-Aye.

#### 14. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

#### 15. **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Emergency Alert System**

Mayor Marion commented he was challenged to look into an alert system for the Town. Kim Callis reported we try to be careful about how we spend our taxpayer dollars. Mecklenburg County has an alert system. Chief Bowen reached out to Ben Duncan and we are eligible to participate in that system at no cost to us. Chief Bowen and appropriate police, fire, and rescue personnel will need to be trained and get credentials to login to the system. Until we are trained, E911 can prepare and send notifications out for us if necessary. Chief Bowen stated this is a FEMA system through the federal government. It is reverse call through a geomapped area that works off the cell system towers (much like amber alerts). Even travelers down 85 will receive these alerts if their phones beam our tower through the four major providers. People do not have to sign up for it. Chief Bowen mentioned we also set a pretty good footprint through our social media. Chief Bowen was thanked for getting South Hill in the county's alert system.

##### **B. New Council Portrait**

Mayor Marion proposed that Council members meet at 6:00 p.m. prior to the next Council meeting on August 10 for a Council portrait. Anna Cratch was directed to confirm the date with the photographer and send out a reminder.

#### 16. **CLOSED SESSION**

##### **Legal – § 2.2-3711(A)(7) and Personnel – § 2.2-3711(A)(1)**

Pursuant to Legal – § 2.2-3711(A)(7) and Personnel – § 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia and on **motion** of **Councilman Moody**, and **second** of **Councilwoman Luster**, the South Hill Town Council entered into **Closed Session** to discuss a Legal matter involving industry compliance with DEQ regulations and a Personnel matter involving consideration of a candidate for appointment. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no action taken while in Closed Session on the Legal or Personnel matters.

**WHEREAS**, the South Hill Town Council has convened a Closed Session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Sections 2.2-3711(A)(7) and 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia require a certification by this Council that such Closed Session was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the South Hill Town Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the Closed Session to which certification resolution applies, and (2) only such business matters as were identified in the motion convening the Closed Session were heard, discussed, or considered by the Council. **A motion was made by Councilman Moody, second by Councilwoman Luster**, to approve **Resolution 344**, dated July 13, 2020 and return to **Open Session**. A **roll-call vote** was requested and voiced as follows:

Councilwoman Lillie Feggins-Boone-Aye  
Councilwoman Delores Luster-Aye  
Councilman Shep Moss-Aye  
Councilman Ben Taylor-Aye

Councilman Gavin Honeycutt-Aye  
Councilman Mike Moody-Aye  
Councilman Leroy Sasser-Aye  
Councilman Joseph Taylor-Aye.

**17. OPEN SESSION**

There was no action taken in Open Session on the Legal or Personnel matters.

Kim Callis mentioned a Council retreat had been scheduled before the pandemic hit. Mr. Callis reported he would like to work on scheduling another retreat as soon as conditions allow.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business matters before the South Hill Town Council, Mayor Marion adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Anna B. Cratch.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean Marion, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anna B. Cratch, Town Clerk