



SOUTH HILL TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Hill Town Council was held on Tuesday, October 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. Attendees were asked to wear a mask/facial covering. The public was encouraged to view the Town Council meeting livestream 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
W.M. "Mike" Moody
G. Ben Taylor

Gavin L. Honeycutt
Shep Moss
Joseph E. Taylor, Jr.

Delores B. Luster
C. Leroy Sasser

B. Staff in Attendance

Stuart Bowen, Police Chief
Anna Cratch, Town Clerk
C.J. Dean, Dir. of Municipal Services
Brent Morris, Business Devt. Manager

Kim Callis, Town Manager
Sheila Cutrell, Dir. of Finance and Admin.
Carol Hutchinson, HR Manager

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

A motion was made by Councilman Honeycutt, second by Councilman Moody, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 14, 2020 as submitted by Anna Cratch. Motion carried unanimously.

5. RESOLUTION OF CONGRATULATIONS AND APPRECIATION TO MRS. VICTORIA "VICKIE" GAYLE SWOAP SOYARS

A motion was made by Councilman Moody, second by Councilman Honeycutt, to adopt the resolution of Congratulations and Appreciation to Mrs. Victoria “Vickie” Gayle Swoap Soyars. 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.

Mayor Marion presented Mrs. Soyars with a Resolution of Congratulations and Appreciation as attached. Mrs. Soyars was chosen as Mecklenburg County Teacher of the Year and Regional Teacher of the Year for the 12 School Divisions in Region 8. Councilman Joseph Taylor commented she is a beacon in what has otherwise been a tough year. He informed her we are proud of her and wish her the very best and many more decades of service in Mecklenburg County.

6. MICHAEL VAUGHAN, FIRE CHIEF – UPDATE ON THE SOUTH HILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (SHVFD)

Michael Vaughan, newly elected Chief of the SHVFD, thanked Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, Chair of the Fire Department Committee, for inviting him to the meeting. On behalf of the SHVFD, he also thanked Mayor Marion and the South Hill Town Council members for their support. Chief Vaughan reported he has been in the SHVFD for 20 years and was employed by the Town in 2008 as a Maintenance Tech.

Chief Vaughan informed Council the dedication of the members of the SHVFD makes his job so much easier. He shared that his goal as the new Chief is to put his time and effort into member training, their families, and the Fire Department as a whole, and to proudly provide an outstanding service to the community. He stated it would not be fair if he did not recognize the ones that laid down the groundwork before him and set the SHVFD up to succeed.

Chief Vaughan shared his definition of a volunteer firefighter is a person willing to stop everything at a moment’s notice and put him or herself in harm’s way to save someone in need. It takes a lot to keep going. When you join a fire department, you are in it for the community, and you bring your entire family with you.

Chief Vaughan stated it is becoming harder to keep volunteer fire departments going, but the SHVFD is up for the challenge. Everchanging standards and training requirements are imposed on the volunteers day after day, and operating costs soar every year. He shared that the SHVFD will continue to fundraise and solicit for donations to offset these costs to continue to provide the expected level of care. The SHVFD relies on funding and donations from the citizens of South Hill, Mecklenburg County, and the Town.

Councilman Honeycutt thanked Chief Vaughan’s wife for attending and supporting her husband. Mentioning his status as a new Council member, Councilman Honeycutt presented several questions of which Chief Vaughan answered as follows:

1. As a fire administrator, what are your responsibilities during the day?

My day to day operations are pretty simple. I am the point of contact between the Town and the SHVFD. It is a blessing to have employees at the Fire Department because they solve so many things so the volunteers can get back to their regular jobs. We are constantly looking at maintenance, upkeep, expenses, budgeting, and replacement of equipment so we can do the best that we possibly can to save the taxpayers money while also providing the highest level of service that we can to the community. That is ever-

changing. We do the best we can to keep up with the standards and to provide the service expected of us.

2. You had been a volunteer for how many years?
This is my 20th year in the Fire Department.
3. How long have you been the Administrator for the Town of South Hill?
I took over from the previous Administrator in 2012.
4. You probably have goals. What kind of goals could you share with Council for the Fire Department? I understand the word on the street (we live in a small Town) is that you are looking at starting a junior fire squad. Can you tell the Council more about what that entails?
Yes, the volunteers got together and decided to bring back the junior firefighter program. We need them to come in the doors. We need them to understand what we do and why we do it and understand the requirements and the structure and the pride of why we are a volunteer agency in this community. Monday night, the new program that has been put into place passed unanimously. Since then, we've had two applications to come across my desk. One is ready to be processed, and one is in processing as we are waiting on a couple of pieces of paperwork. With that, we can work with the community a lot more and bring those younger kids into the Fire Department. We made all of the changes we needed to our paperwork to be prepared for them to come into the fire service and make sure we hook them at such a young age that they stay on for a long time, thus sustaining volunteers in this community.
5. I serve on the Finance Committee with the school division as well as here with the Town. I would assume that you have some type of strategic plan that you mapped out as far as new equipment and maybe upgrades that need to be done. How does that process work? Are ya'll in need of things now?
That is a dual question. The Fire Chief and the admin always communicate together. We are always looking at the equipment and the standards/changes and what will be imposed upon us and then coming to the Town and County to inform them. Over the years in the admin position, Kim Callis has informed me we have to have that plan. We need to know what's coming, whether it be a three, five, or ten-year plan. I'm admin oriented so I have already submitted a three- and five-year plan to the Town on September 18, I believe.
6. Which date and who did you present that to?
It was submitted on September 18 to Mr. Callis to give us an idea of what direction we are going in. We have obviously been working on some things for quite some time, but I want the Council to know what is coming, what we expect, and what we'll need to move forward and do our jobs correctly. The standards are going to continue to change. The cost of equipment is going to continue to rise, we know that. As the standards change (every five years), we have to be ready to answer the questions, buy the equipment, and put the personal safety equipment in place to protect our volunteers.
(Councilman Honeycutt asked Mr. Callis as Town Manager if he will share with Council what their strategic plan is and what their goals may encompass. Mr. Callis answered what Chief Vaughan sent him was an email of things that he saw coming in the next three years. When we start budget planning, that will be the appropriate time to discuss some of these things as we do with vehicle replacement and that sort of thing.)
7. I had a couple of volunteers approach me about some new office equipment that you all needed in the conference room at the Fire Department. Was that funding approved? How does that work?
That is a tricky one. Sometimes the volunteers will come to the admin, maintenance folks, Chief, or slate of officers. Currently the Fire Department does not have a place that the officers can operate. They don't have a place to bring in new members and meet with them professionally. With that, we turned the old Chief's office into a conference room so the officers have a place to work and do their paperwork. We'll bring the new recruits

in and take them to the fire station. At that point, they'll get to see the structure, how things are put away, how neat things are, and the way we run the agency to set the tone for what a new member can expect from the Fire Department. They gave us the task and with the help of the Town staff and Mark Novsak, we've gotten probably about 80% of it complete. At this point, we have to replace the furniture in that room, but the volunteers are trying to come up with a way to pay for it.

8. Do you have a line item budget that you are able to make purchases out of each year for updated equipment?

Council always approves the budget for us. It would be dependent upon which line item we were looking at. If it would be for the station, it would be 0122-3004.

9. Do you know how much money is there? I want to say it was \$20,000 or \$30,000 if I remember correctly.

(When the question was directed to Sheila Cutrell, she answered she did not know the exact figure off the top of her head.)

The last time I looked at it, it was like \$24,000.

(Mr. Callis commented \$28,000 was budgeted for building repairs and maintenance. If we have to replace a roof repair, HVAC system, or things of that nature, that is what that line item is for.)

10. Has there ever been an opportunity prior to me coming to Council when the Fire Department needed something, and they were turned down?

No, because we don't ask unless there is an actual need for it. We've spent the time doing our homework and have budgeted things. The guys work hard but we are not the only entity that is fundraising in the Town. We can only hit the businesses and citizens so hard.

11. In recent weeks, I have noticed a boost in applications from volunteers. I had noted ya'll were down some members and I have seen some new members highlighted on Facebook. What can you attribute this to?

There is a new direction with a younger push in the Fire Department today, and they do a lot of training. From me what you'll always get is training, families, and putting my time and effort into the Fire Department. I feel like that is the right direction to go along with keeping families in the Fire Department, bringing them in at a young age, and keeping them engaged. Social media has been a great platform and a helpful tool for us. So many folks can see what we are doing and follow along with what is happening. They want to be a part of the agency and Town. That has worked out really well for us. We have processed five new regular member applicants since I took over as Chief, and I have seven more to process.

Councilman Honeycutt thanked Chief Vaughan for his service as Chief and Fire Administrator. Councilman Honeycutt mentioned Chief Vaughan had big shoes to fill following our former Fire Chief Rosser Wells who laid a remarkable foundation for the SHVFD. His passion and fortitude for greatness were second to none. He was very much respected in this and surrounding communities for his commitment and dedication. Councilman Honeycutt mentioned he has seen the same commitment in Chief Vaughan and has heard lots of good comments coming from the volunteers. He went on to say given the opportunity, Chief Vaughan will do his job with compassion. It is in his blood to serve and protect and anyone who knows him knows he'll do the utmost in professionalism and integrity for this community and the people that he and the Department serve.

Councilman Moss inquired about the furniture the SHVFD was needing for the conference room for the officers. Chief Vaughan mentioned the officers don't currently have a room and meet in the open area of which community members or volunteers travel. It is not really a professional setting for a new recruit. Around \$5,000 worth of furniture is needed. When asked by Councilman Moss if there has ever

been an issue in the past to budget these types of things, Chief Vaughan commented the Town Council always had their back. Councilman Moss asked, "But this request was denied?" Chief Vaughan stated he did put in a request, yes. Councilman Moss asked was the request approved or denied. "Denied", answered Chief Vaughan. Mr. Callis reported that when the invoice came through the Finance Department, it was examined for what it was for, it was questioned and brought to Mr. Callis. It wasn't something that was ever discussed with the Budget and Finance Committee or approved as a building repair and expenditure. Mr. Callis mentioned to Chief Vaughan this wasn't discussed. Chief Vaughan answered this type of thing was run through that account before for things like a monitor here or there. Mr. Callis reported we have new staff, people who look at things a little more closely, and it was not something that is typically in building repairs and maintenance. Mr. Callis talked about it with Chief Vaughan, and Chief Vaughan said the volunteers would pay for it. At that time, we thought it was resolved.

Councilman Honeycutt stated he has a problem because a request has never been a problem before in the 48 years he has lived here; so why now? Councilman Joseph Taylor commented we can define problem (he doesn't know that a budget line item request is ever a problem) with the limited resources the SHVFD has sometimes had but we can't carte blanche approve every request. Councilman Joseph Taylor stated that while he understands Councilman Honeycutt's position that the Town has always taken a very generous approach, he is not in favor of a carte blanche approval to every request. Councilman Honeycutt commented he didn't make that statement. Mr. Callis mentioned the SHVFD has generally come in advance saying what they need to do, and it has gone through the appropriate levels; however, this was never presented.

Councilman Moss asked if it would be appropriate for the request to go through the Fire or Budget and Finance Committees. He felt it would be a Council decision to approve or deny a request like this. Councilwoman Feggins-Boone stated we have already completed the budget for this year and we currently only have a balance of \$2,900 left in equipment. She suggested maybe some citizens would want to donate the table or some funds. Councilman Joseph Taylor asked if it could wait for our next budget process. Chief Vaughan said he assumes volunteers approached Council members with this request. They are going to try every way they can to raise the funds. Chief Vaughan mentioned one of the concerns is this is nothing unusual for the SHVFD. He shared that in the past desks, chairs, tables, monitors, and furniture were purchased and repairs were made as needed under 0122-3004. Mr. Callis stated that perhaps this is the first time an invoice has been scrutinized; we have someone doing a great job. Councilman Honeycutt commented he didn't say she didn't. Councilman Honeycutt stated it is all about perception and is a bear no one wants to poke. Councilman Moody suggested if the SHVFD does not get the office equipment, they should submit a request to the Budget and Finance Committee during the budgeting process.

7. SHANNON LAMBERT AND TERI WALKER – HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS

Representing the South Hill Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), Shannon Lambert and Teri Walker addressed Council to update them and seek their approval of planned activities for Hometown Christmas. Shannon Lambert informed Council it is the Chamber's sincere hope Hometown Christmas will provide some joy and normalcy after a very long and challenging year. A lot of effort has been put into doing it safely. They also hope to welcome visitors to Town. The Chamber is utilizing a special internet-based trip planner which offers examples to visitors onsite of things to do, places to stay, and restaurants to try, assisting visitors in hopefully planning trips to our community. The site launched in mid-September and has had 25,300 unique visitors as of last Monday. What better way is there to welcome people to South Hill than Hometown Christmas. This year, the Chamber is offering even more activities than in the past. They are working very closely with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and are tweaking every activity to ensure social distancing and safety.

Teri Walker shared this year's plans for Hometown Christmas as follows.

Activity	DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
	Thursday, December 3	Friday, December 4	Saturday, December 5	Sunday, December 6
Embers Concert (The Dogwood)	7:00 PM			
Tree Lighting (Market Square)		6:00 PM		
Ice Skating (Market Square)		6:40	8 am Sensory Friendly, 9-5 general public	9 am - 2 pm
Christmas Carousel (Mecklenburg Avenue Extension)		6:40	8 am Sensory Friendly, 9-5 general public	9 am - 2 pm
Toboggan Tunnel (E. Danville Street in front of library)		6:40	8 am Sensory Friendly, 9-5 general public	9 am - 2 pm
Holiday Shopping Experience (South Hill Exchange)			10 am - 4 pm	
"Tell Santa" (Caboose at Chamber)			1-3 pm	
Santa's Marketplace (Tourist Information Center/Depot)			10 am- 4 pm	
Holiday Lights Contest (South Hill Corporate Limits)	<i>Throughout event, with winners announced at Sunday's concert and on Facebook.</i>			
Business Decoration Contest (pre-event judging)		pre-event judging		
Christmas Reverse Parade			7:00 PM	
"Let Heaven and Nature Sing", a Community Christmas Gospel Concert (Centennial Park)				2:00 PM
Food Trucks (lot across from The Colonial Center)		6 - 9 pm	All day	

Ms. Walker reported a lot of positive feedback has been received for a Holiday Lights Competition for homes in the South Hill Town limits. It includes three categories: most elegant, most kid-friendly, and most flashy. Each category winner will receive prizes including a custom wreath from Gavin's House of Flowers & Gifts. A Business Decorating Competition is also being held of which the winner will receive bragging rights, a trophy from Memory Makers, and a banner to be displayed in front of their business until New Year's Day.

Ms. Walker informed Council Tell Santa will be different this year. Santa will be on the porch of the caboose with children at ground level, but they'll still be able to share their special wishes and have a photo taken. At 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, all attractions will shut down and the roadways from the stoplight at Graham Hardware to Airtec will be closed to line up the floats and attractions along the side of the road for a Christmas Reverse Parade at 7:00 p.m. The attractions will stay stationary and the parade attendees will drive through the parade route. That creates social distancing and you don't have to worry about the crowds. The cars will start at the Mecklenburg Avenue stoplight and continue through to Airtec. The Chamber has already worked out most of the details with Kim Callis and Chief Bowen.

Ms. Walker shared that she understands Council was challenged last year. She stated the Chamber would love for Council to exclusively be their Snow sponsor this year. She mentioned everything is for the children.

Councilman Moody thanked the Chamber members for all that they do. In regard to the Gift Card Program coordinated with Mecklenburg County Tourism and several localities (South Hill, Chase City, Clarksville, and the Mecklenburg County Board of Supervisors), he asked how much money was brought back to local businesses. Ms. Lambert reported Chambers in Action (CIA) started out with \$22,000 for matching funds. In less than two hours, the first round sold out, which put \$44,000 back into local businesses. On September 8, they held another round with COVID relief funding of \$100,000. South Hill sold out their portion in under three hours. That round put \$200,000 back. Another \$100,000 round will start on November 17. These rounds have put funding back into our businesses and kept them visible at no cost to the businesses.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, second by Councilwoman Luster, to hold Hometown Christmas 2020 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Moody, second by Councilman Honeycutt, to authorize the South Hill Town Council to serve as the exclusive Snow sponsor for Hometown Christmas 2020 at \$1,125. 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-No	Councilman Leroy Sasser-Aye
Councilman Ben Taylor-Aye	*Councilman Joseph Taylor-Aye No.

*Originally voting Aye, Councilman Joseph Taylor requested his vote be changed to No (see Old Business.)

<Citing that the funds could be used elsewhere to benefit the Town, after the meeting ended, Ms. Lambert asked that the Chamber's request for Council's Snow sponsorship of Hometown Christmas be rescinded.>

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

Mayor Marion commented on the item of Citizens to Address Council with a reminder that Council has adopted the policy that comments are limited to three minutes. He mentioned the countdown clock is displayed so Council can focus on what the individual is saying, not on the time. Mayor Marion asked that citizens adhere to the three-minute limit and state their name and objective after approaching the podium.

A. Paul Duffer – Dilapidated Properties

Paul Duffer stated he gets three minutes to discuss something that could put him in jail for 12 months. Mr. Duffer reported there is Roger Poythress, Tommy Stanley, and Paul Duffer. He shared that when Roger Poythress was taken to court, he had been in an accident and he was disabled; Tommy Stanley is still really sick; and Mr. Duffer shared he had pancreatic cancer five years ago. He stated there is not a day that goes by that he doesn't hurt but he is thankful to the Lord he is alive. He asked how much time you get to repair one building versus two or more, because you can't repair four houses in the same time that you can repair one. He stated Kim Callis and Chief Bowen know he works. He asked is it justified he has been to court twice, yet we have doctors and lawyers on the list that have not done jack.

Mayor Marion asked if anyone could answer the question about how much time per property. Kim Callis stated that whenever Jamie Velvin identifies a property that does not meet the code, his practice is to talk with the property owner about the things that need to be done. Mr. Velvin asks the property owner to provide a reasonable schedule that can be followed to get the properties corrected. Mr. Velvin keeps a file on the extensions. If a property owner gives a date, they are expected to adhere to it. Some of the folks have more than one property. If there are extenuating circumstances (like the pandemic), Mr. Velvin has noted in his monthly report the time was extended due to the pandemic, or whatever reason. Mr. Callis reported it has gotten to the point with some people that it is continuous extensions, and action needs to be taken. Mr. Duffer commented that Mr. Velvin is not even a Building Inspector, and the Montague building is over 100 years old.

Councilman Moody mentioned issues with one of the buildings on East Atlantic Street (211 or 201) have been going on since 2018. The Town is simply trying to make the downtown area more presentable for people who come through. Councilman Moody commented the Town has been very

generous with Mr. Duffer considering his health and the pandemic. Mr. Duffer went to court after the judge extended it for six months and admitted it was sufficient to find him guilty; however, the judge gave him another six months. Councilman Moody stated the Town took Mr. Duffer to court one time. The judge has continued it for six months. Councilman Moody commented he does not know what more the Town is expected to do. Mr. Duffer stated he doesn't expect the Town to do squat. He commented the Town has \$21,000,000+ at the bank, and it didn't help the Rescue Squad, and it won't help the Fire Department get a damn room. When asked by Councilman Ben Taylor to watch his language, Mr. Duffer did not respond favorably. Mr. Duffer asked Councilman Moody how many people he knows that survived pancreatic cancer. He went on to ask if Councilman Moody knew how sick you get taking chemo and radiation. He stated this group of clowns running this Town... Councilman Joseph Taylor interjected stating Mr. Duffer exceeded the three minutes. Councilman Ben Taylor commented enough is enough. Mr. Duffer stated that is fine; the Town needs to wake up.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. **Kim Callis – Proposed Amendment to Chapter 66 Regarding Collection of Brush, Grass, and Leaves**

Kim Callis informed Council a Public Hearing has been called to hear comments on a proposed amendment to Chapter 66 Code of the Town of South Hill regarding the placement and collection of brush, grass, and leaves. The reason the amendment to the Town Code is being entertained is a problem frequently occurs because of brush, grass, and leaves being placed in drainage rights of way and along curb and gutter. This creates a dangerous situation because whenever there is bad weather, it blocks the drainage ways and water flows into the streets in some situations. In other situations, this debris washes into our storm drains and blocks them. It creates a dangerous situation for employees because they have to crawl down in them and clear them. This amendment is proposed to the ordinance which requires all brush, grass, and leaves to be placed at the edge of property adjacent to the street right of way for collection, and it should not be placed in the street right of way, in roadside ditches, or in any location that obstructs drainage. Property owners whose property abuts the public right of way shall keep that portion of the right of way free of litter and also free of grass, leaves, trash, and other refuse or debris. You shouldn't blow or place litter in such places. It is meant to make things much safer for pedestrians, motorists, and Town employees.

Mr. Callis opened the Public Hearing. No one commented regarding the request.

Mr. Callis closed the Public Hearing. **A motion was made by Councilman Sasser, second by Councilwoman Feggins-Boone**, to adopt the proposed amendment to Chapter 66 the Code of the Town of South Hill regarding the placement and collection of brush, grass, and leaves. 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.

So that citizens are well informed of the amendment, Mr. Callis reported that an insert will be placed in the water bills. Photographs will be included to show the proper and improper way to place these items. In answer to a question from Councilman Ben Taylor regarding how the Town will enforce this, Mr. Callis stated when people offend, door hangers will be used the first time. If there are repeat violations, then it is a misdemeanor charge.

10. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Kim Callis submitted the following report for September 2020:

A. Whittles Mill Dam Update

Mr. Callis reported Town staff has continued to work with the AquaLaw firm and others to contest efforts by environmental agencies to remove the Whittles Mill Dam. Our reply comments were filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on October 2, 2020.

Upon filing our response, our lead attorney Justin Curtis noted, "Nothing is guaranteed in these types of proceedings because the final decision is up to FERC's discretion, but we were able to present a compelling case on every relevant issue FERC has to consider. We are in a very strong position to get the right outcome."

As for next steps, FERC will review all of the comments it has received and begin to prepare an environmental assessment to inform its final decision. That likely will take at least a few months. FERC may send us one or more information requests as they work through that process. They also may take us up on the offer to visit Whittles Mill, which is not uncommon in these types of proceedings. I wouldn't be surprised if we get a request from FERC at some point to meet with US Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Wildlife Resources to discuss other options (e.g., fish ladders). When a draft of the environmental assessment is complete, it should be circulated for public notice and comment, which will give us another opportunity to weigh in. FERC's final decision will be issued sometime after it considers the comments on the draft environmental assessment. In the meantime, there is nothing we need to do until we hear something further from FERC."

Mr. Callis extended a huge THANK YOU to all the people and organizations who took the time to provide comments to the FERC supporting the preservation of the Whittles Mill Dam. Sharing those very personal feelings and experiences is extremely important to this effort. He also thanked all parties who were involved in preparing our response.

Mayor Marion asked if there is an appeal process to their decision or is it final. Mr. Callis commented initially they will put something out for comments, and we will be given a chance to comment again. At the end of the day, FERC will have the final decision. If we are able to save the dam, it will no longer be under FERC's jurisdiction (federal); it will come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (state) just to make sure that the dam remains safe. Councilman Moss inquired about the legal fees for this process. Mr. Callis answered it depends on how long it goes on. We have spent roughly \$3,500 so far on one bill; we have not received the second. Doug Hinman asked what the Town has to do with something that is not even within the Town limits. Mr. Callis commented the Town owns property on both sides of the Meherrin River, which used to provide the water supply to the Town. It is a very historic area that has often been used for recreational purposes. Mr. Hinman asked if the Town owns the river. Mr. Callis commented he is not a maritime lawyer and is not in a position to answer that, but there are schools of thought that say whoever owns each side of the river, owns the river to the midpoint.

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

B. Proposed Amendment to the Noise Ordinance

Kim Callis reported that at the September 14 meeting, Council directed the Police Committee to revisit the recommended amendment to the Noise ordinance. On September 22 the Police Committee did so.

Based on comments received from other Council members, Chief Bowen's conversations with the Commonwealth's Attorney about language needed to make the ordinance enforceable, and on the fact that our Police Department is able to effectively respond to noise complaints with a simple ordinance, the Police Committee recommends amending the ordinance to:

- 1) update the language to make it current and remove obsolete terms,
- 2) reduce the penalty for first offenders to a Class 3 misdemeanor, and
- 3) remove the mention of specific hours in two places.

Mr. Callis presented a draft of the amended ordinance as revised.

A motion was made by Councilman Moody, second by Councilman Joseph Taylor, to hold a Public Hearing at the November 9, 2020 Council meeting to receive comments on the proposed amendment to Article IV – Noise of the Code of the Town of South Hill. Motion carried unanimously.

C. 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.

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

D. Halloween Reminders

Mr. Callis reported that as of October 5, we have not received COVID-related guidance from the Governor's office regarding Halloween and trick or treating. The consensus of Council members is that trick or treating go on while advising people to take sensible precautions:

- § Trick or treaters should wear protective gloves and protective masks under Halloween masks.
- § Wear protective masks and gloves when answering the door to trick or treaters.
- § If you do not wish to receive trick or treaters, leave your porch light OFF.
- § Trick or treaters should only approach those homes with porch lights ON.
- § If you are uncomfortable with your children trick or treating, simply do not allow them to do so.

These guidelines may change if the Governor's office issues directives.

Following are the Town ordinance provisions regarding Halloween:

- § Trick or treaters must be age 12 or under.
- § Trick or treating ends at 9:00 p.m. local time.
- § Masks, costumes, and disguises may be worn only:
 - By children age 12 and under prior to 9:00 p.m.
 - By persons engaged in a bona fide theatrical production or masquerade ball
 - For medically necessary reasons

§ A curfew is in effect for minors from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. the following day except during an emergency or under the direct supervision of a parent, guardian, or other adult having the care and custody of the minor.

Also, Virginia law prohibits persons under age 16 from riding in any trailers and pick-up truck bodies, whether open or covered by camper bodies, shells, etc.

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

E. High-Speed Internet Effort

Mr. Callis informed Council Governor Northam announced a new allocation of an additional \$30 million of CARES Act funding to improve connectivity in the Commonwealth to help manage some of the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Highlights of the program are:

§ Only localities may apply and be awarded funds. Localities are allowed and encouraged to partner with broadband providers to complete projects, but the locality must be the applicant.

§ All of the same conditions that existed for the first and second rounds of CARES Act allocations to localities continue for this round of allocations. Compliance with the federal guidance is the responsibility of the locality submitting the proposal and failure to do so could result in disallowed expenses - requiring the applicant locality to repay the associated funds to the federal government. Specifically, the CARES Act provides that payments from the CRF only may be used to cover costs that are (1) necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency, (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020, and (3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020.

§ Proposals will need to be developed and submitted quickly, and projects will be approved on a rolling basis until funds are fully obligated.

§ Applicants must certify that all expenses related to these projects will be expended by December 25, 2020 and that the projects will be in-service by that date.

§ Applicants must link all proposed projects to expanding connectivity for distance learning and telework needs necessary during the public health emergency.

As Chairman of the Southside Planning District Commission, Mr. Callis has asked Deborah Gosney and her team to look into this funding for the PDC region to help ensure school children have access to reliable internet service. The PDC received information from CenturyLink on October 12 and a proposal specific to South Hill has been created.

There are many technical and operational questions and issues to address and it will be very challenging to implement by December 30 while complying with procurement laws. We will continue to pursue this in conjunction with Mecklenburg County.

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

11. FINANCE REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report

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

General Fund	-	\$ 7,552,191.62	Total Investment Accounts	-	\$16,040,663.30
Water and Sewer Fund	-	1,204,203.93	Total Police Dept. Savings	-	\$ 27,641.00
Cemetery Fund	-	<u>10,003.01</u>	Total Taxes Due Thru 09/30/20	-	\$ 233,198.69
Total in Checking	-	\$ 8,766,398.56	(Real Estate and Personal Property, all years)		

A motion was made by Councilman Moody, second by Councilman Ben Taylor, to approve the financial report for month ended September 30, 2020 as submitted by Sheila Cutrell. Motion carried unanimously.

12. MUNICIPAL SERVICES REPORT

A. Asphalt Milling, Overlay, and Traffic Marking Project

C.J. Dean reported sealed bids were received at the Town Hall at 2:00 p.m. on September 30, 2020 for IFB 2021-01: Asphalt Overlay and Traffic Marking. This project is the only street overlay during FY20-21.

Two bids were submitted:

- § Colony Construction, Inc. submitted a bid price of \$801,175.00.
- § Adams Construction Company submitted a bid price of \$886,720.00.

In answer to a question from Mayor Marion, Mr. Dean stated we haven't used Colony Construction, Inc. before. Mayor Marion asked Chief Bowen to get with them on the traffic marking. Mentioning that we had \$500,000 in the budget and we are talking about \$300,000 over that in the bid, Councilman Moody asked how negotiable that is going to be. Mr. Dean commented we have a couple of streets that may not be done this year and we are also looking at some of the paving, which will get the cost down to approximately \$531,000.

Kim Callis mentioned some of these streets really need water line replacements. We would like to complete the replacements before we do the asphalt overlay. If we can coordinate that, we can make this work. Staff will meet with the construction company promptly upon Council approval. Councilman Moss asked where the \$31,000 over budget comes from. Mr. Callis stated there is \$800,000 in the budget for street maintenance. In the past, we have historically spent in the ballpark of \$300,000. Recently Council requested we be more aggressive and spend more money on the asphalt. We have recently spent over \$1,000,000 on asphalt projects. Keeping those in mind along with conversations with the Budget and Finance Committee, we were to look at \$500,000 for asphalt, which would leave \$300,000 for ongoing regular maintenance. We also recently met with the Budget and Finance and Water and Sewer Committees on a couple of big stormwater issues (stormwater also falls under street maintenance.) The \$531,000 is a number that Mr. Dean looked at and said we think we can tweak these things here or there. Once we get the water line repairs done, we may get to the point we feel it is best to do all of the work. At which point, we would come back to Council with a recommendation for appropriations for additional funds, but we need to first negotiate with this company. Councilman Moody asked if it would be best to negotiate with them first to get the price down. Mr. Callis commented all we are doing is awarding the contract as the low bidder. We cannot negotiate until we award the work. If they

say no, we would have to reduce the number of streets that we overlay or we would come back to Council and request additional funding to do all of the streets they bid on.

In answer to a question from Mayor Marion, Mr. Dean commented this work will most likely be done in the spring. Answering another question from Mayor Marion, Mr. Callis reminded Council that what happened with the Highway 1 and 138 project was because the asphalt companies closed before the roadway was ready for asphalt. We had to delay the paving until March/April. In answer to a question from Councilman Honeycutt, Mr. Dean responded this contract will be good for this work through the end of June.

A motion was made by Councilman Ben Taylor, second by Councilman Moody, to award the bid for asphalt milling, overlay, and traffic marking to Colony Construction, Inc. at the bid price of \$801,175.00. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Project Updates

Mr. Dean submitted the Municipal Services Report for August 2020 as follows:

§ B & B continues working on several stormwater issues. After talking with property owners, the drainage work on Atlantic Street is anticipated to begin in late winter or early spring. The Town and property owners want the project to move to completion as quickly as possible. Not knowing how the weather and air temperatures will be in the next several months, it is best to wait and start the project in the first quarter of 2021.

§ Public Works crews continue to replace old small water lines with new larger water lines. The next new water line will be installed on Watkins Street.

§ The Town is waiting on the American Legion, VFW, and the IDA to work out the ownership issues for the wall at the Veterans Park. Cost is still one of those items to be discussed.

Councilman Moss commented Kim Callis indicated last month that he may be coming to Council to ask for help on that project, so that's more money.

§ Dominion Virginia Power has begun the streetlight conversion to LED lights. The total conversion should be completed by December 31, 2020.

§ Town crews are watching for the fire ant hills on Town property. The Town is concerned as there has been a number of fire ant colonies moving into the area. The Parks crew is observing the public areas of the parks for invasion. If fire ants are found in the parks, steps will be taken to remove the ants. Mayor Marion commented he found this report interesting. Mr. Dean reported Mecklenburg County was under a watch for fire ants. Last December, we became one of the counties invaded by this species. Mr. Dean mentioned you can really see the mounds where VDOT has mowed.

§ The Facilities Maintenance Department will be painting the inside of the Chamber of Commerce.

§ The Fleet Maintenance Department has become certified to install the new cameras in police vehicles. The upfitting for the new cameras takes about four hours for each vehicle if there are no problems with the installation.

§ The Town is required to have twenty residents take water samples from their homes for testing at the State Lab. The samples are taken from sites chosen by the VDH. The samples were analyzed for levels of lead and copper. The samples analyzed during September indicate that the Town's water is in compliance with national lead and copper levels. Since the Town's water meets the regulations, VDH's next round of testing for lead and copper will be in 2023.

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

13. REPORTS TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED

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

A. Police Report

For the police report for September, there were 198 activity incidents, 32 reportable criminal offenses, 837 calls for service, and \$38,620 property recovered. Other miscellaneous included 24 court hours, 144 training hours, 9 warrants issued, and 25 inoperative vehicles tagged.

The following administrative news was shared:

- § Chief Stuart Bowen attended a three-day VACP Conference in Roanoke.
- § Captain Shane Johnson completed 32 hours Verbal De-Escalation Instructor certification at the training academy. He also participated in an Accreditation Mock Assessment at Colonial Heights Police Department.
- § Corporal Tony Solomon instructed Defensive Tactics at the training academy.
- § Auxiliary Officers Mike Ritchie and Shane Nichols completed 40 hours Force Science Institute Certification in Chicago, Illinois.

B. Code Compliance Report

i. Monthly Report

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

Inspections Completed	-	33
Permits Issued	-	28
Fees Collected	-	\$ 1,795.38
UEZ Exemption	-	\$ 0
Rehab Exemption	-	\$ 0
General Exemption	-	\$ 1,088.85
Work Value	-	\$ 856,314.74

New businesses for September included:

- § Gracefully AJ, 935 W. Atlantic Street (flea market vendor)
- § The Marquez, 935 W. Atlantic Street (flea market vendor)
- § LBE, 935 W. Atlantic Street (flea market vendor)
- § Luci's Things, 935 W. Atlantic Street (flea market vendor)
- § Variety Exchange, 935 W. Atlantic Street (flea market vendor)
- § Lucky Seven's Service Center, 1360 W. Danville Street (truck and auto repair)
- § I Mart Stores USA, 702 E. Atlantic Street (new owners, gas station)
- § Hawk's Nest, 931 Northington Street (handmade wood furniture)

ii. Dilapidated Properties

properties: David Hash submitted a report on the status of the following 33 dilapidated

- § 211 E. Atlantic Street
- § 400 Goodes Ferry Road
- § 402 Goodes Ferry Road
- § 210 Park Lane
- § 110 Third Street
- § 315 W. Danville Street
- § 906 Plank Road
- § 212 N. Mecklenburg Avenue
- § 109 E. Third Street
- § 201 E. Atlantic Street
- § 706 Brooke Avenue
- § 112 Center Lane
- § 930 W. Danville Street
- § 932 W. Danville Street
- § 211 Bryan Street
- § 118 S. Lunenburg Avenue
- § 1179 Country Lane
- § 208 Pennington Street
- § 112 E. Atlantic Street
- § 403 N. Mecklenburg Avenue
- § 419 E. Atlantic Street
- § 456 Old Hwy. 58
- § 506 Moseley Lane
- § 617 W. Danville Street
- § 603 W. Danville Street
- § 418 Old Highway 58
- § 1214 Plank Road
- § 1231 Halifax Street
- § 112 Raleigh Avenue
- § 114 C N. Clay Street
- § Corner of Circle Drive and Ogburn Street
- § 202 Windsor Street
- § 911 E. Atlantic Street

iii. Code Inspector Activity Report

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

- § Spoke with a company representative that was placing large amounts of off-premise signs in Town
- § Spoke with Sherwood Baskerville regarding property at 1179 Country Lane
- § Posted violation notices on two inoperable vehicles; personally served property owners notice
- § Spoke with Quentina and Mike Robinson about trailer at 114C Clay Street
- § Spoke with Ilene Lewis about titleholder for single wide trailer at 114C Clay Street
- § Conducted site inspection at 422 E. Atlantic Street with C.J. Dean
- § Spoke with John Davis in reference to high grass at 821 W. Danville Street
- § Met with Sergeant Mike Peebles regarding inoperable cars being tagged

- § Met with Sam Allen regarding deadlines for work on his properties and weather delays
- § Spoke with Wayne Thomas regarding missed deadline at 456 Old Highway 58
- § Spoke with David Lee regarding missed deadline at 617 W. Danville Street
- § Kept check on progress of cleanup at 1500 W. Danville Street
- § Checked on debris complaint at Days Inn
- § Spoke with Brent Richey regarding progress at 208 Pennington Street
- § Spoke with and met Tommy Stanley at 205 and 209 E. Atlantic Street regarding yard cleanup
- § Spoke with Mr. Jiggets regarding grass complaint at 511 Brook Avenue
- § Spoke with Kenneth Evans regarding overgrowth at 422 E. Atlantic Street
- § Spoke with Herman Connell regarding high grass complaint at 305 Windsor Street
- § Met with Waverly Jackson at 1231 Halifax Street regarding progress of work
- § Met with Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Rhonda Alexander regarding properties at 211 E. Atlantic Street and 400 Goodes Ferry Road
- § Emailed communications with Charles Crowder to establish a projected timeline for renovations to begin at 212 N. Mecklenburg Avenue
- § Contacted Willie Bob Smith regarding status of his property at 418 Old Highway 58
- § Spoke with Kevin Walker regarding high grass at 301 N. Brunswick Avenue
- § Checked trash container complaint on Windsor Street; seven violation notices posted
- § Spoke with Lisa Williams regarding inoperable vehicle at 209 E. Atlantic Street
- § Spoke with Ed Hart regarding work being completed at 603 W. Danville Street
- § Spoke with Rick Poe regarding high grass at 111 E. Atlantic Street
- § Spoke with Ivory Joyner regarding completing work at 906 Plank Road
- § Met with Kuy Kelly regarding his property at 806 Virginia Avenue
- § Spoke with Alex Graham about grant deadline and work still to be completed at 112 Center Lane
- § Attended Second and Third Street management meeting
- § Inspected all properties on the Item B Agenda List; three properties removed, one added
- § Sixteen notices to cut grass sent out; all lots checked to ensure they were mowed
- § Twenty-one off-premise signs removed
- § One cleanup letter sent out
- § One inoperable vehicle towed

C. Business Development Report

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

- § Mailed 32 informational packets to prospective businesses
- § Met with Lauren Mathena, economic development with Mid-Atlantic Broadband, to discuss youth entrepreneurship
- § Continued working with the Southside Planning District Commission and the appointed committee on the review of Mecklenburg County Small Business Recovery Assistance applications and approvals; this committee is made up of

representatives from each locality in Mecklenburg County and Longwood Small Business.

- § Continue working with the South Hill Chamber of Commerce on Spooktober and Hometown Christmas
- § Attended the soft opening of the Microtel; Mr. Morris is still working with their management team on local and Enterprise Zone incentives.
- § Mecklenburg County Tourism and Mr. Morris have been working with Isle of Wight County to help them develop a gift card match program to mirror the one we executed here.
- § Attended ongoing meetings with the Department of Housing and Community Development on the Rural Community Development Initiative

D. Human Resources Report

Carol Hutchinson submitted the following administrative news for September 2020:

- § C.J. Dean and Carol Hutchinson met with Unifirst Corp. representatives on September 3, 2020 to discuss various hands-free appliances and products to assist with the prevention of COVID-19 as well as daily hygiene.
- § The interview process was held in September and new employees are:
 - Finance Department – Accounting Technician II
 - Candice Dawson (start date: October 13)
 - Parks & Grounds Division – Maintenance Operator I
 - Daniel Gosney (start date: October 19)
 - Brandon Rich (start date: October 19)
- § The Employee Handbook is under review for updates.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, second by Councilwoman Luster, to approve the Reports to Approve as Presented. Motion carried unanimously.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kim Callis reported the Personnel Committee met to review some questions about the employee handbook. Our HR Manager Carol Hutchinson has taken those comments which include technical, reference, and updating revisions as a result of recent legislation. There are a couple of items that need to be presented for further discussion. Councilman Moss asked if the manual has been updated with the legislation since July as it is his understanding we have 10 days to update it and inform our employees. Mr. Callis reported the handbook has not been updated but meetings have been held with employees to inform them.

15. OLD BUSINESS

A. Hometown Christmas Appropriation

Councilman Joseph Taylor commented he would make a motion if permitted by the chair to reconsider his vote on the South Hill Chamber of Commerce Hometown Christmas 2020 appropriation of \$1,125 for Council to serve as the exclusive Snow sponsor. He stated he cast his vote incorrectly and would like to recast it. Councilman Joseph Taylor asked would the entire body vote or would he simply change his vote. Mayor Marion commented he would change his vote. Councilman Joseph Taylor said it will be a vote of No.

16. NEW BUSINESS

A. SHVFD Request (discussion continued)

Councilman Moss thanked Chief Vaughan for attending. Councilman Moss commented we have an organization that serves this community that needs \$5,000 and has \$2,900 already in their budget. You are basically looking at a \$2,100 shortfall. He asked how hard it would be to reallocate money from another line item already in the Fire Department budget such as repairs and maintenance so this project at the fire station can be completed. Councilman Moss commented he voted no for the Chamber on principal even though he fully supports the Chamber. He said he can't on good conscience vote for these other things and not support the Fire Department. He mentioned Council just voted on an \$800,000 contract and doesn't even know what the final price is going to be. Councilman Moss mentioned he was a member of the Fire Department many years ago and policy may have changed. He stated that using this account has never been an issue until the officers changed this year. He feels it is an absolute disgrace we are not supporting this Department 100%. We are giving out money like it is candy. Councilman Moss continued that he knows of other budget items that have been moved around from department to department and purchases that have been made outside of the budget. Councilman Moss commented he does not understand why the request was not presented to the Fire Committee, and he doesn't know why we have a Fire Committee (which he happens to be on) if we are not going to use it. He stated that is what Council is elected and here to do, not for one person to be the judge, juror, and executioner on every issue that comes up. He implored Council to reconsider using money that's already allocated in their budget and support the Department that supports our community.

Councilman Honeycutt concurred with Councilman Moss and disagreed with Councilman Moody. Councilman Honeycutt commented those things should be brought by our Fire Chief to the Fire Committee who in return should bring them to Budget and Finance. Councilman Honeycutt mentioned the volunteers told him they were sitting on 5-gallon buckets in that conference room and it is an utter disgrace to this community. He went on to say it has never been a problem before and why is it all of sudden a problem now.

Kim Callis commented that whenever there has been a significant expense in the Fire Department, the Chief has always brought it to the Town Manager's attention, and then it has been brought to the attention of the Budget and Finance Committee to ask for additional funding. This is \$5,400. It was not discussed during the budget preparation, and we are talking about a pretty significant expense. Councilman Honeycutt mentioned we are talking about fixing a \$100,000 wall and we might have to eat that. Mr. Callis commented it will be discussed and approved by the Council. Mr. Callis stated we had a staff person who saw this and asked if this was really a building repairs and maintenance. She brought it to the Director of Finance and Administration who brought it to the Town Manager who said this particular expense was not discussed during the budget preparation process. Our job is to follow what this Council has approved as an expenditure; this wasn't; it is a renovation and new furniture.

Councilman Moss asked how hard is it to reallocate the money already budgeted over to this line item so they can finish this project. Mr. Callis reported if you reallocate money from another line item, they could come up short there. If this Council feels we should pay for it, Mr. Callis stated there are two options. His recommendation would be to appropriate \$5,000... Councilman Moss interjected saying that is not Mr. Callis's recommendation because if it was he would have forwarded it to Budget and Finance when this request was made and it could have been handled differently. Councilman Moss commented this is crazy and don't expect him to vote on a \$100,000 wall that is not in this request either. Mr. Callis stated he discussed it with Chief Vaughan when it came to his attention and informed him it could not be approved like that because it wasn't discussed by the Budget and Finance Committee. Chief Vaughan's comment to Mr. Callis was that he would talk to the volunteers and they would take care of it, and that is where the conversation stopped. Mayor Marion asked for Mr. Callis to repeat the two options.

Mr. Callis stated 1) Council can vote to reallocate money from one line item to another (line items would need to be identified), or 2) Council can simply appropriate the funds from fund balance to be added to office equipment. Councilwoman Feggins-Boone reported we presently have \$2,912 left in the balance of furniture and equipment, so really we would need \$2,500. Mr. Callis commented they may need that money for the duration of the fiscal year.

Councilman Joseph Taylor stated he completely understands both sides of this issue, our competent administrators, and this Council's accountability to the public; however, he is not in a position to take a vote tonight having just learned of the matter of the proposed budget allocation which is by the way the reason he voted against the Chamber allotment, and for the same reason he can't support taking the vote on that tonight. This is the first Council has heard of it and Councilman Joseph Taylor commented he wants to completely understand what is being requested, the cost, and whether multiple vendors have been consulted just as we do for every other line item in our budget. Councilman Honeycutt asked when this was brought to the attention of Mr. Callis. Mr. Callis and Sheila Cutrell did not recall the exact date.

Chief Vaughan commented he submitted it on September 24. He reported he went back to the volunteers and explained to them what would happen. Their biggest concern at this point was they asked for \$85,000 to cover the cost of their air packs. Chief Vaughan approached the County and worked hand in hand with the Emergency Services Coordinator so the Town would not be responsible for the cost. The County purchased them so the \$85,000 would be returned to the Town. Volunteers asked could they use part of the \$85,000 to complete the project. They consulted with two additional vendors who build furniture for fire stations, EMS, and law enforcement. The furniture can be cleaned with heavy sanitizers, is made of solid steel construction, and won't have to be replaced year after year. Chief Vaughan reported he informed the volunteers of the decision that was made; he guesses they then decided to approach Council; he stated he doesn't blame them.

Councilman Honeycutt pointed out for the record he can see the forest for the trees. It goes back to perception. He commented this is a dynamic Volunteer Fire Department that should be afforded every opportunity to serve this community instead of being berated about what they are or are not doing. If his house catches on fire, he wants them to show up.

Mayor Marion asked if it would be fair to ask the Town staff to go back and look, communicate their thoughts to the Budget and Finance Committee, and see if something could be expedited and proposed back to Council to vote on and approve before the next Council meeting. Councilman Joseph Taylor commented that while he appreciates the timeliness and attention that our emergency services deserve, he wants to make sure we don't become a forum for accepting requests from departments and semi departments with respect to budget allocations. We have a budget process and a timeline. He wanted to make sure it was understood he is not trying to prioritize procedure over people. If this is a worthy project, maybe it can wait a couple of months for our budget process to begin. We cannot become a grab bag of any sort. There is a process for a reason. Councilman Moss stated he understands what Councilman Joseph Taylor is saying but our budget process won't start again until July. He commented Councilwoman Feggins-Boone visited the fire station and saw these courageous guys and girls sitting on 5-gallon buckets; do they have to sit on buckets until July? The money is in the budget. Councilman Moss asked Chief Vaughan if he sees any major expenses coming up in repairs and maintenance that \$19,000 wouldn't pay for. Chief Vaughan asked that Council consider it at their pleasure. He mentioned volunteers recently had to take rainy day funds to purchase a brush truck. Rainy day funds are used when needed. Mr. Callis commented the Town has always paid for their ladder truck. Chief Vaughan reported Council gives \$45,000 annually on contributions that are used to pay the payments to buy the vehicles.

Councilman Ben Taylor mentioned he keeps hearing of people sitting on buckets. He commented he has always sat in a chair at the Christmas Dinner. Chief Vaughan stated the chairs were damaged, and the table was replaced. This is a section in the Fire Department that the members can use for lunches, meetings, and training. Councilman Ben Taylor asked where are the chairs that are used for the Christmas dinners. Chief Vaughan reported the chairs for the Fish Supper are stored. Councilman Ben Taylor commented so they do have chairs and don't have to sit on buckets. Doug Hinman asked what kind of interest the Town gets off of its millions of dollars sitting in the bank. He stated the money is there.

Mayor Marion asked what Council's pleasure is and does the Town have a recommendation. Mr. Callis stated if Council so desires, the recommendation is to appropriate \$5,000 to be added to the office equipment line item which leaves a little less than \$2,000 for the rest of the year for things they might need that fall into that category. In answer to Councilman Moss, Sheila Cutrell stated we have the \$5,000. **A motion was made by Councilwoman Moss, second by Councilman Honeycutt,** to appropriate \$5,412.56 to be added to the office equipment line item for the Fire Department (no vote was taken at this point.) As he hasn't seen a list and doesn't know what he is supporting, Councilman Joseph Taylor respectfully requested a month to consider what is actually being requested. Councilman Moss commented if the request had come to them on the 24th, they would have had time to review it. **A motion was made by Councilwoman Joseph Taylor** to delay the vote for a month on the Fire Department's request and consider it at our November meeting (no second or vote was taken.) Councilwoman Feggins-Boone stated the request is for:

\$ 2,499.00 Qty 1 - custom firehouse logo conference dining table 36 X 96 steel base
\$ 299.00 Qty 8 - duty built custom logo on office chair with loop arms
\$ 521.56 Shipping
\$5,412.56 Total

(The new item would have custom embroidery included at no extra cost. There is a one-time setup fee of \$200 to put the SHVFD embroidery logo on the middle of the table and on the chairs.)

Councilman Moody said there is no one on Council who is not tremendously supportive of the Fire Department and what they do but we also need to remember there is a procedure that sometimes has to be done in order to get funds. Simply sharing by word of mouth puts the entire Council into a quandary as to what to do. We don't want to say that we are not supportive, but we don't want to open Pandora's box either. Chief Vaughan commented he has been an employee for a long time, and you do not have to worry about that with him. Councilman Moody stated he understands that, but we have other departments we also have to deal with as a Town and have been very mindful of how we handle this. The money wouldn't break the budget. We just don't want to start a process that is going to steamroll into something else. Councilman Ben Taylor agreed that all of Council supports the Fire Department. He commented that the Rescue Squad blindsided Council six months ago; however, to not support fire or rescue is almost like unamerican.

Chief Vaughan stated he didn't bring this before Council; the volunteers did. He added that to be perfectly honest, they are very upset because it has never been a problem before. Chief Vaughan went on to say he thought of Rosser Wells as a daddy. When they needed a desk, tv, entertainment center, etc., they got it. Chief Vaughan reported he put forth the request to the Finance Department. He asked for a PO number and was denied it and told the volunteers would have to pay for it. He said he would handle it. He submitted it to the 40 volunteers at a closed-door officers meeting and informed them the project is on hold. They were not very happy. Chief Vaughan mentioned that as an employee, he is in fear for his job and he is worried about the way things are going to take place. He wants to be very careful. He shared he loves the Town and community, he has deep roots, and the Fire Department means the world to him. He did the best he could do and now has a group of volunteers that are very upset. Councilman Honeycutt commented that is the issue. Councilman Ben Taylor stated he can't speak because Rosser is not here, but

he knows that Rosser has approached Council during the budget process with updates and requests. Mr. Callis stated there is no question the Town wants to be supportive. The issue here is this is a significant expenditure that was not discussed. It includes an office renovation and a lot of new custom embroidered furniture. It is not a building repair or maintenance; it is office equipment. Chairs and desks have been replaced here and there but this is the first time it was seen and elevated. We said we could not approve it as it is.

Councilman Moody reminded Council there was a motion by Councilman Moss and a second on the floor by Councilman Honeycutt to appropriate \$5,412.56 to be added to the office equipment line item for the Fire Department. He went on to say we have consulted with our Finance Director and the funds are available. He called for a vote. 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-No.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business matters before the South Hill Town Council, Mayor Marion adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

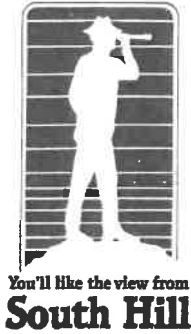
Respectfully submitted by Anna B. Cratch.

Signed:

Dean Marion, Mayor

Attest:

Anna B. Cratch, Town Clerk



Town of South Hill

Incorporated 1901

ADMINISTRATION
(434) 447-3191

BUILDING AND CODE
OFFICIAL
(434) 447-5041

PUBLIC WORKS
(434) 447-3228

RESOLUTION OF CONGRATULATIONS AND APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, Mrs. Victoria “Vickie” Gayle Swoap Soyars, a Park View High School (PVHS) graduate, returned to teach special education at her high school alma mater in 2005 after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the College of William & Mary, and then earned her Master of Science with a concentration in Special Education from Longwood University in 2009; and


WHEREAS, Mrs. Soyars, a daughter of two teachers, currently teaches Geometry at PVHS and is an exceptional leader who goes above and beyond for both her students and her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Soyars has contributed much to PVHS and the community including spearheading the Innovation Grant project, serving as a member of the calendar committee and advisory board, coaching girls’ soccer, overseeing the Power Hour program and Project Graduation, and was the former assistant band director overseeing the flag team; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Soyars was a cornerstone of the Mecklenburg County Business Education Partnership Spelling Bee/Trivia Game Night Award Winning Team; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Soyars was chosen as Mecklenburg County Teacher of the Year and Regional Teacher of the Year for the 12 School Divisions in Region 8;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of South Hill, we extend to Mrs. Vickie Soyars congratulations on her accomplishments and gracious thanks and appreciation for her enthusiasm, dedication, commitment, and outstanding representation of our Town.



Dean Marion, Mayor

Date: October 13, 2020

Attest:



Anna B. Cratch, Town Clerk

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HILL, VIRGINIA

AN AMENDMENT

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Council of the Town of South Hill, Virginia, in regular session assembled that:

Chapter 66 Solid Waste be amended by deleting and adding the following language to Sections 66-69 Brush collection, 66-70 Collection of grass clippings, 66-71 Collection of leaves and pine needles, and 66-92 Maintenance of public right-of-way. The deleted language is stricken, and the added language is underlined and in italics.

Sec. 66-69. - Brush collection.

Brush will be collected by town forces if placed in bundles not to exceed four feet in length, four feet in height, and four feet in width. All brush must be set ~~by the curb~~ at the edge of the property adjacent to the street right of way for collection. ~~Brush shall not be placed in the street right of way, roadside ditches, or in any location that obstructs drainage.~~ Brush shall not be placed in the street right of way, roadside ditches, or in any location that obstructs drainage. A charge approved by the town council will be assessed for collecting amounts of brush over six cubic yards in total volume. Stumps, logs, or entire trees will not be picked up by town personnel. Trees, shrubbery, or brush cut by a contractor will must be removed by the contractor.

(Ord. of 8-10-98(1))

Sec. 66-70. - Collection of grass clippings.

~~Grass clippings are to be placed in clear plastic bags, 32-gallon containers or left loose at the edge of the road. Grass clippings placed in 32-gallon containers are not to be intermingled with any household trash or garbage.~~ Grass clippings shall be placed in piles at the edge of the property adjacent to the street right of way for collection. Grass clippings shall not be placed in the street right of way, roadside ditches, or in any location that obstructs drainage. A charge approved by the town council will be assessed for grass clippings placed ~~by the curb~~ for collection in amounts greater than six cubic yards.

(Ord. of 8-10-98(1))

Sec. 66-71. - Collection of leaves and pine needles.

Leaves and pine needles placed in piles will be collected at the edge of the ~~road~~ property adjacent to the street right of way from October 15 to December 31 of each year by town personnel as established by a published schedule. Leaves and pine needles shall not be placed in the street right of way, roadside ditches, or in any location that obstructs drainage. Leaves and pine needles will be collected on the normal collection day. Leaf piles must be free of twigs, branches, rocks, etc.

(Ord. of 8-10-98(1))

Secs. 66-72—66-90. - Reserved.

ARTICLE III. - CONDITIONS OF PREMISES

Sec. 66-91. - Maintenance of litter free properties.

All owners or occupants of property within the town limits shall maintain such property in a clean and litter-free condition. This shall include, but not limited to, sidewalks, alleys, driveways, yards and grounds, fences, walls, and property lines, drainages, and vacant lots.

(Ord. of 8-10-98(1))

Sec. 66-92. - Maintenance of public right-of-way.

Property owners whose property abuts the public right-of-way shall keep that portion of right-of-way free of litter, grass, leaves, trash, and other refuse or debris and it shall be unlawful to sweep, blow, or place litter such items onto said right-of-way.

(Ord. of 8-10-98(1))

Done in the Town of South Hill, Virginia, this 13th day of October, 2020.

Town of South Hill, Virginia

By: Dean Marion
Dean Marion, Mayor

ATTEST:

Anna B. Cratch
Anna B. Cratch, Town Clerk



**SOUTH HILL TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020, 7 PM**

(Council Chambers, Town Hall, 211 S. Mecklenburg Avenue)

Please silence all cell phones while Council is in session.

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2020
5. Resolution of Congratulations and Appreciation to Mrs. Victoria Gayle Swoap Soyars
6. Michael Vaughan, Fire Chief – Update on the South Hill Volunteer Fire Department
7. Citizens to Address Council (*Comments are limited to three minutes.*)
 - A. Paul Duffer – Dilapidated Properties
8. Public Hearings
 - A. Kim Callis – Proposed Amendment to Chapter 66 Regarding Collection of Brush, Grass, and Leaves
9. Town Manager Report
 - A. Whittles Mill Dam Update
 - B. Proposed Noise Ordinance Amendment
 - C. Facilities Reservation Calendar
 - D. Halloween Reminders
10. Finance Report
11. Municipal Services Report
 - A. Asphalt Milling, Overlay, and Traffic Marking Project
 - B. Municipal Services Projects
12. Reports to Approve as Presented
 - A. Police Report
 - B. Code Compliance Report
 - i. Monthly Report
 - ii. Dilapidated Properties
 - iii. Code Inspector Activity Report
 - C. Business Development Report
 - D. Human Resources Report
13. Committee Reports
14. Old Business
15. New Business
16. Adjournment