

COMMUNITY SAFETY & PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 7, 2009 – 5:30 PM

City Council Chambers – Rouss City Hall

PRESENT: President Jeff Buettner; Vice-Mayor Michael Butler; Vice-President Art Major; Councilor Milt McInturff, Les Veach and John Willingham; Mayor Elizabeth Minor (7)

ABSENT: Councilor Evan Clark and John Hill (2)

President Buettner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – Councilor Veach moved to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2009 meeting. *The motion was seconded by Council Willingham then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

Community Safety Report – Chairman Minor

a. Fire & Rescue, Chief Frank Wright

- Motion to send a resolution honoring National Volunteer Week forward to Council for approval.

Mayor Minor moved to send both resolutions forward to Council for approval. *The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Butler then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

- Motion to send a resolution honoring Emergency Medical Services Week forward to Council for approval.

**Councilor Clark arrived at 5:32 p.m.**

- Motion to approve and move to council the reclassification request of Senior Codes Compliance Inspector to Senior Codes Compliance Inspector/Police Officer III. – Brannon Godfrey, City Manager

Mr. Godfrey presented the proposal to reclassify the Senior Codes Compliance Inspector position to a Senior Codes Compliance Inspector/Police Officer III position.

Police Chief Kevin Sanzenbacher and Zoning Administrator Vince Diem presented a map showing the overlay of police calls with inspection issues. They were also available to answer questions.

Vice-President Major questioned the driving force behind the proposal. Mr. Diem stated other localities have task forces dedicated to overcrowding and things of that nature that impact neighborhoods. This is aimed to get the same results with limited staff.

Vice-President Major stated the other localities have cross trained police officers with zoning and not the other way around. He does not see the significant impact or the reasoning behind it.

Vice-Mayor Butler stated Fire & Rescue employees have some policing powers to enforce the law in situations they encounter. He sees this as the same thing.

Councilor McInturff asked if the inspector will be a uniformed officer. Mr. Diem stated staff is considering the person will be uniformed with transportation provided by the PD. When the person is assigned zoning matters, he will be dressed in business attire with the authority to carry a badge.

Councilor Clark stated he thinks it would be worth the time to have cross training with the Police Department, Inspections, and Fire & Rescue on the various codes. He suggested the PD and F&R have a point person to receive calls for a seamless hand off.

Mayor Minor moved to send the proposal forward to Council. *The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Butler then approved 7/1 with Vice President Major voting in the negative.*

- Motion to reappoint Larry Omphers as a member of the Juvenile Detention Commission to a four year term ending December 31, 2012.

*The motion was seconded by President Buettner then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

- Motion to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as a member of the Fire Prevention Code Board of Appeals to a five year term ending June 30, 2013.

Mayor Minor moved to appoint Richard Ridgell as a member of the Fire Prevention Code Board of Appeals to a five year term ending June 30, 2013. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Willingham then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

### **Councilor Hill arrived at 5:54 p.m.**

#### Submitted Reports – Information Only:

- a. Fire Department – Chief Frank Wright
  - 2009 First Quarter Report
- b. Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Lenny Millholland

#### Public Services Report – Chairman Veach

- a. Perry Eisenach, Public Services Director

- Possible Downtown Traffic Signal Removal

Mr. Eisenach presented a proposal to remove the traffic signals at the intersections of Cork/Stewart, Cork/Washington, Washington/Piccadilly, and Boscawen/Kent. Replacing the signals with four way stops will save the city \$600,000.00 without compromising safety.

President Buettner asked if the signals were taken out, would they fit in if they were put in at a later time. Mr. Eisenach stated they would.

Mayor Minor expressed her concerns with Cork/Stewart and suggested a left turn signal turning onto Cork would help with the back up problems that occur on Stewart.

Councilor McInturff asked if the option of letting Stewart and Washington flow and installing stops on Cork was explored. Mr. Eisenach stated it was looked at but a sight problem exists that would require cars to pull out too far to see.

Vice-Mayor Butler stated he does not agree with Boscawen/Kent because of the line of sight problems. Mr. Eisenach stated with the all way stop, the only line of sight that is needed is the stopped car at the stop sign. Drivers will not need to see down the street.

Vice-Mayor Butler stated he also has concerns about Washington/Piccadilly.

Councilor Clark stated he understands the concern with Washington/Piccadilly but once the two-way traffic changes are made, a lot of the traffic will be rerouted from that intersection.

Councilor Clark expressed his concern over who would get the old equipment. He would like to see the City recoup all costs that can be.

President Buettner moved to send the proposal forward to Council with each intersection listed as an individual vote. The motion was seconded by Councilor Willingham and unanimously approved by voice-vote.

- Design Options – Braddock, Cameron, and Piccadilly

Mr. Eisenach presented the design options for the brick sidewalks and the limestone curbs in the downtown area and the center medians proposed for the wide sections of Cameron Street. He stated the preliminary work for the project has begun but the construction will get started on the Monday after Apple Blossom.

The committee reviewed the design options and made the following choices:

1. Existing brick sidewalks – option D: replace with combination brick/concrete sidewalk and give property owners the option to pay the difference if they want an all-brick sidewalk.
2. Sidewalks in front of city/public owned facilities – option B: replace with combination brick/concrete sidewalk.
3. Sidewalks at intersections in core downtown area – option A: replace with all brick sidewalks at each corner.
4. Existing concrete sidewalks in historic district – option B: replace with combination brick/concrete sidewalk and give property owners the option to pay the difference if they want an all-brick sidewalk.
5. Existing limestone curbs – committee chose a sub-committee of Tim Youmans, Frank Wright of the Preservation of Historic Winchester, Perry Eisenach, Vice-President Major, and a member of the BAR to look at the curbs and present a report at the Council meeting.
6. Center medians on Cameron Street – option A: install in select locations that do not limit access to large parking areas.

Councilor Veach moved to send the chosen options forward to Council with the option for the limestone curbs to come and to list each option individually. *The motion was seconded by Mayor Minor.*

Cheryl Crowell of 710 S. Washington Street expressed her concerns that the proposed plans do not take into consideration the ecological impacts on the trees, storm water run off, and water purification.

Councilor Willingham asked for Mr. Eisenach's thoughts on Ms. Crowell's statements. Mr. Eisenach stated they were all good points and he will try to incorporate them but some things

cannot be changed at this point with the current budget. City staff wants to be as green as possible but there is a cost to that.

Councilor Clark asked about the size and species of the trees in the medians. Mr. Eisenach stated they will be sizable trees but Tim Sterns, the City Arborist, will be deciding what type and size to plant.

Councilor Clark asked if the sidewalks will be permeable with gravel under the bricks. Mr. Eisenach stated there are permeable brick and bases available at a higher cost.

Vice-President Major asked if the medians will prevent someone from turning into a business or home and will they have enough room to make a u-turn without effecting parking. Mr. Eisenach stated staff has made a considerable effort to place the medians where that will not happen. There are a couple of residences that will have to pull in and back out but it will make it safer. There are no plans for u-turns.

Mr. Eisenach presented the displays shown at the Public Open House showing where the driveways would be affected. He stated there were not a lot of citizen comments received at the open house.

Fire Chief Frank Wright stated the median and size of the trees will hamper the aerial units used by his department.

Vice-President Major suggested Chief Wright be included in the tree selection.

Councilor Veach's motion was unanimously approved by voice-vote.

- Modifications to N. Loudoun/N. Cameron Intersection  
Conversion to Two –Way Traffic

Mr. Eisenach presented the design options to safely convert the intersection of North Loudoun/North Cameron to two way traffic.

Vice-President Major expressed his concerns with not being able to continue north on Loudoun Street. Mr. Eisenach stated signs would be put up to inform people they need to go to Cameron Street to continue north. A signal would be needed at a cost of \$250,000.00 to continue traffic moving north on Loudoun Street.

Councilor McInturff stated he does not see a problem with people not going north on Loudoun. He likes the idea of funneling people down Cameron Street.

Councilor Clark asked if the road will be striped with double yellow lines for a gentle curve and a right hand turn onto Loudoun. Mr. Eisenach stated it would.

Councilor Clark moved to send the proposal forward to Council. The motion was seconded by Councilor Willingham then unanimously approved by voice-vote.

- Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increase

Mr. Eisenach reiterated the reasons for the proposed rate increases discussed in previous meetings. If the proposed ordinance passes second reading at the May Council meeting, the rates could be effective June 1, 2009.

Vice-President Major moved to send the ordinance forward to Council. *The motion was seconded by President Buettner then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

b. Tom Hoy, Public Works Director –

Mr. Hoy stated the Public Works department did not have a report for the month of April.

**President Buettner temporarily adjourned the work session at 7:16 p.m. to convene into a Special Session of Council. The work session reconvened at 7:18 p.m.**

Other Items

- a. Closed Session – Motion to enter into Closed Session under Virginia Code §2.2-3711(a) 7 for discussion with legal counsel matters in litigation or pending litigation and §2.2-3711(a)3 discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property where the discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

President Buettner moved to convene into closed session at 7:18 p.m. *The motion was seconded by Vice-President Major then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

**Mr. Butler departed the meeting at 7:45 p.m.**

Mr. Willingham recused himself from portions of the closed session.

Councilor Clark moved to reconvene in open session at 8:34 p.m. *The motion was seconded by Vice-President Major then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*

Upon returning, each member certified that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were discussed during the closed meeting, and that only those public business matters identified in the motion which convened the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting.

A roll call vote was taken, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:

MEMBER	VOTE
Vice-Mayor Butler	Absent
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Aye
Vice-President Major	Aye
Councilor McInturff	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
Councilor Veach	Aye
Councilor Willingham	Aye
President Buettner	Aye

Adjourn

President Buettner moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. *The motion was seconded by Councilor Veach then unanimously approved by voice-vote.*