

DAMASCUS TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes for July 26, 2021

4pm Continuance of the July 12th Regular Called Council Meeting

Council Members Present: Mitchel Greer, Tony Doss, , Beaty Jackson, and Robert Van de Vuurst

Absent: Susan Coleman and Tom Hayes

Also Present: Katie Lamb, Mayor
Tuesday Pope, Town Clerk
Gavin Blevins, Town Manager

4:00pm: Mayor Lamb called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the agenda as presented.

- Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Van de Vuurst 2nd the motion, which passed (4-0).
1. BZA vacancy thru 7/31/2024 – Appointment Recommendations
 - Mayor Lamb reported that she was going to recommend Jeff Buckley for the open seat on the BZA, but according to the County Registrar, due to the property where he lives being partially in the Town but mostly in the County (specifically where he sleeps), he does not qualify as a Town resident and therefore not eligible to be appointed to the BZA.
 - Mayor Lamb stated that she and Larry Ginn, who is on the BZA and the Planning Commission, recommend Doug Carpenter for the seat, but will need to discuss with him first and report back to the Council at the August meeting.
 2. Flood Gates for Businesses on Laurel Ave.
 - Mr. Van de Vuurst reported meeting with Mr. Blevins and Brian Schmidt to review the most problem areas for flooding into buildings on Laurel Ave. and worked on a plan for adjusting the new ADA compliant curbs that VDOT installed at the S. Shady Ave./Laurel Ave intersection in a way that will allow the rainwater to flow straight down Laurel Ave. like it used to before the new curbs were installed. They are still uncertain on what to do about the flooding in front of Joel Jerkins' building because the curb is uphill and then the grade in the trench is so low that it doesn't provide much help when a downpour happens.
 - Mr. Blevins stated that Inland Construction is supposed to get some measurements and gather data to submit a couple of proposals for the S. Shady Ave./Laurel Ave intersection drainage problem.
 - Mayor Lamb stated that she would like to use some of the new ARPA grant money to provide implement some permanent drainage solutions in the Town. Also, that Inland

Const. suggested getting an engineering firm to do a study on the problem areas, which will help when developing a solution.

- Mr. Blevins stated that he wasn't invited to the other meeting and hadn't been told that, but will get an answer from Inland Const. about whether they will provide a proposal(s) without an engineering study, and if not, the Town may just need to get proposal(s) from the engineering firm if one is needed to do a study anyway.
- Mr. Jackson replied that in the meantime, the businesses most affected by the flooding issue caused by the VDOT curbs need a temporary solution, and Mayor Lamb asked what Mr. Blevins had found out.
- Mr. Blevins replied that he found two options: flood gates to be inserted in the doorways which are a little more than \$500 each, and water activated flood barriers (similar to sandbags) that are to be laid down in front of the doorways and are much more affordable.
- After some discussion of the two options, Mayor Lamb stated that she would like to have several of the water activated flood barriers ASAP, and to set up another meeting with Inland Construction this week.

3. Light Post Banner Schedule

- Mr. Blevins stated that as more and more organizations are asking about having banners put up on the light poles in Town, we need to set up a policy to go by, as well as a map and schedule for the different banners.

4. Events Committee, Robert Van de Vuurst – Beaver Dam Friday Jams Event Updates

- Mr. Van de Vuurst said that the event planning is coming along very nicely, with the first date set for August 6th, from 7-9pm. Music will be provided by The Soulamanders, and food and beverages will be provided by Vendor Express and the Damascus Brewery. Unfortunately, due to ABC license restrictions, the brewery is only allotted a certain number of off-site events per year, so they will not be able to set up at every event. In speaking to some people at the Alcoholic Beverage Control office, they suggest the Town obtain a Special Banquet Event Alcohol License that is available to municipalities and non-profits that want to sell alcohol at events. This license can be applied for online, and there is no training required. So, we are looking into having a 501c3 organization, such as the Fire Dept., the ATC, the Creeper Trail Conservancy, etc., help with serving alcohol to help cover the event dates. Other than that, Ms. Pope has put a lot of time into getting this event schedule put together so quickly, and we appreciate that. He then asked for the Council's guidance on how to handle the bills for these events since it wasn't budgeted for. The Council agreed to pay for the first couple of weeks out of the Special Events line item, and Mr. Blevins and Ms. Meyer can figure out where to move money from in the budget to accommodate for the \$6k estimated expenses for the events.

- Mr. Greer made a motion to allot \$1,200 toward the initial event expenses. Mr. Jackson 2nd the motion, which passed (4-0).
- Mr. Van de Vuurst added that the Transient Lodging Study Group met again last week, and on August 24th will have a Town Hall meeting for the public to participate and provide their input and opinions on the matter. The study group hopes to present a set of recommendations for the Council to consider in September, which is two months shy of the initial six-month moratorium. Notice of this meeting will be on the Town's website, Facebook, newsletter, posted in kiosks, emailed to business owners, and via word of mouth.

Legal Matters

- i. At the appropriate time, recess into Closed Session for Discussion and Consideration of Public Works Personnel Matters, per VA Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1),

Citizens Comments

None at this time.

Consent Agenda

- Mr. Van de Vuurst a motion to Recess into Closed Session for Discussion and Consideration of Public Works Personnel Matters, per VA Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1). Mr. Jackson 2nd the motion, which passed (4-0).
- Mr. Greer made a motion to return to Open Session, 2nd by Mr. Jackson. The motion passed (4-0).
- Vote to certify individually:
 - Mr. Doss - Aye
 - Mr. Jackson - Aye
 - Mr. Van de Vuurst - Aye
 - Mr. Greer - Aye
- Mr. Jacksons made a motion to Adjourn. Mr. Van de Vuurst 2nd the motion, which passed (4-0).

Katie Lamb, Mayor

Tuesday Pope, Clerk