

DAMASCUS TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes for September 6, 2022
7:00pm Regular Called Council Meeting

Council Members Present: Mitchel Greer, Tom Hayes, Tony Doss, Susan Coleman, Beaty Jackson and Charles Fields

Absent: None

Also Present: Katie Lamb, Mayor
Tuesday Pope, Town Clerk
Kermit Turner, Police Chief & Fire Chief
Gavin Blevins, Town Manager
Trent Crewe, Legal Counsel

7:00pm: Mayor Lamb called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance; Ms. Coleman gave the invocation.

Mayor Lamb asked for approval of the August 1, 2022, Regular Called Council Meeting Minutes.

- Mr. Hayes made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Mr. Jackson 2nd the motion, which passed (6-0).

Mayor Lamb asked for approval of the August 16, 2022, Continuation of the August 1, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes.

- Mr. Greer made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented. Mr. Jackson 2nd the motion, which passed (6-0).

Mayor Lamb asked for approval of the agenda, with the removal of agenda item #4, because there would not be a representative from the Washington County Commissioner's Office present as was expected. Ms. Coleman also asked to add Public Works personnel matters for Closed Session discussion.

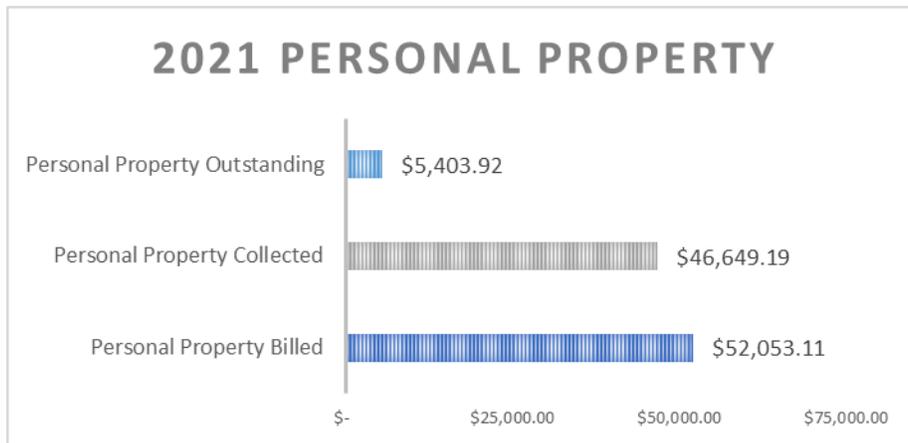
- Mr. Greer made a motion to approve the agenda, with the recommended amendments. Ms. Coleman 2nd the motion, which passed (6-0).

Committee Reports

Budget, Finance, and Administration:

Town Treasurer, Elena Smith, submitted the following report for the previous month, which was read by Mr. Blevins:

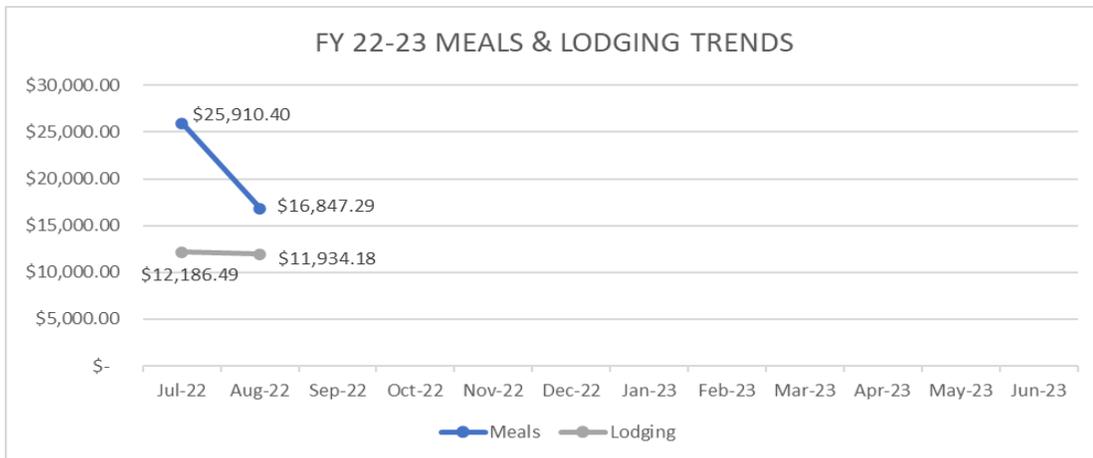
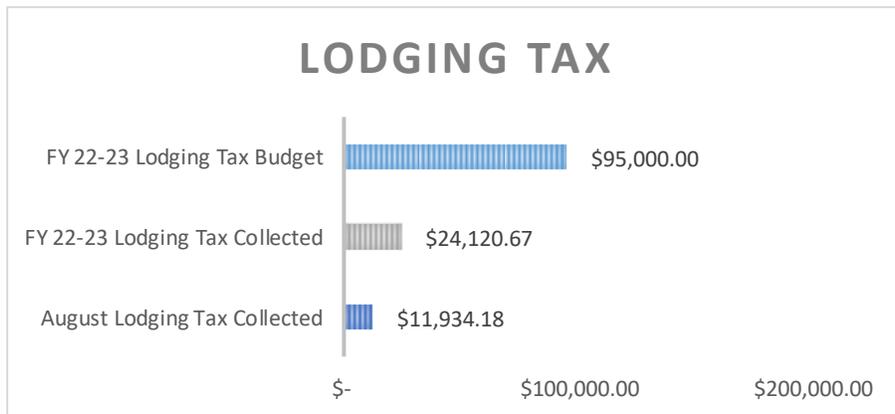
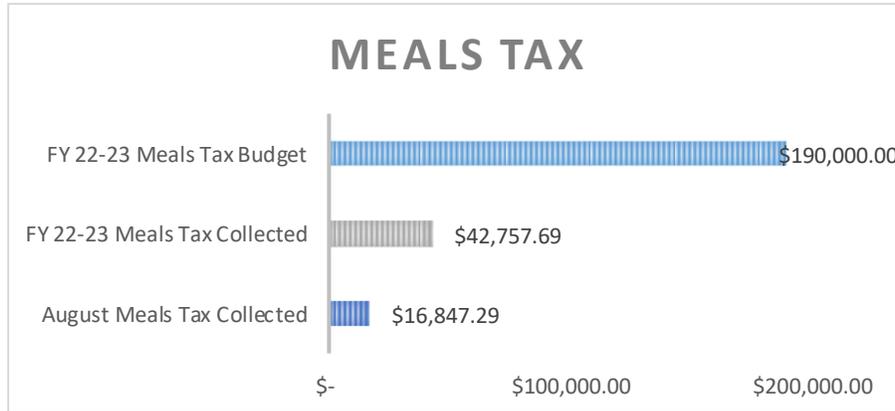
Real Estate & Personal Property Taxes: The collection rate for 2022 Real Estate taxes is at 94.97% and the collection rate for 2021 Personal Property is at 89.62%.



<i>Town of Damascus Virginia Investment</i>		
<i>Pool (VIP)</i>	<i>Account Balance</i>	<i>FYTD Income</i>
<i>VIP Stable NAV Liquidity Pool</i>	<i>\$553,541.50</i>	<i>\$1,833.67</i>
<i>Subaccounts</i>		
<i>RESERVE FUND</i>	<i>\$54,192.86</i>	<i>\$179.49</i>
<i>EARMARK POLICE VEHICLE</i>	<i>\$15,334.55</i>	<i>\$50.80</i>
<i>SEWER FUND CD</i>	<i>\$26,343.90</i>	<i>\$87.28</i>
<i>ANTHEM RECOVERY</i>	<i>\$44,028.75</i>	<i>\$145.84</i>
<i>ADDITIONAL WORKING CAPITAL</i>	<i>\$1,723.18</i>	<i>\$5.74</i>
<i>TRAIL DAYS RESERVE</i>	<i>\$7,471.00</i>	<i>\$24.77</i>
<i>TOD ARPA 2021</i>	<i>\$404,447.26</i>	<i>\$1,339.75</i>

Meals & Lodging Tax: We collected \$16,847.29 in Meals Tax and \$11,934.18 in Lodging Tax during August, reflecting sales for July. Not all businesses had submitted their Meals and Lodging tax forms and payments prior to this report. The Treasurer's Report is created the Friday before the Town Council meeting and can only include transactions which processed within the calendar

month. The due date for Meals and Lodging tax forms and payments is the 20th of each month.



Announcement:

The Treasurer requests that the Mayor and Town Council vote to forgive delinquent Personal Property Taxes for two deceased residents for a total amount of \$124.32 (accounts 1080 and 1818).

- Ms. Coleman made a motion to forgive delinquent Personal Property Taxes for two deceased residents for a total amount of \$124.32 (accounts 1080 and 1818), as requested. Mr. Greer 2nd the motion, which passed (6-0).

Streets, Lights and Maintenance:

Mr. Greer reported the Public Works' bucket truck has been fixed and they have resumed picking up brush again, as well as changing out the light post banners. Also, Jerry Stringham (Stringham Carvings) is doing a very good job chainsaw carving the stewardship stump over at the Laurel Creek Park, and everyone should go by to see it. He suggested putting some kind of small fencing around it along with a plaque telling people not to climb on the sculpture.

Parks and Recreation:

Ms. Coleman reported that the pool's final day of this season was on Saturday Sept. 3rd, and John Dancer is going to check with the pool and spa specialty people about having the leaks permanently repaired before winterizing the pool (they were repaired temporarily at the start of the season). Also, the Town had a few Emory & Henry volunteers come out to help with some of the painting on the gazebo, which is greatly appreciated. We still need to have some of the lattice replaced, but it looks so much better than it did.

Planning Commission:

Mr. Blevins reported the Commission still has a seat vacancy for the term ending 2023, which was previously held by Larry Ginn.

Police and Fire Advisory:

Chief Turner presented the following P.D. activity report for the previous month:

Operations:

August 2022, Damascus Officers had 132 calls for service. We have taken 8 investigative reports and made 8 arrests. We work 3 reportable accidents.

Traffic Enforcement Activities: *We issued 16 citations along with 12 warnings.*

Speeding complaint areas include: *N. Beaver Dam Ave & S Shady Ave*

Special Report: *DCJS application for LOLE Grant FY21 has been completed.*

We have purchased the system to help with the duck / geese issue. I have officers trying to keep them scared away of the evenings, so they do not roost.

Special Notes: *I have attached some information on a Drug Terminator, I would like to purchase this item from ELASTEC company. This incinerator would be very beneficial to the town and the police department for destruction of evidence and any old town record.*

- Mr. Hayes made a motion to approve the purchase of the incinerator at the price of \$5,090 + \$350 shipping, to be paid for out of the Town's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Fund account, as requested. Ms. Coleman 2nd the motion, which passed (6-0).

Traffic information from the Speed Signs for the month of August.

Douglas Dr / August 5-7: 11,181, August 11-13: 5,234, August 19-22: 14,744, August 26-30: 11,318

N Beaver Dam Ave / August 5-7: 10,386, August 11-13: 8,273, August 19-22: 10,096, August 26-30: 9,753

Grand Total on Douglas Dr: 42,477

Grand Total on N Beaver Dam Ave: 38,508. This is a total in 14 days of traffic data, also this is one direction.

Police Vehicles: Tires have been purchased and placed on the vehicle.

Auxiliary: Nothing new currently.

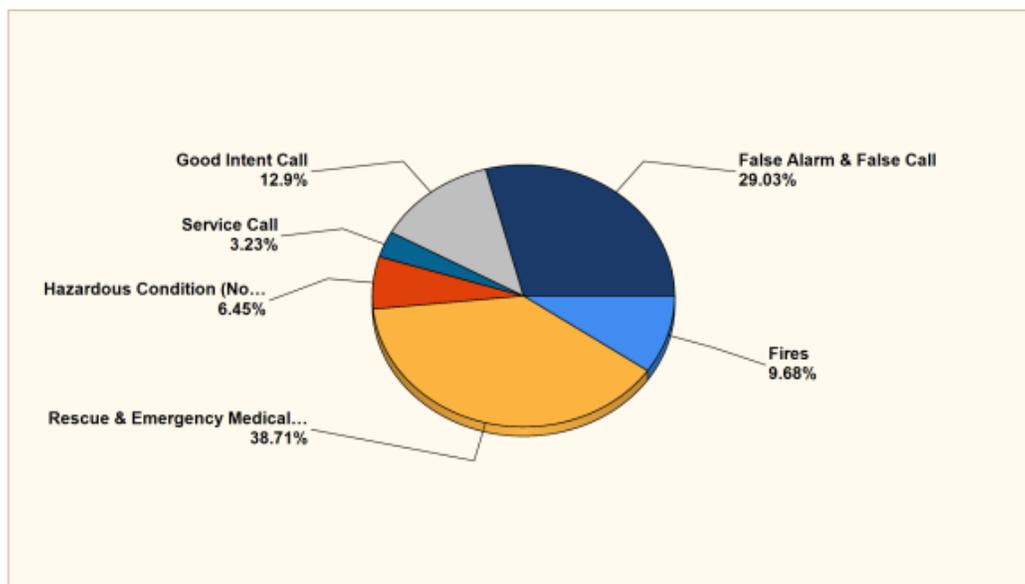
Damascus Volunteer Fire Department

Chief Turner presented the following report for the previous month's activities :

Damascus Fire Department

Damascus, VA
This report was generated on 9/2/2022 3:28:26 PM

Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range
Zone(s): All Zones | Start Date: 08/01/2022 | End Date: 08/31/2022



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	3	9.68%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	12	38.71%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2	6.45%
Service Call	1	3.23%
Good Intent Call	4	12.9%
False Alarm & False Call	9	29.03%
TOTAL	31	100%

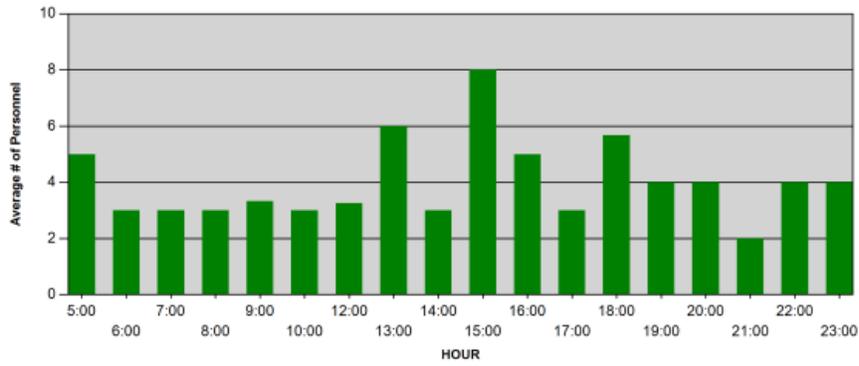
Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
111 - Building fire	1	3.23%
151 - Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	2	6.45%
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	3	9.68%
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	2	6.45%
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	5	16.13%
341 - Search for person on land	2	6.45%
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	2	6.45%
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	1	3.23%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	3	9.68%
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	1	3.23%
700 - False alarm or false call, other	1	3.23%
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	1	3.23%
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	1	3.23%
741 - Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	1	3.23%
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1	3.23%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	4	12.9%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	31	100%

Incident Statistics

Zone(s): All Zones | Start Date: 08/01/2022 | End Date: 08/31/2022

INCIDENT COUNT			
INCIDENT TYPE		# INCIDENTS	
EMS		12	
FIRE		19	
TOTAL		31	
TOTAL TRANSPORTS (N2 and N3)			
APPARATUS	# of APPARATUS TRANSPORTS	# of PATIENT TRANSPORTS	TOTAL # of PATIENT CONTACTS
TOTAL			
PRE-INCIDENT VALUE		LOSSES	
\$0.00		\$0.00	
CO CHECKS			
TOTAL			
MUTUAL AID			
Aid Type	Total		
Aid Given	1		
Aid Received	1		
OVERLAPPING CALLS			
# OVERLAPPING	% OVERLAPPING		
0	0		
LIGHTS AND SIREN - AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME (Dispatch to Arrival)			
Station	EMS	FIRE	
Station 1400	0:23:34	0:14:44	
AVERAGE FOR ALL CALLS		0:18:57	
LIGHTS AND SIREN - AVERAGE TURNOUT TIME (Dispatch to Enroute)			
Station	EMS	FIRE	
Station 1400	0:05:42	0:05:48	
AVERAGE FOR ALL CALLS		0:05:26	
AGENCY	AVERAGE TIME ON SCENE (MM:SS)		
Damascus Fire Department	34:46		

Average Number of Responding Personnel per Hour for Date Range
 Start Date: 08/01/2022 | End Date: 08/31/2022



HOUR	AVG. # PERSONNEL
05:00 - 05:59	5.00
06:00 - 06:59	3.00
07:00 - 07:59	3.00
08:00 - 08:59	3.00
09:00 - 09:59	3.33
10:00 - 10:59	3.00
12:00 - 12:59	3.25
13:00 - 13:59	6.00
14:00 - 14:59	3.00
15:00 - 15:59	8.00
16:00 - 16:59	5.00
17:00 - 17:59	3.00
18:00 - 18:59	5.67
19:00 - 19:59	4.00
20:00 - 20:59	4.00
21:00 - 21:59	2.00
22:00 - 22:59	4.00
23:00 - 23:59	4.00

Response Percentage per Station per Personnel for Incident Types for Personnel

Personnel: All Personnel | Incident Type(s): All Incident Types | Start Date: 08/01/2022 | End Date: 08/31/2022

Personnel	Calls Attended	% of Calls for Selected Incident Types
Station: Station 1400		
Barr, Derek	1	3.2%
Berry, Austin	17	54.8%
Blackburn, Douglas	1	3.2%
Burnett, Michael	2	6.5%
Campbell, Dalton	8	25.8%
Feliciano, Yamir	3	9.7%
Hand, Devon J	2	6.5%
Johnson, Michael	20	64.5%
Jones, Andrew	6	19.4%
Jones, Dave	8	25.8%
Justice, Jason	10	32.3%
Minton, Jared	3	9.7%
Mullins, Troy	13	41.9%
Phipps, Jennifer N	15	48.4%
Phipps, Michael	20	64.5%
Reid, Michael D	4	12.9%
Turner, Kermit	17	54.8%
Turner, Walter B	23	74.2%
Widener, Alex	16	51.6%
Widener, Anthony	4	12.9%
Total Incidents for Station Station 1400	31	

Total Incidents for all Stations 31

Personnel Hours for Incidents for Date Range (Not Payroll Related)

Start Date: 08/01/2022 | End Date: 08/31/2022

PERSONNEL	TIME SPENT ON INCIDENTS (Hours:Minutes Dispatched to Cleared Scene)
Barr, Derek	0:54
Berry, Austin	7:25
Blackburn, Douglas	1:01
Burnett, Michael	2:54
Campbell, Dalton	4:33
Johnson, Michael	13:35
Jones, Andrew	3:57
Jones, Dave	3:09
Justice, Jason	9:19
Minton, Jared	2:30
Mullins, Troy	5:56
Phipps, Jennifer N	3:19
Phipps, Michael	12:33
Reid, Michael D	1:57
Turner, Kermit	14:24
Turner, Walter B	13:59
Widener, Alex	10:02
Widener, Anthony	0:32
Total:	111:58

- * Chief Turner also stated that department members have been good about going over to the Laurel Creek Park to spray it off on Friday evenings to clean off any duck/goose excrement before the Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings.

Special Committees

1. Richard Smith introduced Robbie and Pebs Kemmerlin, who have agreed to take charge of the Dog Park committee. This has been, and continues to be, a community project with many volunteer hours put into the development so far.
Mayor Lamb thanked Mr. Smith and all of the volunteers for their efforts and welcomed Robbie and Pebs to Damascus.

Citizens Comments

1. Susan Seymore, former Damascus resident, approached the Council on behalf of the Seymore family and friends of her son John, who grew up here and loved Damascus. Ms. Seymore thanked the Town and said that she was very humbled by the tribute of the Laurel Creek Park in John's memory. She mentioned great cooperation between businesses and individuals coming together to make this project happen and to succeed, and it was so beautiful, as everybody came together to support the cause, and a perfect example of what results when everybody is on the same page. She gave a special thanks to Julie Kroll (the Town's Recreation Program Director) for all of her assistance in helping to coordinate and market the event. She also thanked Mr. Blevins for all of his hard work over the years to bring the Laurel Creek Park to fruition. Her dream for Laurel Creek Park is for it to be a place of respite, of fellowship, where people feel love, and lots of big hugs, because that's what John would want.

2. Scott Smith, 225 N. Railroad Ave., said he has been approached by some residents who live on Bank Ave. and Creepers Way about potentially making those streets one-way. Because those streets are so narrow, and sometimes people park where they aren't supposed to, when two vehicles are passing it causes them to pull through people's yards to get by one another and it causes some safety concerns for the families living there. The Council has discussed this previously and it seems like a good idea and a safe thing to at least look into, so Mr. Smith wanted to bring that conversation back up to see if it is something the Council deems worthy of taking action on.
3. Sammy Campbell, 220 S. Railroad Ave., stated that on the meeting agendas he thinks it is great that citizens comments are towards the beginning of the meetings, and requested an additional time for citizens comments after 'new business' so that they can have input after something is presented and the residents voices can be heard before the Council takes action on it.
4. David Atwood, 203 N. Legion St., is a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and wanted to reiterate that the BZA unanimously voted at their last meeting to recommend Jeff Buckley be appointed to the Board's vacant seat, as they believe Mr. Buckley is the most qualified person in Town for the position due to his job with the state, the code, regulations, etc. He is an impartial, fair-minded person, who is qualified to do what the BZA is set up to do.
5. Jeff Buckley, 719 E. Second St., let the Council know that he is present and available to follow up on the BZA's recommendation that he be appointed, and answer any questions they may have.
6. Buddy Albro, 539 Adkins St., also a member of the BZA, said that he has heard some discussion that the process of appointing Mr. Buckley hasn't been handled the right way. He said that he was appointed when sitting in the audience at a Council meeting one time and someone had resigned from their seat on the BZA, and a Council member asked him then if he would be willing to serve, to which he agreed. So, he doesn't think that the process is the issue, but instead certain people trying to control who is on the BZA. The issue seems to be about politics and not about Mr. Buckley, who is more qualified and knows more about code to be on the BZA than anybody. He is not coming with an agenda, he is a good guy.

Manager's Report

Mr. Blevins submitted the following report for the previous month:

Downtown + Laurel Creek Park & Trail

- *We are continuing to work on the bathroom interior – the stalls have arrived, and we are in process of installation.*

TRRC – Trail Center

- *Final plans for the rain garden are complete and the ATC has a contractor lined up to complete the site work, coordinating with Master Gardeners for the plantings.*
- *The windows and side door have arrived and are in process of installation and trim – the garage doors are still on order, pending delivery.*
- *The electrician should be out to the site in 2 weeks for the garage wiring.*

Scattered Site Housing Rehab Project

- *We are currently approving the final applications and moving forward with required asbestos testing; so far none of the structures have tested positive for asbestos.*
- *The town received documentation for two contractors to be prequalified for the rehabilitation and substantial reconstruction houses.*
- *We are preparing to bid blight removal on one property and demolition on another to prepare for reconstruction.*

Creeper Trail

- *Jason and I are still coordinating with the Virginia Creeper Trail Conservancy to do repairs to the historic red caboose in the Town Park – interior and exterior repairs are still underway.*
- *I'm coordinating with USFS the #10 stone to retread trail section from pool to Shady Ave. Also, getting quotes to assist USFS with removing dead ash trees around trestles 16 and 17.*
- *The trail managing members continue to meet regarding long overdue upgrades to the trail and policies based on the Master Plan.*

Miscellaneous

- *I'm still coordinating design and permitting for streambank restoration projects along Beaverdam Creek – these will be extensive, but we believe certain parts can be phased out and we can work with other agencies to get additional resources and assistance.*
- *The stump carving at the Laurel Creek Park is underway and should be completed within the next week or two.*
- *We should be able to touch up the street striping within the next few weeks.*
- *VDOT is still working on the storm drains at the bridge on W Laurel Ave and have a contractor that is supposed to scope them and use a bigger vacuum to finish the cleanout if the pipes aren't collapsed.*
- *VTC DMO grant project adjustment and grant expense; replacing BRO ads in initial program with VTC 2023 Travel Guide 1/3 page ad placed in visitor's centers statewide - \$4,900.*
- *Mr. Greer made a motion to approve the grant project adjustment, as requested. Ms. Coleman 2nd the motion, which passed (6-0).*

- * Mr. Blevins reported that he has also been planning to replace some of the older security cameras around Town and wants to add some to new locations as well. They have found Ubiquity cameras, that will work with our current system, for sale from the manufacturer in a 3-pack for \$1,280, and recommends purchasing at least 4 cameras initially. These can be paid for out of the equipment fund as well as the ARPA funds for security.
- Mr. Greer made a motion to purchase two of the 3-packs of Ubiquity security cameras. Ms. Coleman 2nd the motion, which passed (6-0).
- * Mr. Blevins reported that quite a few road/street/directional signs need to be ordered, as well as signposts for some of them. The initial costs are around \$1,200 plus freight, and that doesn't include Backer Ln. or any others that might have been missed. The line item for this expense will be 'streets and sidewalks' budget.
- Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve up to \$2,000 for the current signage needs. Ms. Coleman 2nd the motion, which passed (6-0).
- * Mr. Blevins stated that the ordinance for the Town's small purchase procedures says that departments cannot purchase \$500 or more without Council approval, which is a very outdated cap and should be increased, even up to \$5,000. Ms. Coleman stated that \$5,000 seems like a lot and suggested \$2,500. It was the consensus of the Council to authorize the Town Manager to start the process of amending the Town's small purchase procedure ordinance and schedule a public hearing on the matter.

Legal Matters

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

- Mr. Greer made a motion for a Closed Session on the matter listed. Mr. Hayes 2nd the motion, which passed (6-0).

Old Business

- Action on a formal resolution for the appointment of Jeff Buckley to the Damascus Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. Blevins presented the following resolution for Council consideration:

--TOWN OF DAMASCUS, VIRGINIA--
RESOLUTION TO REQUEST APPOINTMENT
DAMASCUS BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

WHEREAS, by order of the Circuit Court of Washington County, Virginia (“the Court”), dated May 31, 2017 (In RE: Town of Damascus, Virginia, Board of Zoning Appeals, 17-877) Mr. Ginn was appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals of the Town of Damascus, Virginia (“the Board”); and

WHEREAS, the term of office of Mr. Larry Ginn on the Board expires on July 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, by notice of resignation, given August 01, 2022, Mr. Ginn has vacated his seat on the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the town of Damascus wishes Mr. Jeffery Buckley to be appointed to the Board to serve for a five-year term starting on July 31, 2022, such term ending July 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Buckley resides at 719 E Second Street, Damascus, Virginia 24236; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it hereby **RESOLVED**, that the Circuit Court of Washington County, Virginia is respectfully requested to appoint Mr. Jeffery Buckley to the Board of Zoning Appeals of the Town of Damascus, Virginia, replacing Mr. Larry Ginn, said term of office to commence immediately upon court appointment and after being sworn into office.

- Mr. Fields made a motion to approve the resolution requesting the Washington County Circuit Court appoint Jeff Buckley to the Damascus Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). Mr. Doss 2nd the motion, and discussion followed.

Ms. Coleman stated that she thinks the Council should follow proper protocol, which would be to appoint someone from the Planning Commission to the BZA. She said that she thinks Mr. Buckley is a great guy and is very knowledgeable, but that someone should have the knowledge that comes from serving on the Planning Commission before they are appointed to the BZA. Ms. Coleman also said that she doesn't believe he is a resident because his house is in the County and doesn't pay taxes to the Town, which disqualifies him.

Mayor Lamb stated that the codes and ordinances on the Planning Commission, it doesn't mention putting someone on the BZA. However, on the BZA codes and ordinances, it does state that members on the board shall hold no other public office in the Town, except that one member may also be a member of the Planning Commission. About the residency, Mr. Buckley is now

considered a Town resident and has been issued a voters registration card from the registrar's office that proves that he is a resident of the Town, so he is eligible to serve on the BZA.

Mr. Greer stated that when Larry Ginn resigned, he was on the Planning Commission and the BZA and if Mr. Buckley is appointed to the BZA, then there isn't a seat open to appoint one of the Planning Commission members to the BZA.

Mayor Lamb suggested that one of the BZA members then be appointed to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Greer stated that the Planning Commission may have members who have waited for a long time to be appointed to the BZA from there and thinks that in that case, the Planning Commission should be the steppingstone before being appointed to the BZA. Also, Mr. Buckley had an application to be on the Planning Commission, and nothing was mentioned about the interest in him going to the BZA until it was brought up at the last Council meeting.

Mr. Crewe stated that the Council appoints members directly to the Planning Commission, but only makes a recommendation to the Circuit Court for someone to be appointed to the BZA.

Mr. Buckley said that he has been approached by a few people who have commented that he isn't paying taxes in the Town, which is not the case because he has paid taxes to the Town since the day he moved to Damascus. He pays taxes on a parcel of land with a house on it. He doesn't pay Town taxes on the house that he lives in because it was deemed by the Town Treasurer, with the blessing of the Town attorney at the time, as well as by the County Treasurer and Commissioner, that he didn't need to because that house is mostly in the county. Mr. Buckley said that he has been in this Town for almost 16 years and values this Town and wants to do what he can to help. The County Registrar has determined that Mr. Buckley is a resident and should be voting in the Town Council elections. This change came about because there was a carport renovation done which allowed Mr. Buckley's bedroom to be moved into the part of his house on the property that is in Town limits.

Mr. Crewe stated that a person does not have to pay taxes in order to be a resident, or to be on the BZA. The registrar is required by law to determine residency, and Mr. Buckley's residency has been determined to be in Town. Also, the Code or statutes do not say that a person must serve on the Planning Commission before serving on the BZA, or vice-versa. The Council can vote however they wish, but these two reasons are not relevant objections in this situation.

Mr. Buckley stated that he appreciates this Town and for the record has always paid his taxes and always will.

Mr. Greer asked if it is required to have someone from the Planning Commission on the BZA as well.

Mr. Blevins stated that it is not required by law but is more commonly done in practice as a matter of making sure there is a liaison between the two committees.

Mayor Lamb reminded the Council that there is a motion and a second on the table and asked for a vote. The vote to approve the resolution requesting the Washington County Circuit Court appoint Jeff Buckley to the Damascus Board of Zoning Appeals was (2-3-1) with Mr. Fields and Mr. Doss approving, Mr. Greer, Mr. Hayes, and Ms. Coleman objecting, and Mr. Jackson abstaining. The motion failed.

Mayor Lamb stated for the record 'that is a huge mistake', and further discussion followed.

Mayor Lamb then asked the Council to appoint Mr. Buckley to the vacant seat on the Damascus Planning Commission, since Mr. Buckley had previously put his name in for consideration for a seat.

Ms. Coleman said that people should be appointed to the Planning Commission in order from the waiting list, so if Mr. Buckley isn't next in line, then the Council shouldn't appoint him at this time.

- Mr. Jackson made a motion to appoint Jeff Buckley to the Damascus Planning Commission for the vacant unfulfilled term, which ends December 31, 2023. Mr. Fields 2nd the motion, which passed (5-1, with Ms. Coleman objecting).

New Business

- Virginia Creeper Trail Conservancy – Executive Director Lisa Quigley reported that the contracts are underway for the repair of trestles 30 and 31. Also, funding has been secured for the repair of trestles 16 and 17, which is great news. Additionally, hosting a Virginia Creeper Fest in Damascus was being considered for this Fall, but the decision has been made to wait until next year.

Consent Agenda

- Mr. Jackson made a motion to pay the bills for invoices exceeding \$500, 2nd by Mr. Greer. The motion passed (6-0).
- Mr. Greer made a motion to pay the bills presented as well as the standard and/or recurring bills that will come in before the next Council meeting. Mr. Jackson 2nd the motion, which passed (6-0).

Mayor & Council Members Reports

Mayor Lamb thanked Richard Smith and all of the dog park volunteers for their efforts.

Mayor Lamb also said that she is excited to be working with Jeff Buckley as he serves on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Jackson recommended planting wildflowers on the slope/bank in front of the Town Pool instead of grass to have to mow and weed eat. This would beautify that area, and it also needs signage for more people to know that it is a public pool.

Announcements

UPCOMING EVENTS & OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- September 2nd – Participating Businesses hosting First Fridays Events
- September 3rd – Iron Mountain Trail Run
- September 5th – Town Hall CLOSED in Observance of Labor Day
- September 9th – Mountain Movers Damascus, Community Movie in the Park
- September 9th thru 11th – Shop 'Til You Drop at the Iron Horse Campground
- September 16th – Mountain Movers Damascus, Community Movie in the Park
- September 17th – St. Jude Children's Bike A Thon
- September 23rd – Beaverdam Friday Jam
- September 24th – Washington County Democrats, Donkey Day in the Park
- September 24th – Veterans Memorial Cruise-In at Food City
- September 25th – Fire by Night Gathering in the Park
- September 30th – Mountain Movers Damascus, Community Movie in the Park
- September 30th thru October 1st – Yeti 100 Mile Endurance Run
- Every Saturday from 9am-Noon – the Damascus Farmers Market at Laurel Creek Park

*For information on upcoming events, go to our website visitdamascus.org. For citizen info go to damascus.org, and don't forget our social media presence on **Facebook** and **Instagram**!*

- Ms. Coleman made a motion to Recess into Closed Session for items previously identified under Legal Matters. Mr. Jackson 2nd the motion, which passed (6-0).
- Mr. Jackson made a motion to return to Open Session, 2nd by Mr. Doss. The motion passed (6-0).
- We Certify that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such matters identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting.

Mitchel Greer - Yea

Tom Hayes – Yea

Beaty Jackson - Yea
Charles Fields - Yea
Tony Doss - Yea
Susan Coleman - Yea

- Ms. Coleman made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Mr. Jackson. The motion passed (6-0).