

**Narrows Town Council Meeting
January 10, 2022**

Mayor Tom Spangler called the meeting to order. Council Members present were Clyde Turner, Sara Bowles, George Conley, John Mills, and Joe Goorskey.

Staff members present were Jessica Dalton, John Davis, Susan Kidd, Cindy Laws, and Benji Ratcliffe.

Attorney Mike Bedsaul was absent.

Mayor Spangler asked for a moment of silence for former Mayor Clayton Davis.

Pastor Doug Armstrong from the First United Methodist Church of Narrows gave the invocation.

Council and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of December 13th Meeting Minutes

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the December 13th meeting minutes.

Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Abstain: Conley

Motion Carried 4-0

Consent Agenda

Library Report

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the library report. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Parks & Recreation Report

Mayor Spangler said the activities around Christmas were well done and well received.

Councilman Mills said no one does Christmas like Narrows on the New River.

Councilmember Bowles said there is to be a yard sale and pancake breakfast this weekend. They are hoping to raise money to purchase adaptive swings.

Councilman Goorskey said he knows Landon Patteson and Lindsey Caudill are not present, but he would like to talk to them concerning revenues on admissions and concessions to see what was included.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the parks and rec report. Councilman Conley seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Police Report

Councilman Conley asked Police Chief Ratcliffe if his officers were able to get the time off they were due since their schedules were back to normal?

Police Chief Ratcliffe said yes. Susan Kidd is asking them to use some of their vacation time soon.

Councilman Mills said it was mentioned that a letter would be sent to Chris Tuck for the time and effort he spent representing Chad Stilley.

Police Chief Ratcliffe said Susan Kidd has already drafted and sent the letter to Chris Tuck.

Councilman Conley made a motion to approve the police report. Councilman Mills seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Financial Report/Treasurer's Report

Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the financial report/treasurer's report. Councilman Goorskey seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Director of Strategic Development's Report

Councilman Mills asked how they were progressing with communication with the licensed professional concerning the building across the street?

Susan Kidd said she spoke with Mike Bedsaul today and she would prefer to talk about contracts in closed session.

Councilman Goorskey said he would like to do that as well.

Councilman Goorskey made a motion to approve the director of strategic development's report. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Public Works Director's Report

Councilman Turner said last month they discussed water loss and the water meter at the campground. He asked John Davis if he found out anything about that.

John Davis said no. The meter is working and last month they used around 500,000 gallons and this month it is around 390,000. It is a little lower but is still high. He has spoken with the owners and they do have a leak but it is on them.

Councilman Mills said John Davis is acting properly and protecting the town's interest. Did the campground receive a bill like they are supposed to?

John Davis said yes.

Councilman Turner said the only thing that bothers him is water loss.

John Davis said he has 2 meetings set up this month to look at purchasing different water meters.

Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the public works director's report. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Communications, Concerns and Requests from the Public

Susan Kidd said Mac Gallimore had a leak at his building. His wife was told and at that time he was in the hospital. He did not pay the bill and was charged a \$75 reconnect fee. He has never been late on a payment and is asking for the \$75 to be refunded to him.

Councilman Mills made a motion to refund the \$75 reconnect fee to Mac Gallimore. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Communications from Mayor and Council

Councilman Goorskey said the next PSA meeting is this Thursday.

New Business

John Davis said there is a request to place a single-wide or double-wide trailer in the area of 905 Wolf Street. The planning commission will be discussing this tomorrow night because there will need to be a special exception considering the area it is in. There will be a joint public hearing next month with the planning commission and town council.

Susan Kidd said she would like Bobby Lucas appointed to represent the town on the New River Valley Regional Commission.

Councilman Goorskey said he would like to appoint Bobby Lucas as a representative of the Town of Narrows to the New River Valley Regional Commission. Councilman Mills seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Councilmember Bowles said around 30 people responded to starting the Progress in Narrows Now (PINN) group back up. She reached out to them and will be setting up a meeting the end of this month. Court Caldwell has named some places in Narrows to place a community garden.

Unfinished Business

Susan Kidd said the business license information has not been updated since 2001. Rhonda Brown looked at it and there are some updates that can be done. They will not be raising rates; it is mostly housekeeping. A public hearing needs to be set for next month.

Councilman Conley said in subsection 13 concerning savings and loan associations and credit unions this part was stricken out: *\$30.00 or \$0.58 per \$100.00 of gross receipts, whichever is greater*. Why is this being removed?

Susan Kidd said there have been some general assembly changes since the last update and now some of these things are regulated by the SCC. We may still receive monies from them, but it comes from a different entity.

Councilman Conley asked if the section concerning beer and wine was new?

Susan Kidd said it already exists.

Matters for Consideration by Council

Susan Kidd said she would like to table "Consider Engineering Firm Approval for ARPA Projects" until next month. She spoke with the attorney today and he recommended she get some more information on that before it is presented.

Susan Kidd said council mentioned a council retreat and a date needs to be set. This could be used to discuss business and development and look at short-range and long-range plans.

John Davis said the retreat will have to be advertised.

Councilman Mills said he is concerned about the water meters and a portion of the ARPA funds probably need to be spent on this.

Mayor Spangler asked council to send Susan Kidd an email with topics they would like to be discussed at the staff retreat.

Councilman Conley said he attended the Sands Anderson conference, and it was an all-day affair. Mike Bedsaul discussed FOIA topics. There was a section of the conference where different types of loans for municipalities were discussed. He learned a lot about different types of loans. There was a lot of information given.

Mayor Spangler read the following letter from Jon Butler:

Members of the Narrows Town Council and Narrows Town Staff,

I wanted to write you this letter to serve as my most sincere Thank You. I also regret that I could not attend this council meeting to tell you this in person, as I am currently on vacation with my family.

As many of you may already know, I will be stepping down as Fire Chief of The Narrows Fire Department effective following our elections on January 18th, 2022. It has been an absolute honor and privilege to lead the department for the last 7 years. They are an amazing group of people that give so much of themselves for so little in return. There are no doubts in my mind that will never change regardless of whomever may be leading the organization.

I take great pride in the working relationship that has been developed between town council, town staff, and the Fire Department through the years. The support that you all provide to us is essential to all areas of our operations and the Department simply could not function without it. As a result of this continuous support, both the Fire Department and the Community reap the many benefits. Therefore, on behalf of the Community, and the Fire Department thank you for your support and dedication to the Fire Department's mission.

I will keep you all updated as to whom will be filling the position of Chief following the January 18th elections. Additionally, I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition and will be available to assist them in whatever capacity necessary. I look forward to continuing to work with you all through my employment and I look forward to what the future holds for Narrows Fire Department.

Again, I cannot express how grateful I am to have served as Fire Chief under such a supportive town council and town staff. Thank You!

Feel free to reach out to me if I can be of any assistance.

John Davis said Jon Butler is now the Giles County Emergency Services Coordinator.

Councilman Goorskey made a motion to go into executive session to discuss real property (discussion of donated property – Wheeler building and town-owned property) (Sec. 2.2-3711.A.3), personnel matters (continuity and staffing) (Sec. 2.2.3711.A.1), and negotiations of a siting agreement (discussion of Hill Studio contract) (Sec. 2.2-3711.A.13). Councilman Goorskey seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Councilman Turner made a motion to return to open session. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Certification

WHEREAS, the Town of Narrows, has convened an executive meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative-recorded vote and in accordance with the provision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act: and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification of the Town Council that such executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Town of Narrows hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies: and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Town Council.

ATTEST: _____

Councilman Goorskey made a motion to accept the certification. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Mayor Spangler read the following letter from Susan Kidd:

This letter is to officially notify Mayor and Council of my plans to retire from employment with the Town of Narrows at the end of August 2022. I hope by giving you sufficient notice you will have an opportunity to recruit and hire someone and maintain continuity for the town.

I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve the Town of Narrows. This is a special place and I hope I have had some small part of making it even better. The town has a real 'heart' and that comes from the residents who love it and from the leaders who work to make it a place people love.

Thank you for the opportunity and I look forward to working with you for the remaining time I am employed here.

Mayor Spangler said he hates to see Susan Kidd leave but thanks her for giving them ample time to find a replacement.

Councilman Conley made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Goorskey seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Clerk, Debbie Thomas

Mayor, Tom Spangler