

**Narrows Town Council
Special Called Meeting
August 22, 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 John Davis, Susan Kidd, Terry Nicholson, and Debbie Thomas.

Attorney Mike Bedsaul was present.

Mayor Spangler gave the invocation.

Council and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

Mayor Spangler opened the public hearing for the proposed change in the polling place in the Town of Narrows. Does anyone have any discussion or comments?

Terry Nicholson said this is pretty straightforward unless Mike Bedsaul has something to add.

Mike Bedsaul said he didn't have anything to add. He had already submitted the town's request for certification of no objection to the office of the attorney general on August 5th, 2022. This is a new requirement for whenever there is a change to a polling place as well as other actions that affect voting. It's kind of like the preclearance requirement they used to have. The only thing they need at this point to complete their review of the town's application is a copy of the adopted ordinance. Council has a copy of the ordinance in their packets. After the public hearing is closed council needs to entertain a motion to adopt the ordinance as written.

Mayor Spangler said the public hearing was closed. Is there a motion to accept the ordinance as it is written?

Councilman Mills made a motion to accept the ordinance to change the polling place in the Town of Narrows. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

New Business

Mayor Spangler said the first item is a letter of support for the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) broadband project.

Terry Nicholson said he received a request from Jeff Dinger from the county last week asking for a letter of support and there is a draft letter in council's packets. This is not a request of funds but just an indication that the town is behind this initiative for the county applying for more grant funding. The county received a grant in 2019 they're just wrapping up and they brought broadband through Bland County and down Wolf Creek. This is to basically extend it to households and bring fiber to places that don't have broadband right now. They are applying for a grant and want all towns to give a letter of support.

Councilman Mills said he believes they have no other choice than to stand together on this.

Terry Nicholson said it is a great project and is needed infrastructure wise.

Councilman Goorskey said the letter is very well articulated.

Mayor Spangler said Nathaniel Spicer is asking to have the \$75 utility reconnect fee waived on his account.

Councilman Conley asked if Mr. Spicer received a cutoff notice in the mail?

Debbie Thomas said their current bill is highlighted if they have a past-due amount. That is what he would have received.

Terry Nicholson said Mr. Spicer said he didn't receive a July bill even though it was mailed to him. He received the August bill and noticed there was a charge for July. Tasha Riddle indicated Mr. Spicer has never been late on a utility bill payment. He recommends that the fee be waived. Mr. Spicer stated that he came to pay his bill one of the afternoons the office was closed because employees were out with Covid.

Councilman Conley asked which employees Mr. Spicer had spoken with concerning this?

Terry Nicholson said Jessica Dalton, Tasha Riddle, and himself. He informed Mr. Spicer he couldn't waive the fee but council could and if they did it would only be done once.

Councilman Mills made a motion to waive the \$75 utility reconnect fee for Nathaniel Spicer. Councilman Goorskey seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bowles, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: Turner

Motion Carried 4-1

Councilman Conley said the Narrows High School Class of 1972 is having their 50th reunion this year. That was his class and many outstanding citizens came out of that class. He is not saying he is one of them but there were a lot of them that came out of that class. September 30th is their reunion date at Anna's Restaurant and begins at 4:00 p.m. and will then move to the ballfield for the football game. When he graduated the gazebo at the duck pond was Guy Shrader's Texaco station. He would like to proclaim, and have a proclamation from council and the town, that September 30th be adopted as 'The Class of 1972 Day'. He discussed it with Mike Bedsaul. He believes in the future if any class has 50 years under their belt they need to proclaim a day for them. He believes it would show the town's appreciation to the town and the high school and to let the high school know they are putting out good people.

Councilman Mills said he guarantees they are putting out good people over there.

Councilman Goorskey said he believes they need to do this every year. This should also be advertised in the paper.

Councilmember Bowles said she knows Brian Bowles is planning a tour of the high school for the Class of 1972.

Councilman Mills made a motion to proclaim September 30th as the Narrows High School Class of 1972 Reunion Day. It will be advertised in the local paper and will be done for all future classes from Narrows High School when they have a 50th year reunion. Councilman Conley seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Councilman Conley said if the proclamation could be ready at the September 12th council meeting he would have a representative from the Class of 1972 in attendance to receive it.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Spangler said next is an update on employee participation in AirMedCare.

Terry Nicholson said he polled employees and more than 2/3 of them said they were interested, especially if the town was willing to pay half of it. He spoke with Debbie Thomas and they will take the employees portion out of one paycheck each year and their

half would be \$32.50 which the town will pay the other half which will equal \$65. For 30 employees that would be \$975 the town would pay.

Councilman Goorskey said when they do it that way the town retains the slot if the employee leaves.

Terry Nicholson said that is correct.

John Davis asked if members could be added throughout the year?

Terry Nicholson said yes.

Mayor Spangler said he believes all employees need to know if they're out of the area they may not be covered.

Terry Nicholson said some employees have taken initiative and contacted the sales representative themselves to ask questions.

Councilman Conley asked if each employee would be given a packet of information?

Terry Nicholson said yes.

Councilman Mills asked if the town would receive a contract?

Terry Nicholson said he didn't know how that would work but he will find out. This is a membership program.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve \$975 to be spent toward employee coverage through AirMedCare with the understanding that employees will match the \$975. Councilman Goorskey seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Mayor Spangler said the next item is the contract for water meter replacement.

Mike Bedsaul said they have reviewed the water meter contract with Fortiline and have prepared some suggested changes and sent those to John Davis, Terry Nicholson, and Susan Kidd to send on to Fortiline. The changes aren't that extensive and they weren't able to make the changes directly because the contract was sent in PDF format. They can make the changes if they are sent a Word copy of the agreement or if they would rather them be done as a special condition. In short, what he's asking council to do is to go ahead and make a motion to approve the Fortiline agreement to purchase the water meters subject to the suggested changes that are contained in the document. This would also include any federal inserts that are necessary. He believes they have all of the inserts they need but will contact Joy Rumley that is helping with the town's ARPA funds to make sure they have what they need. He doesn't believe Fortiline will have any trouble with the federal inserts but wants to make sure they have them.

John Davis said that contract has been forwarded to the contract manager with Fortiline.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the Fortiline agreement and authorize Town Manager Terry Nicholson to sign on behalf of the town subject to changes being made as well as the required inclusion of any federal inserts. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Terry Nicholson said the next three items are just items to be discussed. When they were talking about water meter replacement council had also discussed water meters being loaned to customers for filling swimming pools and possibly for pressure washing and things like that. He spoke with some of his friends that work in Radford to ask what they did in that instance. They sell the meters to the customer for around \$100 and it's then the

customer's responsibility to bring it in and get it read before and after filling a pool. This places the responsibility on the customer if they want the discount for not using their sewer. The other option would be to set some kind of limit and say if the usage is above 5,000 gallons they could loan them a meter to do that. They can discuss this at a future meeting. The structural engineering study for HVAC at the community center needs to be done. He spoke with Peed & Bortz and Thompson & Litton and found out Thompson & Litton is the only one that has structural engineering capability. They are supposed to get back with him this week with a ballpark idea of what it would cost to get that study done. He would like to recommend that they look at the whole building to see what it would cost to put HVAC in the whole building to make it more usable. They would then have two cost estimates: one for the gym and one for the whole building. They should be able to do the structural engineering study through Thompson & Litton with the retainer coverage and using ARPA funds and shouldn't have to put it out for bid. He ordered the signs for the duck pond and the park about not feeding the ducks. If a kiosk was installed the planning commission would have to approve that so he ordered basic 18" x 24" metal signs that say 'do not feed the ducks: scan this QR code to see why'. The QR code goes directly to the USDA and DWR website.

Councilman Turner asked if anyone had obtained a water meter just for pressure washing? He would like to know what the consumption of water is before they decide.

Terry Nicholson said that is why he suggested just selling the customer a water meter. He did some research and filling a 3' swimming pool would take 5,300 gallons.

Councilman Conley asked if a customer is allowed to purchase a water meter what would stop them from reselling it?

Terry Nicholson said that is a good question.

Mayor Spangler said he would guess the meter would have a serial number on it.

John Davis asked what it would matter if they resold it or let someone borrow it?

Councilman Goorskey said that probably wouldn't matter. What do they do with their current meters? Are they ever checked to see if they are accurate?

John Davis said no. They will have a surplus of meters pretty soon.

Councilman Goorskey said someone could purchase a meter and then tamper with it.

Terry Nicholson said no matter what process is put in place someone will figure a way to get around it. Someone could install it in their house and bring it to the office to be read.

Mayor Spangler asked if the meters have a garden hose hookup?

Terry Nicholson said yes.

Mayor Spangler asked what if someone puts it in line with their house and brings it in every month to be read?

Councilman Goorskey said the way it works currently is that when someone gets a water meter it is read before they take it and is read when they bring it back. If a customer purchases a meter they would have to bring it to the office before they use it so it could be read and bring it back when they're done to be read again. If the customer purchases their own there wouldn't be a large number of meters lying around. If he had a meter he could have it read at the beginning of summer, water his garden all summer, and bring it back in the fall to be read so the sewer amount could be deducted.

Debbie Thomas asked if a customer purchases a meter and moves out of town would the town buy it back?

Terry Nicholson said they could do that.

Councilman Conley asked if they purchase a meter could they loan it to someone else?

Councilman Goorskey said he didn't see why they couldn't because the meter will have a serial number on it.

Terry Nicholson said the town would track the serial number so they would know who it belonged to. Council doesn't have to decide on this tonight. He could get a copy of Radford's policies concerning this to see how they handle those kinds of things.

John Davis said the only thing that concerns him is that the customer would have the ability to take out their water meter and put the meter they purchased in its place for 10 days out of the month and change it back out. There is a tampering fee they could be charged.

Councilman Mills said staff can discuss this matter and bring back a recommendation at the October council meeting.

Mayor Spangler said he would like to thank Susan Kidd for her 9+ years working for the town. She has done a fantastic job and there are a lot of things that have taken place that wouldn't have without her. They are sorry to see her leave but hopes she enjoys her time with her grandchildren.

Councilman Goorskey made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters (Discussion of Town Manager Duties) (Discussion of New Position) (Sec. 2.2-3711.A.1). Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Councilman Conley 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. Councilman Mills seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Councilman Mills made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Conley seconded the motion.
Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey
Nays: None
Motion Carried 5-0

Clerk, Debbie Thomas

Mayor, Tom Spangler