

**Narrows Town Council Meeting
January 9, 2023**

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

Staff members present were Lindsey Caudill, John Davis, Cindy Laws, Terry Nicholson, Landon Patteson, Benji Ratcliffe, and Debbie Thomas.

Attorney present was Reid Broughton.

Councilman John Mills gave the invocation.

Council and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing

Mayor Spangler opened the public hearing concerning the deed of easement for Mill Creek Nature Park. He asked if there were any comments? Hearing no comments, he closed the public hearing.

Approval of November 14th and December 12th Meeting Minutes

Mayor Spangler said council is being asked to approve the November 14th and December 12th meeting minutes.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the November 14th and December 12th meeting minutes. Councilman Conley seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 3-0

Consent Agenda

Library Report

No comments.

Parks & Recreation Report

Mayor Spangler said he was glad to see the amount of money collected at the ice rink.

Police Report

No comments.

Financial Report/Treasurer's Report

No comments.

Town Manager's Report

Mayor Spangler asked if the additional water meters had been purchased.

Terry Nicholson said yes.

Mayor Spangler said it stated in Terry's report that Tasha Riddle will be taking over payroll and Lindsey Caudill will be taking over utility billing. He congratulated them both.

Public Works Director's Report

John Davis said by 5:00 p.m. today he received the leak loss for December, which was 37%. He believes a lot of it is because of the meter process and where they are right now.

There have been 994 meters installed as of today. They began installing the oversized meters last Wednesday and most of them are installed. They still have to install the ones at the elementary school and high school. The meter-installation project should be completed by the end of this month so hopefully meters can be read and bills mailed out in a timely manner. This process has been pretty hard on Tasha Riddle and the front office because of the installation of the new meters and having to get readings from the old and new meters. Tasha Riddle has done an exceptional job but it has been a headache for her.

Councilman Conley asked if the software issues had been addressed.

John Davis said yes. With the new meters came new software and it is more user friendly. Meter readings can be done in the office once all of the meters are installed.

Councilman Conley made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 3-0

Communications, Concerns and Requests from the Public

Mayor Spangler said the only item is to recognize Renee Tucker for the removal of ducks and geese.

Terry Nicholson said they will present a more formal recognition next month but he wanted to make council aware that this project has been mostly completed. Renee Tucker moved her timeline up because of the very cold weather and she did it on Christmas Eve. There is a thank-you note in council's packets and it states that Renee Tucker had, on her own, raised funds in order to cover the cost she was going to incur. There was money left over and she brought that to the town and asked it to be applied to someone's utility account that needed help and Tasha Riddle took care of that. This just proves what a special young lady she is, and she is only 13 years old. A certificate will be given to her next month.

Mayor Spangler said he would like to read the note from Renee Tucker:

To the Town of Narrows,

Thanks for allowing me to volunteer my time to help solve a problem. Below you will find a balance sheet from the volunteer work conducted.

Expenses

<i>Gas</i>	<i>27.75</i>
<i>Feed</i>	<i>20.00</i>
<i>Zip ties</i>	<i>3.00</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>50.75</i>

Earnings

<i>Donation</i>	<i>150.00</i>
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Balance

100.00

I would like to donate the balance of \$100.00 which is enclosed to pay the bill of a family in need this holiday season.

Happy Holidays,

Renee Tucker

Terry Nicholson said she has really impressed him.

Communications from Mayor and Council

Councilman Mills said the next PSA meeting is January 12, 2023.

New Business

Mayor Spangler said the only item is a water fountain/bottle filler for the rec center.

Terry Nicholson said Landon Patteson is out sick but they have been talking about putting water fountains back in the rec center. This was mentioned by a council member. During COVID, almost everyone removed their typical water fountains. Landon Patteson researched bottle fillers and they cost around \$1,000 each plus installation. In the town office and library, they have water coolers that are leased and only spend around \$200/year. This would be a better solution. This doesn't have to be approved but he wanted council to know what was happening.

Unfinished Business

None.

Matters for Consideration by Council

Mayor Spangler said council is being asked to approve the deed of easement for Mill Creek Nature Park.

Terry Nicholson said they spoke with Mike Bedsaul about this last month but since Mike is not in attendance he will try to answer any questions he can. This came about because of a grant the town applied for in order to put bathrooms at Mill Creek Nature Park. Bathrooms will be covered by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation which is a state agency under the Commonwealth of Virginia. In exchange for that, they asked to hold a deed of easement on the property that states the property stay in perpetuity as an outdoor recreation space. Terry Nicholson and Mike Bedsaul made sure the water tower that is on that property would be protected so they have a circle around the water tower where they can build anything they need to so the operation of the water tower can continue. They also created a building envelope around the parking area. There is a road that goes to the water tower that is close to the creek bed and the land in that area may potentially be developed in the future for picnic tables, shelters, etc. The only thing that can't be done is foresting the land. They can do maintenance for trails and remove diseased/dead trees.

Councilman Mills asked if there were any downsides to this deed of easement.

Terry Nicholson said the only thing is if the land is ever sold the deed of easement will have to go with it. The comprehensive plan states wanting to preserve the viewshed of the area of the Town of Narrows and half of the Town of Narrows, if not more, looks at that mountain so they are protecting our view.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the deed of easement for Mill Creek Nature Park. Councilman Conley seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 3-0

Councilman Conley made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters concerning the discussion of salaries (Sec. 2.2-3711.A.1). Councilman Mills seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 3-0

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

Ayes: Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 3-0

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 Mills made a motion to accept the certification. Councilman Conley seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 3-0

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

Ayes: Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 3-0

Clerk, Debbie Thomas

Mayor, Tom Spangler