

**Narrows Town Council Meeting
April 10, 2023**

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

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

Attorney present was Mike Bedsaul.

Councilman Bobby Lucas gave the invocation.

Council and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of March 13th and March 27th Meeting Minutes

Mayor Spangler said council is being asked to approve the March 13th and March 27th meeting minutes.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the March 13th and March 27th meeting minutes. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion.

Ayes: Lucas, Conley, Mills, and Goorskey

Abstain: Bowles

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Consent Agenda

Library Report

No comments.

Parks & Recreation Report

Councilmember Bowles asked when mulch would be placed in the park.

John Davis said it should be done before Kids' Fishing Day.

Councilman Goorskey asked what the hiring and interview process was on the open parks and rec position.

Terry Nicholson said they had a committee consisting of Sara Bowles, Landon Patteson, and himself. They will set up interviews this week. They had 6 applicants.

Councilman Goorskey said it made sense to break Lindsey Caudill's former position into 3 positions because that will help Landon Patteson.

Terry Nicholson said Lindsey Caudill is going to keep the town-sponsored events because the town will make money off of those. If parks and rec makes money off of it then a parks and rec coordinator will do it.

Police Report

Councilman Conley said he would like to thank Officer Reynolds and Officer Stilley for their work this past month especially on the drug arrests.

Financial Report/Treasurer's Report

No comments.

Town Manager's Report

Terry Nicholson said he spoke with Joe Fortier about Ms. Audre's lease arrangement and he confirmed that despite the letter that she received she was on a month-to-month lease and that would continue as long as she wants. She has been an excellent tenant and they want to keep her in that space.

Mayor Spangler said it was good to see the work being done on the outfitters building.

Public Works Director's Report

Mayor Spangler said his water bill is significantly less this month than it has been in the past. Are there any unusual happenings that may have caused this?

John Davis asked if he used less water.

Mayor Spangler said he may have.

John Davis told him to keep an eye on it.

Councilman Goorskey said what he sees on social media is that some people's water bills are less and some are more.

John Davis said the new meters are more accurate.

Councilman Goorskey said it seems to him that people need to reach out for help if their water bill is more than it has been.

John Davis said with the new software they can print a graph that shows the water someone has used on an hourly basis.

Councilman Conley said he would like to see a comparison chart from where they were before the new meters were installed to when the new meter installation was completed.

Terry Nicholson said he is tracking that and has gone back as far as 2016. They need to look at performance over time concerning the new water meters.

Councilman Conley asked if the leak-detection meters had been installed for the Wolf Creek side.

John Davis said everything has been put together and installed. The actual meter will be installed when they begin doing leak detection, which will probably be Thursday night.

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

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Communications, Concerns and Requests from the Public

Terry Nicholson said Joseph Wilkins sent an email to Tasha Riddle to request an adjustment on their utility bill for 3 months. They detected a leak in December 2022 and live in a home owned by an LLC. The leak was in a water line under the house and they couldn't get the landlord to fix it. It was eventually fixed and Tasha Riddle calculated what the adjustments would be for the bills for January (-54.69), February (-86.05). They've already paid those bills so these adjustments would give them a credit. Council is being asked to approve these adjustments for them.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the utility bill adjustments for Joseph Wilkins. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Communications from Mayor, Council, and Staff

04/10/2023

Councilman Mills said there is no PSA report as the meeting isn't until April 13th.

Councilmember Bowles said she wanted to talk about the flowers for this year. She reached out to Gore's to see how much they will be and he is supposed to get back to her. She is also trying to get sponsorship for the flowers.

Terry Nicholson said there is \$1,351 in the town beautification line item.

Councilmember Bowles said last year sponsors gave \$30 to sponsor a basket. She needs to check the coconut liners for the baskets to see if they need to be replaced. She also wants to see if she can get help watering the flowers.

Terry Nicholson said he was going to let council make the decision about watering the flowers. His hesitation in letting public works employees water the flowers is there is already a perception problem with public works and them watering flowers would be hard to defend. He spoke with Landon Patteson and they may get someone from parks and rec to water them. If council is ok with that then someone from parks and rec can water them. They probably need 2 employees to do this.

Council agreed it was fine to let someone from parks and rec water the flowers.

John Davis said the person that waters the flowers needs to have a reflective safety vest on.

Unfinished Business

Terry Nicholson said he gave council a handout containing murals and the cost for them from Samantha Doherty. They looked at the town-owned buildings and locations in the town park as top priorities. Samantha has some good ideas. Allen Neely said he would donate the scaffolding to work on the end of the building at the pocket park.

Councilman Mills asked what the bottom line was for all of this?

Terry Nicholson said \$3,500 would be the total cost which is reasonable.

Councilman Mills asked Terry Nicholson if he could find the money.

Terry Nicholson said yes. He would like for council to take the town beautification budget and amend that line item to add \$3,500.

Councilman Conley said he wanted to make sure all of the buildings where the murals would be placed were town-owned properties.

Terry Nicholson said all of the buildings were town-owned properties.

Councilman Goorskey made a motion to amend the agenda to include an amendment to the town beautification line item. Councilman Mills seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the amendment of \$3,500 to the town beautification line item. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Councilman Mills made a motion to amend the agenda to include the extension of a real estate agreement for the Mac Gallimore property. Councilman Goorskey seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

04/10/2023

Motion Carried 5-0

Matters for Consideration by Council

Mayor Spangler said he and Terry Nicholson attended a meeting with the Memorial Day Committee and they have 2 funds they draw from: the Memorial Day Committee Group and the Veteran's Park Fund. The money they collect for hot dog sales and things like that are split between the 2 funds. They were wondering if council would be willing to make a \$100 donation to each fund.

Councilman Mills made a motion for council to donate \$100 to the Memorial Day Committee and \$100 to the Veteran's Park Fund. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Mayor Spangler said council is being asked to approve future donations to the Giles County Christian Service Mission.

Terry Nicholson said he worded it that way because the town received a phone call from the Giles County Christian Service Mission. Last year council approved a \$500 donation to them and received a thank-you note from them. They sent another letter asking the town to commit to donating to them annually.

Councilman Conley said he thought it was a great idea to commit to an annual donation to the Giles County Christian Service Mission. They are sending requests out to all localities in the area for the commitment to an annual donation.

Councilman Lucas said he thought this was a great way to support the community.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the donation of \$500 annually to the Giles County Christian Service Mission. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Lucas, Bowles, Mills, and Goorskey

Abstain: Conley

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Mayor Spangler said Leisa Palmer and the board of the Giles Christian Service Mission have done a tremendous job in helping people in the community.

Mike Bedsaul said the purpose of the extension agreement is to extend the lease-purchase and purchase agreements that the town holds in relation to the Gallimore properties to give the town additional time to complete studies on the properties. These agreements provided for a six-month due diligence period and Mr. Gallimore was gracious enough to agree to an extension. Mr. Gallimore has already executed the agreement and now council is being asked to approve the agreement and to authorize Terry Nicholson to sign it on the town's behalf.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the extension of the lease-purchase and purchase agreements for the Gallimore property and to authorize Terry Nicholson to sign on the town's behalf.

Councilman Goorskey said concerning the upcoming budget meeting he had previously mentioned combining water billing with the treasurer's office and he has some more information on that. He has the full proposal as it stands today lying on his office desk but he hasn't been there in about 7 days. As soon as he gets the information, he will share that. They need to look at it and see if it's worth doing or not. They will need to know what the town spends on postage, card stock, collection efforts (third-party costs), costs for receiving money, and the time the utility billing clerk spends on those items. Those are the items that would potentially be off of our plate if it makes sense to do it. It may reduce the time the utility clerk spends on those things. He knows that Terry Nicholson has been looking for ways to plug people in differently.

Terry Nicholson said he hasn't seen the proposal so he needs to see that.

Councilman Goorskey said he knows that. They can find the town's information.

Terry Nicholson said if Councilman Goorskey can send him his information he can get the information he needs.

Councilman Conley said he would love to have that information in their packets for the next budget meeting.

Councilman Mills made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters concerning the resignation of an employee (Sec. 2.2-3711.A.1). Councilman Lucas seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

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

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

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

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Clerk, Debbie Thomas

Mayor, Tom Spangler