

**Narrows Town Council Meeting
September 11, 2023**

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

Staff members present were John Davis, Cindy Laws, Terry Nicholson, and Debbie Thomas.

Attorney Mike Bedsaul was present.

Mayor Tom Spangler gave the invocation. Councilman Mills asked that a moment of silence be given before the invocation to remember the events that happened on September 11, 2001.

Council and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of August 14th Meeting Minutes

**Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the August 14th 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

No comments.

Farmer's Market Report

No comments.

Police Report

Councilman Conley asked if the new police truck had been outfitted yet.

Terry Nicholson said it is being worked on now.

Financial Report/Treasurer's Report

No comments.

Town Manager's Report

No comments.

Public Works Director's Report

Councilman Mills said the water loss is increasing instead of decreasing. How can council help with that?

John Davis said he doesn't really know. They had several leaks in August and fixed a large portion of them. Most of the water lines in town are really old and need to be replaced. They perform leak detection as often as they can but they can't do it every day because they don't have the manpower.

Councilman Mills asked if it would help if they hired a company to help with leak detection. He will be attending the PSA meeting on Thursday and will ask them for help with leak detection if council wants him to.

Mayor Spangler asked if there was any equipment that could be purchased that would be beneficial.

John Davis said the town has some leak-detection equipment that will pick up any noise it hears. They have to wait until night so daytime noise isn't detected. It's hard to get a crew of 3-4 men to do leak detection at night because the next day there will be no coverage for utilities.

Councilman Conley said there are a lot of private companies that perform leak detection.

Councilman Mills said council knows the town has an antiquated system and a limited staff. There has to be a way to get some help with leak detection.

Terry Nicholson said they could look at bringing in a third-party company to help with leak detection. The town also has an asset-management plan being created by Thompson and Litton and the Virginia Office of Drinking Water is paying for it. This study is being done to prioritize the lines in town that need to be replaced.

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

None.

Communications from Mayor, Council, and Staff

Councilman Mills said they've had staffing issues with the PSA because of retirements and people being sick. They're having to compete for people with a CDL license so they voted to raise salaries from \$18/hour to \$23/hour. He asked Thompson and Litton if he could poll PSA members about the lead and copper pipe project and they had no issue with it. He asked Pembroke and they had already spent money with another company. The other members elected a committee, which he is a part of, and they wanted to go with Thompson and Litton. All but one member was on board with hiring Thompson and Litton. The regional approach to sewer sounds good until they start examining the cost. It boils down to Narrows and Pearisburg. He will always do what is best for Narrows.

Councilman Mills spoke with Councilman Goorskey and he's so busy and hasn't been able to attend any PSA meetings. He would like to see Terry Nicholson be appointed as the PSA alternate member since he already attends the meetings.

Councilman Conley made a motion to appoint Terry Nicholson as the alternate PSA member. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 3-0

Terry Nicholson said the banners that were ordered have been received and are being hung around town. They've been receiving some really positive feedback on them. He also just found out this afternoon that Sammi Dougherty is leaving the area so they will need to find someone else to do the murals on the train trestle.

John Davis said they should have the concrete poured for the pickle ball court by this Wednesday. It has to set for 30 days and they will then apply the final coating.

New Business

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

Matters for Consideration by Council

Terry Nicholson said the town applied for funding from SERCAP to perform a study to see what it would cost to operate the waste water plant as it is. They would also like to look at the regional ideas that have been talked about concerning waste water between Narrows and Pearisburg to build a new plant. The total funding would be \$40,000. He is asking council to approve the grant funding for the Thompson and Litton WWTP preliminary engineering report.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the grant funding for the Thompson and Litton WWTP preliminary engineering report. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 3-0

Terry Nicholson said council is being asked to approve the General Federation of Women's Club proclamation. This would declare September 30, 2023, as the National Day of Service.

Councilman Conley made a motion to approve the proclamation from the General Federation of Women's Club declaring September 30, 2023, as the National Day of Service. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 3-0

Terry Nicholson said the planning commission has been working with the New River Valley Regional Commission on the comprehensive plan and council now needs to schedule a public hearing to approve the comprehensive plan. This will be held at the October 11th, 2023, council meeting.

Terry Nicholson said there has been an ongoing project for electrical improvements at the waste water plant. It has been delayed because of the inability to get the parts to make the improvements. There is a mast head for the electrical service at the waste water plant that has broken and needs to be replaced. This change order will decrease the unencumbered amount of ARPA funds.

Mayor Spangler read thank-you notes from the Giles County Shelter, Inc. (The Hope House), Narrows Little League Football, the family of John E. Lafon, and Dianne Rhody-Scott.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the change order for electrical improvements to the waste water plant in the amount of \$4,097.11. Councilmember Bowles 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 the Gallimore project (Sec. 2.2.3711.A.3). Councilmember 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

09/11/2023

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 Conley made a motion to accept the certification. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 3-0

Councilman Mills made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 3-0

Clerk, Debbie Thomas

Mayor, Tom Spangler