

**Narrows Town Council Meeting
September 9, 2024**

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

Staff members present were Melissa Cohen, Terry Nicholson, Roger Shepherd, and Debbie Thomas.

Attorney Reid Broughton was present.

Mayor Tom Spangler gave the invocation.

Council and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of August 12th Meeting Minutes

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the August 12th meeting minutes. Councilman Hale seconded the motion.

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Consent Agenda

Library Report

Not available.

Parks & Recreation Report

No comments.

Farmers Market Report

Not available.

Police Report

Councilman Conley thanked Officer Melissa Cohen for attending tonight's council meeting.

Financial Report/Treasurer's Report

Councilman Conley said he had one comment on the treasurer's report. When you look at 'collections' and 'expenditures' this shows the town is going in the right direction because collections exceeded expenditures for the month. He also thanked Debbie Thomas for her accurate accounting.

Debbie Thomas said she wanted to give a shoutout to Tasha Riddle and Cherie Fenne. Lindsey Thompson is out on maternity leave and Tasha and Cherie have really stepped up to keep the office operating. This is another reason cross training is so important.

Councilman Mills said the town is the people, not the material things. He appreciates everything the town employees do.

Town Manager's Report

Terry Nicholson said in the spirit of what Debbie Thomas just said, and since there is no public works director's report tonight, he would like to echo that the town has a great team. The supervisors under the public works director have really stepped up. They are reporting directly to Terry now since John Davis is out. The pump station between Light's service station and River Ridge Dermatology has a bank that has been creeping toward the lid to the pump station and they

are working on fixing that. He will be bringing back a cost estimate to council next month. This will only be to fix the erosion.

Public Works Director's Report

Not available.

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

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Communications, Concerns and Requests from the Public

Karen Turner, Clyde Turner, and Elwood Lambert were in attendance to ask that council allow two park benches be placed in the pocket park in recognition of each class of the 1970's at Narrows High School.

Councilman Mills made a motion to allow two benches to be placed in the pocket park in recognition of each class of the 1970's at Narrows High School. Councilman Hale seconded the motion.

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Communications from Mayor, Council, and Staff

Councilman Mills said the next PSA meeting would be on September 12th.

Terry Nicholson said the town has received Police Chief Ratcliffe's truck and it is now being outfitted. The town will receive funds for the replacement of Police Chief Ratcliffe's truck and Melissa Cohen's vehicle and that should more than pay for the replacement of Police Chief Ratcliffe's truck. He has received two quotes for an automobile loan to replace Melissa Cohen's vehicle and the National Bank of Blacksburg had the lowest interest rate. The vehicle will have payments for four years at around \$1,300/month. The order is already in for the vehicle and the loan should be closed within the next week or so. Once the vehicle arrives it will be sent to be outfitted.

New Business

Councilman Mills said he is asking council to approve the PSA board member compensation change. The changes will be:

- \$100.00 per month for board members
- \$100.00 per month for alternate board members for months in which they vote at a meeting of the PSA board, or
- \$50.00 per month for alternate board members when they do not vote in a meeting

Councilman Conley made a motion to approve the PSA board member compensation change. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, and Conley

Abstain: Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 3-0

Terry Nicholson said council voted in a previous meeting to approve replacing gutters at the fire department. When the company began work they found that the fascia board was rotten. They gave a quote of \$2,600 to replace the fascia board and Terry Nicholson approved the change.

Councilmember Bowles said she has been approached by residents concerned about speeding on high school hill. They were asking if speed bumps could be put in but she did not know the

protocol for that but she is fairly certain signage can be placed in that area and some additional patrols by the police.

Terry Nicholson said he received a complaint about that at the beginning of this school year and he spoke with Police Chief Ratcliffe. The radar signs were put up for the first week of school which is what the person that approached him had suggested. Those signs can give them some data through an app that would tell how often someone exceeded the speed limit. Police Chief Ratcliffe also said they could increase patrols in that area during pick up and drop off times.

Councilmember Bowles said the question had arisen about installing speed bumps.

Terry Nicholson said he was fairly certain that road was town maintained so they could conceivably install those. They would have to let VDOT know they would be installing those.

Mayor Spangler asked if speed bumps could cause a problem with snow removal.

Terry Nicholson said yes.

Councilman Mills said it would cause a problem with certain vehicles. There definitely needs to be a presence in these areas. He would like to look at this closely. Speed bumps can be a double-edged sword.

Terry Nicholson said they could consider purchasing permanent signs to be installed in these areas that would show speeds and some of these signs also have photo-enforcement.

Roger Shepherd there are speed humps that can be installed that probably would not do as much damage to a vehicle.

Councilman Hale asked Reid Broughton if the town needed to advertise a warning if signs are placed in town.

Reid Broughton said he was not aware of any.

Unfinished Business

Terry Nicholson said they spoke briefly last month about the Virginia Avenue pump station replacement and at that time he had received one proposal for the replacement. It was decided at that time to put out an RFP for the work and Main Street Builders came in with the low bid. The cost will be \$30,395 to do all of the work. Mike Bedsaul created an agreement for this. This will be paid with ARPA funds.

Matters for Consideration by Council

Councilman Conley made a motion to approve the Virginia Avenue pump station proposal and authorize Terry Nicholson to sign the agreement. Councilman Mills seconded the motion.

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

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

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Clerk, Debbie Thomas

Mayor, Tom Spangler