

**Narrows Town Council Meeting
January 13, 2025**

Mayor Tom Spangler called the meeting to order. Council Members present were John Hale, Sara Bowles, Jonathan Creger, John Mills, and Joe Goorskey.

Staff members present were Melissa Cohen, John Davis, Cindy Laws, Jimmy Joe McCroskey, Terry Nicholson, Benji Ratcliffe, Chris Reynolds, Roger Shepherd, and Debbie Thomas.

Attorney Mike Bedsaul was present.

Councilman John Mills gave the invocation.

Council and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of December 9th Meeting Minutes

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the December 9th meeting minutes.

Councilman Hale seconded the motion.

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Creger, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Welcome

Mayor Spangler welcomed Councilman Jonathan Creger to town council and said he looked forward to working with him.

Recognition

Mayor Spangler presented Lieutenant Jimmy Joe McCroskey with a certificate of recognition to thank him for his service to the Town of Narrows from 2003 to 2025.

Police Chief Ratcliffe thanked Lieutenant McCroskey for his years of service to the town.

Lieutenant McCroskey said it had been an honor to work for the Narrows Police Department.

Public Hearing

Mayor Spangler opened the public hearing concerning the deed of easement for the Virginia Outdoors Foundation concerning the Webb property. Hearing no comments the public hearing was closed.

Consent Agenda

Library Report

Councilman Goorskey said it looked like the special events held at the library were well attended.

Parks & Recreation Report

No comments.

Farmers Market Report

A report will not be available until April 2025.

Police Report

Councilman Mills said the police department does an exemplary job.

Police Chief Ratcliffe commended Police Officer Melissa Cohen for the countless hours she spent on the HoHoHo Christmas Event this year.

Councilman Mills said he was glad to be a part of the event and recognized Melissa Cohen for all of her hard work.

Financial Report/Treasurer's Report

No comments.

Town Manager's Report

Councilman Hale said he had been party to a conversation that Terry Nicholson had with VDEM and FEMA concerning the waste water treatment plant. He was incredibly pleased with the manner in which that conversation occurred and the way Terry Nicholson presented himself in a professional and knowledgeable manner. He believes the conversation did not start out the way Terry Nicholson expected but he demonstrated an incredible amount of skill and managed it incredibly well and received a far better outcome than what was expected.

Terry Nicholson thanked Councilman Hale for his comments.

Councilman Mills said Terry Nicholson took care of business for the town.

Public Works Director's Report

Councilman Mills said he appreciated the public works department and thanked them for all they do.

Terry Nicholson said with the recent snow events the town had to scrape roads. Some of the employees on the street department were sick at that time so they had to pull employees from other departments. Those employees stepped up and scraped the roads.

Councilman Hale said council loves seeing the low water-loss percentages.

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

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Creger, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None

Motion Carried 5-0

Communications, Concerns and Requests from the Public

Emily Clem said when she looked at her 2024 real estate tax bill it showed an amount in the past-due column but she did not have a past due.

Terry Nicholson said the town is aware of the issue and the problem will be resolved on the 2025 tax tickets.

Communications from Mayor, Council, and Staff

Councilman Mills said at the last PSA meeting Richard McCoy stepped down as the chairperson and Todd Meredith took his place. Colin Munsey is the vice-chair and a longtime member. There was a discussion concerning the treasurer's office doing the billing for the PSA. The PSA members requested a yearly report on collections by the treasurer's office and have found some difficulties. The PSA was presented a location for the convenience center that is now located on Lurich Road. The new location would be at the intersection of Route 460 and State Line Road on property the Perdue family owns.

Terry Nicholson said the reason the PSA wants to relocate the current convenience site is because it is in a floodplain and have had several losses at that site during flood events. When the site is moved, the funds the PSA pays to the town for the lease will stop. The PSA will have a Phase I environmental study done at the current site when they move to the new site. If any concerns are raised with the Phase I study a Phase II study would be done and if there are any

concerns after that then remediation efforts would be done. All of this would be paid by the PSA, which is outlined in the original lease agreement.

(Councilmember Bowles left the meeting)

Terry Nicholson said they are waiting on the electrician that will be doing the temporary installation of the variable speed drives to run the two motors for the blowers in the digesters at the waste water plant. It should be scheduled in the next week or so.

Terry Nicholson said he and Councilman John Mills met with Mac Gallimore's family. Ed Gallimore and Mac Gallimore, before Mac Gallimore passed away, proposed that the town go ahead and purchase the property outright. The reason the town was delaying that and doing lease payments was to help him and he ultimately said to go ahead and get it done. The family still wants to do that and are now working on cleaning the property out and hope to have this done by the end of February. The town has the funding available with the National Bank of Blacksburg and this will be closed once the property is cleaned out.

Councilman Mills thanked Terry Nicholson for the way he handled this and for working with the family.

Mike Bedsaul said someone needs to qualify as a personal representative of Mac Gallimore's estate so they can execute the documents. The family is aware of this.

Terry Nicholson said after the last council meeting that had Jason Buckland in attendance they talked about having Mike Bedsaul, Joe Goorskey, and Terry Nicholson to meet with the regional football league. Jason Buckland sent an email the day after that meeting to tell the league they would work out a meeting, and the league wanted to wait until after the holidays, which they did. Terry Nicholson had the opportunity to talk to a former coworker of his at Blacksburg, Dean Crane, who is the Director of Parks and Recreation and is also involved in that league. After speaking with him, he believes they can come to a resolution. Police Chief Ratcliffe's brother Danny Ratcliffe is the person that is over that league in Pearisburg and has offered to come and speak with Terry Nicholson to give him some background.

Councilman Goorskey wanted to recognize Fire Chief Elwood Lambert concerning a fire at his home earlier this month.

Elwood Lambert said they have some equipment (16 breathing apparatuses) that were deemed obsolete due to the manufacturer discontinuing the equipment. The fire department purchased six new units on their own with money they had saved. The house fire on Hopkins Street contaminated some of their equipment. The fire department had an insurance policy on their gear and equipment and that policy will be paying for six breathing apparatuses and six complete sets of turnout gear. Next month they will hopefully have all new gear for each fire department member.

New Business

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

Matters for Consideration by Council

Mayor Spangler said council was being asked to approve the Deed of Easement for the Webb property.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve and accept the form of the deed from the Webb's to the town for the property, approve the proposed deed of easement from the Town of Narrows to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and to authorize Terry Nicholson to execute both of the documents on the town's behalf. Councilman Hale seconded the motion.

Ayes: Hale, Creger, Mills, and Goorskey

Nays: None
Motion Carried 4-0

Audre Roberts said the handicapped parking spots in front of her business could have been cleaned better when the town was scraping snow recently. It seemed there was no foresight.

Terry Nicholson said the roads have to be cleaned first, before crews can get to the sidewalks.

Councilman Goorskey said he understands her concern but does not understand the insulting tone saying town employees did not use common sense. Some areas in town are still not plowed.

Audre Roberts apologized for her comment.

Councilman Mills made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Hale seconded the motion.
Ayes: Hale, Creger, Mills, and Goorskey
Nays: None
Motion Carried 4-0

Clerk, Debbie Thomas

Mayor, Tom Spangler