

**Narrows Town Council Meeting
June 16, 2025**

Mayor Tom Spangler called the meeting to order. Council members present were John Hale, Sara Bowles (attending remotely), Jonathan Creger (attending remotely), and John Mills.

Staff members present were Terry Nicholson and Debbie Thomas

Attorney Mike Bedsaul was present.

Councilman John Mills gave the invocation.

Council and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Creger said he just finished an electric service change in Newport and was not able to make it to the meeting on time so he was calling in remotely.

Councilmember Bowles said she was attending remotely because she was on vacation with her family.

Communications from the Mayor, Council, and Staff

Terry Nicholson said the PSA did approve their budget at the last meeting and they included in that rate increases for solid waste but there were no rate increases for the water side.

Mayor Spangler said Terry Nicholson had some information on a grant that the town received.

Terry Nicholson said he was very happy to report that the town received the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Recreational Trails Program Grant for \$120,000 to do the improvements to Mill Creek Park. This was the same situation as that EPA grant where the federal funding was not approved yet but they did fully expect the funding to be approved and then the town would actually receive the funding.

Councilman Hale thanked Terry Nicholson for his help with that and thanked council members for their agreement to the match, which was required as part of the grant, and without that match they did not have anything.

Terry Nicholson said the next steps would be for DCR to come out and do a site visit, and beginning to work with the town to prepare for the project itself. It would still be several months before the town actually got to start anything, but that was good news.

Councilman Mills made a motion to amend the agenda to add an item to the executive session for the discussion of a new planning commission member. Councilman Hale seconded the motion.

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Creger, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Councilman Mills made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel (consider appointment of new council member and the discussion of new planning commission member), Sec. 2.2.3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia. Councilman Hale seconded the motion.

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Creger, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Councilman Mills made a motion to return to open session. Councilman Hale seconded the motion.

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Creger, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

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 Hale seconded the motion.

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Creger, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Councilman Mills made a motion to appoint Alicia Lane to council to replace Joe Goorskey until a special election could be held. Councilman Hale seconded the motion.

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Creger, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Matters for Consideration by Council

Councilman Hale made a motion to approve the FY26 budget as proposed. Councilman Mills seconded the motion.

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Creger, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Terry Nicholson said he wanted to let Jonathan Creger know that the town received one proposal today for the outfitters building. Jonathan Creger and John Hale had said they would be willing to work with him to review those, but because they only received one proposal Terry said he was going to proceed with negotiating with them.

Councilman Hale asked Terry Nicholson if he was able to provide any insight in terms of the term that he would try to arrange for.

Terry Nicholson said Mike Bedsaul had put that in as part of the RFP. It was basically a year-long agreement with the idea that it would develop to be a multi-year lease. The town would commit to a year and then they could renew that lease over the course of the coming years.

Councilman Hale asked who the owner of this property was.

Terry Nicholson said the town was the owner, and under the grant agreement, we had to stay the owner of the property for 10 years from the start of ownership and we are two years in now.

Councilman Hale said he had heard the comments Mayor Spangler shared with Terry Nicholson about some potential concerns from citizens about use of the property and his view was that until they knew they had an issue, he was happy to proceed down the path that they were on, and was anxious to see that property utilized. He was as hopeful for this business as he was for the floral business and any other business in this community. He asked about term though, because he wondered about the monthly lease amount and he understood the town was not collecting any tax revenue on that property.

Terry Nicholson said the town would get the business license tax, but the building belonged to the town and the town did not pay tax on it.

Councilman Hale said but presumably this business would be successful and the town would have the opportunity to re-evaluate the monthly lease payment annually.

Councilman Creger asked Terry Nicholson if the potential tenant was the guy that trained dogs.

Terry Nicholson said yes.

Mayor Spangler said they were already operating in the community and there seemed to be no problems with it.

Mayor Spangler asked if there was any additional information on the house on Wolf Street since last week.

Mike Bedsaul said yes. He followed up with John Hale after his question last week. Sands Anderson had already filed the petition with the court to advance that matter, and it had been served at this point on both parties, both the county as well as the owner. They had a period of time that they had to respond and that was not up yet, although it was very close.

Terry Nicholson said he did speak to the county about that to make sure they were aware why the town had served them.

Mike Bedsaul said they knew that and doubted they would even respond.

Terry Nicholson said they were not going to respond because they wanted the town to have it too.

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

Ayes: Hale, Bowles, Creger, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Clerk, Debbie Thomas

Mayor, Tom Spangler