

**MINUTES**  
**PURCELLVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023, 6:00 PM**  
**TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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Meeting video can be found at the following link: <https://purcellvilleva.new.swagit.com/videos/229517>

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Stanley Milan, Mary Jane Williams (*remote due to medical*), Carol Luke (*remote due to personal matter/travel for work*), Mary Bennett, Erin Rayner, Vice Mayor Christopher Bertaut

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ron Rise Jr.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Interim Town Manager Glen Adams, Director of Administration Hooper McCann, Director of Engineering, Planning & Economic Development Dale Lehnig, Town Attorney John Cafferky, Director of Public Works Jason Didawick, Director of Human Resources Sharon Rauch, Police Department Chief Cynthia McAlister, Deputy Chief Dave Dailey, Finance Director Liz Krens, Assistant Finance Director Connie LeMarr, Parks and Recreation Division Manager Amie Ware, Financial Analyst Linda Jackson, GIS Coordinator Andrea Broshkevitch, Executive Assistant/Town Clerk Diana Hays

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Milan called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a.     **Approval of Meeting Minutes-April 11, 2023**
- b.     **Approval of Meeting Minutes-April 24, 2023 Special**
- c.     **Approval of Meeting Minutes-April 25, 2023 Special**
- d.     **Approval of Meeting Minutes-April 26, 2023 Special**
- e.     **Approval of Meeting Minutes- May 1, 2023**

Council member Rayner moved that the Town Council approve the consent agenda item 5a-e. as presented in the May 9, 2023 Town Council Meeting agenda packet.

**(Carried: 6-0-1 absent,** Rayner: Aye, Bennett: Aye, Bertaut: Aye, Rise: Absent, Luke: Aye, Williams: Aye; Milan: Aye)

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Mitchell Seipt, 260 E. King James Street, talked about Governance, spoke in favour of 5% COLA for staff, stipends increase for committee members while trying to decrease COLA for

staff, and encouraged Council to move the Rt. 7/690 Interchange project forward.

Barbara Lucas, 17435 Alldershot Place, believes Rt. 7/287 is congested and makes it difficult to exit the Kingsbridge neighbourhood and supported the Rt. 7/690 Interchange project.

Beverly Chiasson, 110 N. 28<sup>th</sup> Street, (*comments read into record*), support for the Rt. 7/690 Interchange and noted the times Mayor Fraser and Mayor Milan have talked about supporting the project and spoke for approving the recommended COLA and salary increase for staff.

Kate Goddard, 217 Grassy Ridge Terrace, supported the 5% COLA increase for staff, addressed the previous comments about the poverty mindset in an affluent town.

John Lehr, 824 Woodbine Court and business owner at 198B N. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, requested Council listen to all of the citizens in town, the need for the water and sewer rates increase, support for town staff and the Rt. 7/690 interchange and the importance for keeping the Tabernacle open in the summer.

David Milam, 122 Amalfi Court, commended staff for professionalism and staff, supported 5% COLA and 4% merit on salary, how staff has saved the town money on projects and introduced David Broder, SEIU President.

Ken Beckstrom, 150 Amalfi Court, welcomed the Interim Town Manager, thanked the new Council members for their willingness to help and support for Town staff.

Casey Chapman, 125 Hirst Road, talked about civility amongst Council, citizens and staff, supports the 5% COLA for staff by putting the burden on the businesses and citizens, supports a merit program and the identity theft protection provided by the town to staff, and supports the Rt. 7/690 four-ramp interchange to better support the traffic needs of the community.

Brian, 601 W. Main Street, referenced the resignation of John Anzivino on April 11<sup>th</sup> due to a surprise amendment by a Council member to support the cut of a cost of living increase for staff, the ability to afford an increase to stipends for Town Council by reducing the staff's COLA by 1% and thanked those Council members who rejected the items and feels the values and strategy are not in line with the town.

Daniel Carvill, 224 Aspley Terrace, talked about paying the town staff or someone else will, the deteriorating budget and increase in rates, and asked Council to find a compromise in supporting the 5% COLA, the support needed by the Purcellville Police Department.

David Broder, 9770 Oleander Avenue, President of SEIU Virginia 512, spoke in support of COLA's and real raises for employees and talked about the increases adopted by surrounding jurisdictions, noted every jurisdiction in Northern VA all thought their public employees should have the right to bargain a contract as employees as well as 47 other states and requested Council look at allowing the staff to have these rights.

Brian Morgan, 608 Greysands Lane, welcomed Mr. Adams and thanked him for his comments at the PBA Luncheon, needed business revenue, attracting businesses that citizens want, elected Council members that aren't up for the job, taking staffs recommendations seriously on how to accomplish goals, pay staff correctly, the need for the Route 7/690 interchange and the need for an economic development plan that addresses today.

### **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Council member Williams clarified a false article in the newspaper regarding Civility Training that she attended but did not arrange it, and talked about the importance of the Tabernacle staying open under emergency procurement, and stated she would not approve a budget that does not include the 5% COLA for staff and at least a 2% pay for performance with a midyear review to consider the additional 2%, and does not agree with asking for a stipend increase for Town Council, and the need to make the utility funds self-sustainable. Council member Williams added she is for the 6.5% and 9% increases as advertised.

Council member Luke had no comments.

Council member Rayner welcomed the new Town Manager, thanked Parks and Recreation and the Arts Council for the Music and Arts Festival, recognized the police department for National Police Week, recognized the sound and lean proposed budget, the revenue problem and will not approve a budget that lowers the COLA for employees and removes the pay for performance as they do not eliminate the need for rate changes, will not approve a budget that includes a raise for committees and will not accept a budget that removes credit monitoring for staff. Council member is in favour of raising rates to the proposed 6.5% and 9.5% which equates to approximately \$16.00 per month per resident.

Council member Bennett had no comments.

Vice Mayor Bertaut thanked staff for the Music and Arts Festival. Vice Mayor Bertaut referenced an angry citizen opposed to lowering staff's COLA. He added that this is the second year in a row where double digit increases have been proposed and the economy is uncertain. Vice Mayor Bertaut added that many cuts have been made at major employers in recent weeks. Vice Mayor Bertaut referenced the Baker Tilly compensation study from 2019 and the town has made great strides making jobs at the Town pay comparable to other jurisdictions in this region. Vice Mayor Bertaut referenced an elected County representative brought lunch for the staff presumably because they would otherwise starve and in doing so, drove past the affordable housing apartment complex where many hourly service employees live, and suggested he leave the gaslighting to the pros in the future. Referenced criticism about relationship with County and have no reason to apologize for not having been informed by the town of the existence of several county applications for an entire year, and talked about the work Council has put in. Vice Mayor Bertaut added the County ignored requests about the late-night field lighting, and added that old data was used for the Route 7/690 interchange project and that no studies performed by the County show no net benefit to the town, with or without the eastbound offramp. Requested staff come up with significant cuts to operations costs for more room for COLA, and talked about the

former proposed water and sewer increases by Stantec, and talked about the upcoming balloon payment that cannot be relied on to be paid by the taxpayers.

Mayor Milan thanked staff and Parks and Recreation for the Music and Arts festival, the police department for their actions earlier this week, pay rates in large jurisdictions who have more rate payers, water rates, cost of living increase for staff and the savings be used to hire additional staff, the project that has been on the books for 12 years and invited the developer along with the businesses on 21<sup>st</sup> Street meet to discuss the future of that development, the importance of the need for developing businesses, hiring of grant writer to offset some of the funding, the potential of getting an economic development person, the inaccurate information heard this evening, updates to town policies to govern staff and operations, and added there is a lot of progress made benefitting the town and citizens do not see it because they don't understand what is going on in the background, but will see it in the future.

**ACTION:**

**a. Emergency Procurement, Bush Tabernacle Concession Services**

Glen Adams, Interim Town Manager, gave the report and recommended Council move forward with emergency procurement of the concessions service with Purcellville Teen Center, Inc. the subcontractor that operates the Bush Tabernacle for Shaun Alexander Enterprises, through the end of March 2024, per the timeline established by the Bush Tabernacle work group. It is anticipated that new contract should be awarded in November 2023 with a transition period lasting through March 2024.

Discussion took place about the town serving as the operator of the facility as well as the RFP process being expedited. The current contractor would not accept the contract if it were not extended through March because of overhead requirements. Chief McAlister talked about the Tabernacle being a safe place for kids to go to skate, play games, etc. and spoke in favor of keeping the Tabernacle open. Mayor Milan clarified Council is trying to determine the length of time Mr. Message will maintain the facility and the time it takes to get the RFP out.

The Vice Mayor inquired why the period for issuance and review of the RFP is awarded by September 30 and by November 15. The Town Manager clarified the intent of the current contract is to pay the cost of the overhead during the lean summer months and get the costs reimbursed over the winter season, and is not willing to continue if it doesn't go through that period.

Vice Mayor Bertaut made a motion that Town Council ratify the emergency procurement of the existing concession contract for the Bush Tabernacle and allow the Bush Tabernacle Work Group move forward with the RFP with a new contract to be awarded by November 2023 and a transition period ending by March 2024.

Mayor Milan made a friendly amendment that a draft RFP be in hand by June 15, 2023. Vice Mayor Bertaut accepted the friendly amendment.

**(Carried: 6-0-1 absent, Rayner: Aye, Bennett: Aye, Bertaut: Aye, Rise: Absent, Luke: Aye, Williams: Aye; Milan: Aye)**

Mayor Milan made a motion that the Town Manager seek other options for the Town to manage the Tabernacle, what's involved with managing the Tabernacle and the time during this transition from now until March 31, 2024 to come up with a solution for that possibility.

Mr. Adams stated in order to meet both of those would need a decision back from the Council end of August/early September whether they will issue the RFP to still meet the timeline.

**(Carried: 6-0-1 absent, Rayner: Aye, Bennett: Aye, Bertaut: Aye, Rise: Absent, Luke: Aye, Williams: Aye; Milan: Aye)**

#### **DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S):**

##### **a. Route 7/690 Interchange Update**

Dale Lehnig stated it is staff's recommendation that Council support the construction of the 7/690 interchange and the Town Council set the date for public hearing for the vacation of the flood plain easement. Further, town staff recommends the acceptance of drainage easements as requested by Loudoun County.

Andrea Broshkevitch reviewed the easements being requested and Dale Lehnig explained the purpose of the project. Mayor Milan requested more information on the "hold harmless" clause. Andrea Broshkevitch noted that clause is in every Deed of Easement the town does. Mayor Milan requested to know exactly what the clause means. Staff will provide requirements for scheduling the public hearing.

##### **b. General Budget Discussion, if needed**

Vice Mayor Bertaut requested department heads provide any additional possible budget cuts to Council.

##### **c. Future Town Council Meetings and Agenda Items**

Mr. Adams reviewed upcoming meetings and agenda items as provided in the agenda packet. Mr. Adams talked about a joint meeting with Town Council and the EDAC to discuss the 21<sup>st</sup> Street project and would report back to Council with a proposed date for the meeting. Mayor Milan requested the downtown businesses be invited to the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business, Vice Mayor Bertaut made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM.

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Stanley J. Milan Sr., Mayor

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Diana Hays, Town Clerk