

MINUTES
PURCELLVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING/WORK
SESSION MARCH 24, 2020, 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting of the Purcellville Town Council convened at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers with the following in attendance:

PRESENT: Kwasi Fraser, Mayor
Tip Stinnette, Vice Mayor
Nedim Ogelman, Council member (Arrived 7:05 PM)
Ted Greenly, Council member
Joel Grewe, Council member

PRESENT VIA REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

Chris Bledsoe, Council member (Go To Meeting 7:04 PM and had difficulty at 11:00 PM)

ABSENT: Ryan Cool, Council member

STAFF: David Mekarski, Town Manager
Sally Hankins, Town Attorney
Cynthia McAlister, Chief of Police Department
Liz Krens, Director of Finance
Diana Hays, Town Clerk/Executive Assistant
Kimberly Bandy, Deputy Clerk

STAFF PRESENT VIA REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

Hooper McCann, Director of Administration
Dale Lehnig, Manager of Capital Engineering

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fraser called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. He stated that there was a quorum present.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL

Vice Mayor Stinnette made the following amendments to the agenda referencing them in relation to COVID-19 by moving 6 items already on the agenda and adding one item.

- 5a (old 11c) Action: Ratifying Town Manager as Director of Emergency Management
- 5b (old 11d) Action: Ratifying Declaration of Local Emergency
- 5c (old 11e) Action: Ratifying Emergency Order Establishing Continuity of Operations
- 5d (new) Discussion: Implementation of Latest Commonwealth Directives
- 5e (old 10d) Discussion: Services and Relief for Town Citizens (Communications)
- 5f(old 10c) Discussion: Relief for Local Businesses
- 5g (new) Discussion: Staff Continuity of Operations and Priorities

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS AMENDED SEQUENCE

a. Ratifying the Town Manager as Director of Emergency Management (Action)

David Mekarski, Town Manager, summarized the Resolution set forth and introduced Sally Hankins, Town Attorney, to explain in more detail. Ms. Hankins stated Resolution 20-03-01 confirms that the Town Manager is the Town's Director of Emergency Management as the statutes require us to name the Town Manager that person, this person would perform all functions as authorized under the statute in states of emergency and also authorizes the Town Manager to designate someone to act in his stead if he were to become unable to act. The final "Be it Resolved" paragraph simply gives him authority to exercise all emergency powers. There is a separate ordinance before you tonight that explains what those powers are in addition to whatever powers are given under state code.

Council member Grewe made a motion that the Purcellville Town Council adopt Resolution 20-03-01 confirming the Town Manager as Director of Emergency Management and assigning his duties; authorizing the Town Manager to designate someone to act in his stead should he be unable to act. Vice Mayor Stinnette seconded the motion.

Council member Greenly commented on the "Be it Further" resolved section, wanting to clarify the end date. Ms. Hankins stated it is during the State of Emergency. Vice Mayor Stinnette pointed out that Ms. Hankins had shared a red line of the ordinance in which Council member Grewe assisted with, where it does have a termination date. Council member Grewe confirmed that this motion essentially puts David Mekarski into this official role of Director of Emergency Management.

Council member Ogelman commented to be in support and also would like further time to review.

Motion:	Council member Grewe
Second:	Vice Mayor Stinnette
Carried:	6-0-1 absent

Cool:	Absent
Greenly:	Aye
Grewe:	Aye
Stinnette:	Aye
Bledsoe:	Aye
Ogelman:	Aye
Mayor:	Aye

b. Ratifying the Declaration of Local Emergency(Action)

Vice Mayor Stinnette made a motion that the Town Council confirm and ratify the Declaration of Local Emergency issued by the Town Manager on March 16, 2020, made necessary by COVID-19 with the following amendment to the last “Be It Further Resolved” line to stipulate language that is consistent with the ordinance that will be reviewed and adopted this evening specifically that this Resolution will terminate when the Town Council takes affirmative action to terminate it or no later than six months after the Local Emergency.

Council member Ogelman commented to be in support and also would like further time to review.

Motion:	Vice Mayor Stinnette
Second:	Council member Greenly
Carried:	5-0-1 absent and 1 abstention

Cool:	Absent
Greenly:	Aye
Grewe:	Aye
Stinnette:	Aye
Bledsoe:	Abstain
Ogelman:	Aye
Mayor:	Aye

c. **Ratifying Emergency Order Establishing Continuity of Operations (Action)**
No action is taken.

David Mekarski, Town Manager, explained the importance of this ordinance and the need for this to be adopted to have the authorization to have no interruptions in water and sewage, procurement, general operations, etc. to provide service to the citizens and businesses in the town.

Sally Hankins suggested adopting this ordinance at a later date with edits and further review.

Council member Grewe agreed and stated that with any ordinance it is reviewed and discussed and later a vote is taken.

Vice Mayor Stinnette questioned Ms. Hankins if there is already an emergency powers ordinance on record and Ms. Hankins replied with a no. He continued that two resolutions have been passed and without this ordinance there is no operating limitations to go along with the resolutions. Sally Hankins replied that is partially correct, there are state statutes that would expressly provide some emergency powers direction for the Director of Emergency. Vice Mayor Stinnette commented for the record to capture that this ordinance follows already implemented state statutes and is giving those powers and not much more.

Council member Ogelman proposed the question of a succession plan. Ms. Hankins stated the town does not have a succession plan in place and is willing to provide a written summary of the state statute which is very general for Council to review. Council member Ogelman further commented that he is uncomfortable with the current ordinance and that it is incorrect to refer to

the cause of the ongoing pandemic as the coronavirus because there are many coronaviruses. So it should state COVID-19 or SARS-CoV-2 and not just Coronavirus. He also stated agreement to have more checks and balances and to have a succession plan on record whether it be for an emergency or not. A further discussion clarified appointments versus successors being stated in the ordinance.

Mayor Fraser confirmed that this ordinance will be reviewed, edited, and additions made and be included in the next meeting.

Sally Hankins referenced putting an advertisement in the paper with an updated ordinance to run April 3 for possibly a vote the April 8th Special Meeting and run April 10 for possibly a vote at the April 14th Meeting. Council member Grewe commented that this should be done in the April 8th Meeting because of the emergency situation. Council member Ogelman disagreed and to take more time. Council member Greenly would like it done sooner than later. Vice Mayor Stinnette is convinced that Council member Ogelman has skimmed the document and is convinced if he reads it he would be more agreeable and he also stated that Ms. Hankins had already spent a considerable amount of time on the document that also included on how we go forth with conducting our future meetings. Council member Bledsoe agreed that less time would be suffice to review the information. Council member Ogelman disagreed with Vice Mayor Stinnette.

Mayor Fraser stated to reference the ordinance in two weeks and if it is not ready to push it to three weeks at the following meeting to take a vote.

d. Implementation of Latest Commonwealth Directives

David Mekarski, Town Manager, explained that the new directive by the Governor primarily pertains to the closure of nonessential businesses and conveys authority to police and public safety to uphold and enforce this directive. Chief Cynthia McAlister is introduced to further explain. She stated that her staff is armed with paper copies of the directive to share with the public as well as her attempt to email all businesses without a set group email list. Chief has contacted PBA to obtain a list. Her continued approach is looking for voluntary compliance and stated that most businesses are aware of the Governor's directive.

Vice Mayor Stinnette specifically questioned the handling of the Farmer's Market. Chief responds that EDAC is working with that group and sited they are being treated like a distillery which is take out or delivery type business.

Council member Bledsoe expressed his gratitude to the Chief and Town Manager for being on top of this situation and Mayor Fraser agreed.

Council member Grewe also appreciated the work of the Chief and staff. He questioned the rumors of the current orders and what is next. Chief responded that everyone is ramping up their responses and being cautious of the health of their employees and especially in healthcare and public safety with providing protective gear. The state received a shipment today of gear that is farmed to the medical field first and she is waiting to see what the ration would be for public safety. The staff here is in fair supply of protective gear and only showing a shortage of

thermometers to uphold the new protocol of taking temperatures before reporting to duty for the time being.

Council member Ogelman stated if the Town could ask Makersmith to help produce face masks. Mayor Fraser commented that he planned on making a statement that Makersmith already has committed to making 1000 facemasks from 3D printers for Loudoun County and surrounding area. Council member Ogelman continued comment on distilleries repurposing and also clothes designers repurposing to make other types of facemasks.

Chief McAlister is working through the Office of Emergency Management to get supplies and there is a company in Salem to provide those supplies and she recommended to further work with that office.

e. Services and Relief for Town Citizens-COVID-19 / Communications(oral discussion)

David Mekarski has released a series of press releases with indication to homeowners that no water shut offs would occur and to waive penalties as well as willingness to provide payment plans. In regards to other taxes, under Council direction, to consider deferring some of those payments and for any other local taxes. Meals tax is not a source of income for local restaurants and is a trust (tax) that is paid by customers frequenting that establishment and conveyed in trust to the town. He encouraged Council not to waive the meals tax because it is a source of \$3 million income for the town, but to have an incentive to pay in a timely manner and then to reduce it by 5% discount and waive any late fees. Considering it's a second source of income for the town we will experience a deficit in our projected revenue which could be \$250k to \$800K this fiscal year before July 1 and could see possibly 50-75% reduction for next fiscal year from this current COVID-19 status which could be \$1.5 – 2 million. Federal government has consideration amount of relief for small business, large businesses, and relief for our citizens this will be circulated by press release, our webpage, and any other modes of communication that can be thought of.

Mayor Fraser confirmed this statement and confirmed the termination date being at the end of this state of emergency.

Council member Greenly commented that the citizens of this municipality have demonstrated that they do pay their bills with an excellent rate on tax and utility bills in comparison with other municipalities.

Vice Mayor Stinnette redirected the discussion to be about citizens and to later discuss business relief. He commented on the red button Corona Virus-19 on the front of the Town webpage has not been updated and the dissemination and posting of information. David Mekarski comments that this is being worked on with Hooper McCann, Director of Administration, by repurposing Parks and Recreation Staff to organize and update the information coming from the town and the latest news. Mayor Fraser asked if this could be seen as earliest as tomorrow. Chief McAlister commented that she will organize the talent in a meeting tomorrow to address this project.

Council member Grewe commended staff on the sequence and tempo of rapid distribution of information and then it coinciding with Facebook and would like it further distributed in a manner

from the town webpage.

Council member Ogelman returned to the conversation on meals tax and made comment if those establishments go out of business there will be no source for collection of this tax and wanted clarification on no penalties for not collecting. Liz Krens, Director of Finance, commented that this meal tax situation needs to be further researched with the state code stating that has to be a fault of the taxpayer such as a medical/illness excuse as a reason that they could not pay this tax. Ms. Krens offered to share the opinion from the Virginia Treasurer Association on this topic and its' determination. Sally Hankins is not prepared to have this conversation and will send out an email and layout what the law says and the consequences of violating the law. Council member Ogelman stated that push back needs to happen with the state government on this matter.

Mayor Fraser summarized that Sally Hankins and Liz Krens will be preparing and providing more data on meals tax for Council to review.

f. Relief for Local Businesses - COVID-19 (oral discussion)

Vice Mayor Stinnette bridged the two topics of citizen and business relief by raising questions on further handling the meals tax. He questioned the authority to raise the meal tax and also to eliminate the tax. Sally Hankins confirmed. A discussion of local legislation being passed to do this for a period of time going forward to provide relief to businesses and citizens for a short time period. Mayor Fraser commented that this would be a Meal Tax Holiday for a definitive time period. Sally Hankins stated setting the meal tax to zero would be done by a written and adopted ordinance and not be retroactive. Mayor Fraser questioned Mr. Mekarski about making the case of the COVID-19 circumstances to reduce the meals tax and not collect on what the town was entitled. Mr. Mekarski is unable to clearly answer that at this time without further research and this may fall under FEMA and stimulus bill and meals tax is not initially for the use of the business owner.

Mayor Fraser opened the floor for Council comments. Council member Greenly stated quick math on it being not a loss of the regular budgeted collection because of the businesses taking in less because of COVID-19 and is in favor of the holiday. Council member Grewe concurred with Council member Greenly and added further comment to collect on already what has been taken and suspend going forward. Council member Bledsoe agreed with Council member Grewe and commented trying to figure the actual impact going forward would be difficult and hard to see the impact, but agreed with the meal tax holiday and it sends a good faith message.

Mayor Fraser requested that Council member Ogelman make a motion. Sally Hankins, Town Attorney, stated confirmation on the motion and how it is to be handled. She stated that any ordinance needs to be advertised with a public hearing under our town code and this would be an oral ordinance and also be under emergency circumstances, but since the earlier ordinance was not voted upon, but holds a retroactive date of March 16, this evenings' meal tax ordinance could apply to the months of April and May. To be creative and progressive the adoption of the meals tax ordinance could be done tonight, and which negates the need for a public hearing, and then at the next meeting vote on the earlier ordinance. Vice Mayor reiterates to pass a motion this evening directing staff to go forward with release of the meals tax and then come back on the 8th of April with the earlier ordinance change back dated allowing this process without a public hearing

for this ordinance. Sally Hankins further commented to caution on the statute being to continue with government operations and that is open to interpretation. She requested the next ordinance number that is available (Ordinance 20-03-02) for the Meals Tax Ordinance. David Mekarski commented that this ordinance would impact the general fund by approximately \$80K over two months. Council member Ogelman made the point with estimating, that is, if these businesses fold the revenue would be \$0.

Added motion of Meal Tax Holiday

Council member Ogelman made a motion that Purcellville Town Council adopt Ordinance 20-03-02 and the Town Council eliminate the meals tax for the months of April and May 2020 after which the meals tax would return to its' prior rate of 5%. Vice Mayor Stinnette seconded the motion.

Council member Grewe commented that Jefferson would be pleased on how government moves forward efficiently and Council member Grewe would have trouble with this ordinance if at the next meeting the Emergency Powers Act is not passed and is said to operate in this way, but is willing to go forward if it is handled in this manner.

Council member Grewe also made a side comment that he has heard back from the PBA in light of the earlier conversation with the Chief and they are willing to help in any manner to distribute this or any information through a list of the businesses.

Council member Ogelman stated that this is not something trivial and we shouldn't minimize its relevance to the businesses. It could make the difference on whether they can stay in business or not and it is relevant for what it says about our town government. Council member Grewe agreed and does not make light of this.

Mayor Fraser referred to this Meal Tax Holiday being discussed a few weeks ago and has received confirmation on this being bold to assist the Town of Purcellville in this present environment and thanks Staff and Council for making this step.

Motion:	Council member Ogelman
Second:	Vice Mayor Stinnette
Carried:	6-0-1 absent

Cool:	Absent
Greenly:	Aye
Grewe:	Aye
Stinnette:	Aye
Bledsoe:	Aye
Ogelman:	Aye
Mayor:	Aye

Added motion of Relief from Nonpayment of Water and Sewer Bills

A discussion surfaces in regards to penalties relief from nonpayment of water and sewer bills and then a motion is made from the floor.

Council member Grewe made a motion from the floor to direct staff to start as of April 1st to suspend penalties for nonpayment issues relative to water and sewer as Town services effective the duration of the emergency. Council member Greenly second the motion.

Motion:	Council member Grewe
Second:	Council member Greenly
Carried:	6-0-1 absent

Cool:	Absent
Greenly:	Aye
Grewe:	Aye
Stinnette:	Aye
Bledsoe:	Aye
Ogelman:	Aye
Mayor:	Aye

g. Staff Continuity of Operations and Priorities

David Mekarski stated that he is working with each department on continuity of service while maximizing social distance and minimizing contact with the public. Teleworking has been introduced and put in place as well as rotating shifts. Maintenance and Water/Sewer operators cannot work from home, but staggering shifts to prevent co-mingling, three days on then three days off, and if there is a quarantine needed because of exposure to COVID-19 that the goal being to only impact a single shift. General Maintenance staff is being taken off general duties and shadowing with operators at plants to continue running those services as well as looking into returning retirees, engaging mutual aid, and other options. He stated that he is formally withdrawing recommendations in raising said taxes from his earlier budget message and goes into further details sighting the actual numbers affiliated with tax increases from previous released messages and Public Hearing advertisements. He is also regrouping with the management team in presenting budget amendments and outlining rationale for FY2021 budgetary requests to be brought before council at the April 8th Special Meeting in hopes to close the budget that evening as COVID-19 has taken priority as well as put a hold on the Comp Plan critical path and consulting road blocks. The zoning ordinance would also be put on hold because of the status of the Comp Plan. The Recreation Master Plan has also been put on hold with the restraint on public gatherings. After the presentations this evening from Stantec and Davenport the town structural stability is at hand and recommended adopting a 10 year plan for water/sewer operations. There is still a plan to go forward with RFP for future revenue of opening a new cell tower.

Mayor Fraser opened for Council comments with a time restraint of 2 minutes each.

Council member Ogelman stated that Town Council during the Lazaro administration adopted lesser R3 setbacks for R2, which reduced the space between houses that contributed to the character of the town. He proposed a motion to return the R2 setbacks to their original pre-Lazaro setbacks.

Vice Mayor Stinnette summarized remarks made by Mr. Mekarski. He stated there are managed work schedules of all departments to ensure maximizing telework, staggering shift schedules, and allowing employees to take care of their children now that school is out. There is enough bandwidth to complete the FY21 Budget under current conditions. There is more time needed for the Comp Plan which will finish out the 90 day extension that began on March 4th and then ask for an additional 90 days from that point.

Council member Grewe stated that council will be open to helping Mr. Mekarski in any way and confirmed that Mr. Mekarski was withdrawing the proposed tax increases.

Council member Bledsoe has no comment other than thanking David Mekarski for a job well done.

Mayor Fraser requested that David Mekarski offer an explanation of the Comp Plan being held up from the consultant as well as staff regarding the maps. Vice Mayor Stinnette commented that the redline version made ready by the consultant which was shared with council does not reflect the substantive changes and there is disconnect between staff and the consultant.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes - October 28, 2019 Special Meeting Budget Work Session

Council member Grewe made the motion to approve the consent agenda item 5a as presented in the March 24, 2020 Town Council Meeting Work Session agenda packet. The motion was seconded by Council member Greenly.

Council member Ogelman stated he would approve, but it is left open to make edits.

Motion:	Council member Grewe
Second:	Council member Greenly
Carried:	6-0-1 absent

Cool:	Absent
Greenly:	Aye
Grewe:	Aye
Stinnette:	Aye
Bledsoe:	Aye
Ogelman:	Aye
Mayor:	Aye

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

Citizens were given the opportunity to provide comments on either Public Hearing by participating

in a GoTo meeting call.

a. Town Manager's Proposed Real Property Tax Increase (effective 01.01.2020)

Mayor Fraser opened the public hearing at 9:05 PM and stated the reason for the public hearing. There were no citizens signed up to speak. David Mekarski opens the staff presentation with the comment on the state of emergency with COVID-19 events it is no longer business as usual. The plan is no longer to increase taxes and with this in mind the plan now is to return to Council on April 8th with a revised budget document.

Vice Mayor Stinnette stated that this public hearing is merely a formality and there will be no increase to real estate tax in the budget.

Council member Bledsoe stated there is no change in the tax rate and this is still an opportunity for public comments to hold this public hearing. The budget with amendments is still to be proposed by staff to council and will be voted on by council in the near future.

Mayor Fraser stated there are no further comments and closed the public hearing at 9:13 PM.

b. Town Manager's Proposed Tax Increase in the Fireman's Field Service Tax Rate District (effective 01.01.2020)

Mayor Fraser opened the public hearing at 9:13 PM and stated the reason for the public hearing. There were no citizens signed up to speak. David Mekarski opens the staff presentation with the comment on the state of emergency with COVID-19 events it is no longer business as usual like stated in the earlier public hearing. This tax increase was initially proposed to ensure the Town's commitment to Loudoun County Parks and Recreation to maintain the capital infrastructure with a costs estimation. There is no substitution or proposal for this objective at this time and is being re-examined and quite possibly there will be a need to ask the county to defer our commitment this year in light of what the community and governance will be facing. The recommendation is to withdraw this tax increase.

Council member Ogelman stated his opinion is to alleviate tax burden on our citizens for this and find another way of funding this project.

Mayor Fraser stated there are no further comments and closed the public hearing at 9:18 PM.

PRESENTATION(S)

a. RFP Results for Refunding of Tax-Exempt General Obligation Refunding Bond, Series 2020A and Series 2020B (Davenport)

Kyle Laux, Davenport Representative, stated to Council on referencing conversations from February on interest rates being at a low and the opportunity to refinance for debt service

savings \$14 million dollars of existing town debt and the goal of doing that would be to reduce the interest rates on those outstanding obligations (loans for purpose of discussion) in the hope of savings of \$800,000-900,000 in savings. After going through the process of competitively bidding with banking institutions, what is presented before you tonight would be actually be a result of \$2 million of savings with the ability to repay the loans without penalty in the future. Bond council is on the line this evening and has brought forth drafted resolutions for council adoption. This is an important demonstration of how strong credit ratings are so important. He begins to walk council through the slide presentation of refinancing two bonds; one on a tax exempt basis and another initially on a tax basis as well as the next steps to take with deadlines. *(Presentation on file at the Clerk's office)*

Mayor Fraser stated a question pertaining to the 2017 refinancing that an IRS restriction was removed at that time on the amount of revenue the town can gain on certain properties, by virtue of accepting these new terms tonight are any of those restrictions returning with Kyle Laux commenting "no". Mayor Fraser then opens for council comments.

Council member Greenly stated that Davenport has been excellent partners for the town and questions if anyone on staff actually saw all other nine proposals. Kyle Laux confirmed staff did see other proposals.

Council member Ogelman stated this is a no brainer and stated that in all this current chaos in the world it is nice to see opportunities.

Council member Bledsoe has no comment.

Council member Grewe stated there seems to be agreement across Council and would like to not prolong the discussion further.

Sally Hankins stated a question on the prepayment and the flexibility that is preserved, usually flexibility comes with a price, so of the other proposals of prepayment that were presented did any of them remove that flexibility and if so were their rate savings better. Kyle Laux does confirm that there were other proposals with lower rates that did not offer to prepay into the future and our sense is with amount of uncertainty in the short run of managing your budget through the next 6-12 months will be challenging as well as the long run especially with respect with the sewer fund and utility fund that flexibility will be important. Ms. Hankins continued question on what type of flexibility would be valued when the interest rate is less than 2%. Mr. Laux answered to keep in mind what path you are on with utilities it could be any variety of things; the need for cash flows, rate structure, more creativity with partnerships with utility system, etc. and the flexibility will be needed.

Council member Ogelman made a motion that the Town Council adopt Resolution 20-03-03 and Resolution 20-03-04 in order to authorize and direct execution of the refinancing of the 2013A/2013B bonds and 2012A bond for interest rate savings. Vice Mayor Stinnette seconded the motion.

Council member Grewe clarifies that there was a jump on the agenda to go to action on this item.

Motion: Council member Ogelman
Second: Vice Mayor Stinnette
Carried: 6-0-1 absent

Cool: Absent
Greenly: Aye
Grewe: Aye
Stinnette: Aye
Bledsoe: Aye
Ogelman: Aye
Mayor: Aye

David Mekarski, Town Manager, requests that Kyle Laux, Davenport, briefly discuss his thoughts on looking into a flexible line of credit with the short term for cash flow purposes for the town while the interest rates are at a low during this pandemic. Council discussed more details and agreed for staff to go forward with further research on this with Davenport.

b. Long-term Fiscal & Debt Planning-GF2030 (Davenport & Stantec)

David Mekarski stated that the management team has been working on models with Stantec and collaboration with Davenport as part of the budget planning to reach structural balance under the new water methodology recently adopted and to reserve high fund balances. Mr. Mekarski introduces David Hyder and Kyle Stevens to start the presentation. *(Presentation is on file with the Clerk's office)*

During the presentation, several questions were asked and conversations took place.

Mayor Fraser stated that the message was clear from council on how they feel.

Council member Grewe stated that this topic has been reviewed over and over since May 2019 and sees reduction through models in water bill and sewer rate and has taken a year and a half to get there. He stated there is a commitment from Council to try and relieve rate pain, but there is little seen progress in all the pursued ideas. There is coming a time for Council to say they tried and it didn't work after staff time, council time, and resources are exhausted. He comments that it is not necessarily the Town Manager's ten year plan, which might be a good idea and not the right idea, but possibly a one year plan and thereafter continue year after to year to hunt for new avenues for relief.

Council member Ogelman is not convinced that Council has done all hands on deck and it will go down to a deciding factor of four members.

Vice Mayor Stinnette requested Sally Hankins to study the language on Nutrient Credits for better understanding on the project.

Vice Mayor Stinnette agreed with Council member Ogelman and Council member Grewe and also agreed that there is a need for a ten year plan. He suggested to focus on rate increases for 2021 and take that rate increase over a ten year period and figure out where the town will be structurally short and then that becomes a ten year plan and we have decision points over those years where decisions need to be made and bring this to the budget meeting on the 8th. David Mekarski commented that Stantec could run with a straight line of raising both water and sewer rates 5% year after year.

Council member Greenly extended a thank you to Mr. Mekarski and staff on all their work and does understand these are different rate scenarios and recommendations only.

Mayor Fraser returned to the conversation with Sally Hankins on Nutrient Credits. He understood the interpretation to be that there is an allowance where you could have a public/private partnership where a third party would lease the land from the town, develop their own credit, and based on their return on investment they could give a portion back to the town which was the original intent from Acre. Ms. Hankins confirmed that it would not be a town project, but just leasing the land and allowing another to do it. Vice Mayor Stinnette shared this is the point he was trying to make earlier.

Mayor Fraser thanked David Mekarski and knows it is difficult work and as 7 elected officials Council tries to represent 10,500 citizens of the community the best that they can, and please don't take any of this personal.

David Mekarski stated he appreciated that acknowledgement of the hard work and he's be happy to run additional models on the 8th.

CITIZEN/BUSINESS COMMENTS

Citizens were given the opportunity to provide comments by participating in a GoTo meeting call.

None.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Fraser moved to Council comments.

Council member Grewe began by requesting everyone to support local businesses and help those in need. Respect social distancing and learn the lessons of history. He mentioned absentee voting sign up was made available for the upcoming election. Two weeks ago the world had shifted and Loudoun County supply chain relies on Purcellville and we do make an impact. He commended Tree of Life and other outreach. He stated he appreciates Mr. Mekarski and staff with their response to COVID-19. Council member Grewe stated that the Police Department handled a situation with coughing kids at local grocery and posts to social media which made the news and was investigated by police staff. It was found there was no criminal intent, but persuaded parents to monitor their children and explain why this was wrong. He reminded there is a curfew for minors.

Council member Grewe thanked the Chief and police staff regarding this situation and also an investigation that was done on comments that were raised at the last Council meeting by Council members that seemed to be a private dispute. The said charges were investigated and the report was sent back to Council. Council member Grewe stated that the Chief's report included no crime or intimidation or foul against statute was committed, it was just a disagreement. Council member Grewe requested the comments be included as part of the record and are on file in the Clerk's office. He ended his comments and stated that the Safest City Report was issued and Purcellville was voted Safest City in Virginia 2020.

Vice Mayor Stinnette requested that David Mekarski and Sally Hankins relay to the staff his apologies for his comment of "Staff's skin in the game." and that it was a poor choice of words. What he meant to convey was that staff has a financial responsibility to the town and they all do have that. He wanted to be on the record for thanking staff for all that they have done and will continue to do. Vice Mayor Stinnette made two points that he is certain this (pandemic) will not soon be over and we will not survive it as a community without the dedication and commitment from David and his staff.

Vice Mayor Stinnette questioned Ms. Hankins if council is not able to adopt an ordinance on the 8th, we should come up with Operating Guidelines or Standard Operating Procedures that we can agree on. Ms. Hankins agrees. He stated that there are terms to consider EQ (Emotional Quotient) and IQ (Intelligence Quotient) and ourselves as well as others may not be rational, but still their thoughts and concerns are valid. This is where you rely on your EQ with more of a compassionate and understanding approach not just by following an institutional process.

Council member Greenly thanked David and staff for all their work and to support our local businesses as much as possible.

Council member Bledsoe had no comment.

Council member Ogelman wanted to respond to two items. He responded to the intimidation remarks. He continued to provide more detail on the situation he had remarked on at an earlier meeting. Council member Ogelman had consulted with the citizen, restated to the citizen what he would say at the last meeting, and made adjustments reflecting exactly what the citizen wanted. He stands by what he conveyed from what the citizen told him. In regards to the "skin in the game" term, he said he believes in it and he means it when he says it, and if he could try harder, work harder he would want to be encouraged to do so. He did not apologize for using that term and he would not want staff or anyone else to think it was meant to be used negatively.

Mayor Fraser commented on our new normal and being at war. The community needs to be strong and staff to be strong and the work to be strong. Scott Harris of the distilling company has moved their production to be for sanitizers and Makersmith is also making contributions. Mayor Fraser reminds everyone to wash hands and keep distancing. Be vigilant on how we conduct meetings and lastly we all need to be strong and finished his statement with a poem.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. **Update on American Disposal** (*Removed by amendment during meeting*)
- b. **Update on Water Tower Project** (*Removed by amendment during meeting*)

ACTION ITEM(S)

- a. **Refinancing of Existing Debt for Interest Rate Savings** (information forthcoming in supplemental agenda) – (*Vote was done earlier in meeting*)
- b. **Shared Parking Agreement - 21st Street**

Council member Grewe made a motion that the Town Council approve the 5-year license agreement between the Town and Western Loudoun Development, LLC, effective April 1, 2020, under which users of the Train Station may continue to utilize the parking lot located at 198 N. 21st Street, Purcellville, adjacent to Magnolia's restaurant. Council member Greenly seconded the motion.

Motion:	Council member Grewe
Second:	Council member Greenly
Carried:	5-0-2 absent

Cool:	Absent
Greenly:	Aye
Grewe:	Aye
Stinnette:	Aye
Bledsoe:	Absent
Ogelman:	Aye
Mayor:	Aye

Council member Bledsoe remained in the GoTo meeting, but his vote could not be heard due to technical difficulties and was considered absent during the vote.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Vice Mayor Stinnette made a motion to adjourn at 11:21 PM. The motion was seconded by Council member Grewe and carried 5-0-2 absent.

Council member Bledsoe remained in the GoTo meeting, but his vote could not be heard due to technical difficulties and was considered absent during the vote.

Kwasi A. Fraser, Mayor

Kimberly Bandy, Deputy Town Clerk