

REGULAR MEETING

August 24, 2010

At a regular meeting held this evening at 7:00 p.m., there were present: Mayor Kai Degner; City Manager Kurt Hodgen; City Attorney Earl Q. Thumma, Jr.; Vice-Mayor Richard A. Baugh; Council Members David Wiens, Carolyn W. Frank and Ted Byrd; City Clerk Yvonne “Bonnie” Ryan, MMC; and Chief of Police Donald Harper.

Vice-Mayor Baugh gave the invocation, and Mayor Degner led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Layman introduced Wes Riddle, a participant and a volunteer in the First Tee Program. Wes gave an invitation to Council Members for the First Tee Annual Par 3 Tournament at Heritage Oaks Golf Course on Saturday, August 28, 2010.

Bucky Berry suggested a study to be done on false alarms in the City. He suggested charging fees for those false alarms to help revenue for the City.

Council Member Frank offered a motion to approve the consent agenda, including approval of the minutes and the second reading of supplemental appropriations for the Police Department and amending and re-enacting Section 7-3-81 and enacting Section 7-4-1 of the Harrisonburg City Code. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wiens and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Byrd
Council Member Wiens
Vice-Mayor Baugh
Council Member Frank
Mayor Degner

Absent – None

Zenaida Hall, Marketing Coordinator, of the Harrisonburg’s Visitor’s Center presented the following resolution for Council’s consideration of approval:

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF VIRGINIA BYWAYS AND NATIONAL BYWAYS DESIGNATION FOR THE WILDERNESS ROAD

WHEREAS: From 1775-1810 an estimated 300,000 settlers traveled through Virginia to the Cumberland Gap. This migration and western movement is a significant point of Virginia history and to the development of the United States of America. Today, an estimated 43 million Americans can trace their ancestors to the migration through Virginia along the Wilderness Road: Virginia’s Heritage Migration Route; and

WHEREAS: The historical migration of early settlers and pioneers to Virginia followed closely to what is now Route 11, 58 and 23 from Winchester to Cumberland Gap

(including the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail – Route 58 from Moccasin Gap to Cumberland Gap), but also followed other “spur” migration routes such as the Carolina Road along Route 220 and the Fincastle Turnpike along Routes 42,61,19,460, 65/71 and 72; and

WHEREAS: These migration routes are now being developed as driving routes/trails to preserve, interpret and promote the history, heritage and culture of the early pioneer settlement and migration through Virginia, and the role that Virginia played in the migration of settlers through Virginia and to other states of our nation; and

WHEREAS: The Wilderness Road organization has been formed as a recognized non-profit organization under the leadership and guidance of the Virginia Tourism Corporation, in partnership with tourism representatives from 28 tourism localities and 12 state/federal partners, to develop and promote the driving route of the Wilderness Road: Virginia’s Heritage Migration Route, and spurs known as The Carolina Road, and The Fincastle/Cumberland Gap Turnpike, connecting with the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail, and individual community loops for each locality; and

WHEREAS: The mission of the Wilderness Road organization is to develop a new tourism product to increase economic growth, and tourism spending in the region. The purpose of the organization is to promote *The Wilderness Road: Virginia’s Heritage Migration Route* from Winchester to Cumberland Gap in a way that preserves and interprets the heritage of the migration era from the 1700s to the mid 1800s, to increase tourism visitation and economic impact of tourism spending; and

WHEREAS: The Commonwealth of Virginia has recognized the driving route as *The Wilderness Road: Virginia’s Heritage Migration Route*, which shall not affect any other designation heretofore or hereafter applied to this route or any portions thereof; and

WHEREAS: There are more than 2,700 miles of roads designated as Virginia Byways, to help attract visitors and support economic development through tourism, and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC), the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), encourages local governments to nominate roads for Virginia Byway designation; and

WHEREAS: The United States Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads (including multi-state) as All-American Roads or National Scenic Byways based on one or more archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities, with the Wilderness Road: Virginia’s Heritage Migration Route, (including the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail), and applicable spurs known as The Carolina Road, and The Fincastle/Cumberland Gap Turnpike include each of these intrinsic qualities: and

WHEREAS: The National Scenic Byways Program is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and the program is a grass-roots collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS: Since 1992, the National Scenic Byways Program has provided funding for almost 1500 state and nationally designated byway projects in 48 states.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Harrisonburg expresses its support to the Virginia Department of Transportation and the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia to provide Virginia Byway designation of the Wilderness Road: Virginia's Heritage Migration Route (including the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail), and the Fincastle Turnpike and Carolina Road spur routes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council expresses its support to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and United States Secretary for National Byway Designation of the Wilderness Road: Virginia's Heritage Migration Route (including the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail) , and the spur Fincastle Turnpike and Carolina Road routes.

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council fully supports the efforts of the Wilderness Road organization to develop and promote the Wilderness Road: Virginia's Heritage Migration Route (including the Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail), and the spur Fincastle Turnpike and Carolina Road routes, as Virginia Byway(s) and National Scenic Byway(s).

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2010

BY: _____

Kai Degner, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Yvonne H. Ryan, MMC, City Clerk

Council Member Frank offered a motion to approve the Virginia Byways and National Byways Designation for the Wilderness Road Resolution. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wiens and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Byrd
Council Member Wiens
Vice-Mayor Baugh
Council Member Frank
Mayor Degner

Absent – None

Drew Williams, Assistant Public Works Director, presented an update on plans that McCormick Taylor, our consulting engineer has prepared for widening Reservoir Street between University Boulevard and the South City Limits. This project has been identified in both the City's 2004 Comprehensive Plan and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). At the July 22, 2008, Council presentation, staff presented a summary of the design plans and the results of two public involvement meetings held earlier in the year. Council approved the conceptual alignment at that time to widen Reservoir Street to five lanes, with major utility relocations, and inclusion of bicycle/pedestrian facilities. Since that time, engineering work has continued and staff recognized a need to add a dedicated right turn lane on Reservoir Street at

Neff Avenue. Staff has met with these affected property owners whom have agreed conceptually to this alteration. Additionally, staff recognized the benefit associated with constructing a raised median with turn lanes/crossovers at certain intersections. Access management would provide a safer facility that should maintain the long-term integrity of Reservoir Street from a traffic capacity standpoint. Public Works is proposing a two phase approach to the project. First phase would involve University Boulevard (South Bound) to the intersection at Woodland Drive. Second phase would be the balance of the remaining roadway, due to congestion on the roadway.

Vice-Mayor Baugh offered a motion to approve the endorsement of the City's Major Street Plan to include the right of way plans for Reservoir Street Widening Project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wiens and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Byrd
Council Member Wiens
Vice-Mayor Baugh
Council Member Frank
Mayor Degner

Absent – None

Council Member Wiens requested that City Council consider establishing a committee that would focus on coming up with recommendations on how to improve the financial performance of the golf course. The committee concept has received the endorsement of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. After discussion, the Mayor would like something in a form of a Resolution brought to the next meeting to establish a temporary committee for the Heritage Oaks Golf Course Study. After a Resolution has been adopted and the committee officially established citizens will have a chance to apply or be nominated for the Committee.

Yvonne Ryan, City Clerk, MMC, brought attention to the Mayor and Council that an item needed to be addressed in tonight's meeting even though it wasn't on the agenda. Mayor Degner approved the opportunity for Mr. and Mrs. Dan Halling to speak under Other Matters on the agenda. Dan and Allison Halling, citizens at 1207 South Dogwood Drive, came tonight thinking their issue had been placed on the agenda, when arriving they had found out that it wasn't. Mr. Dan Halling explained that their well and septic system had failed and they need to connect to the City's water and sewer. When speaking to their attorney and other personnel at the City they learned that they needed Council's approval to obtain an easement to run through Hillandale Park to connect with the City's water supply. Mr. Dan Halling is requesting an easement for their private water line that would run through Hillandale Park. It was pointed out that the City Manager is unable to grant an easement without Council's approval.

Council Member Byrd offered a motion to grant the private water line easement upon the approval of City Manager Hodgen. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wiens and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Byrd
Council Member Wiens
Vice-Mayor Baugh
Council Member Frank
Mayor Degner

Absent – None

Council Member Wiens made a motion that Grant Holsinger be appointed to replace Aaron Smith-Walter as an alternate for Reggie Smith on the MPO TAC Committee. The motion was seconded by Council Member Frank and approved with a unanimous voice vote.

At 8:05 p.m., there being no further business and on motion adopted, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR