



MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 8, 2010
Town Office, 10 W. Marshall Street
6:00 PM



PENDING APPROVAL

PRESENT: Mayor Betsy A. Davis
Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk
Councilmember Trowbridge Littleton
Councilmember Catherine "Bundles" Murdock
Councilmember Lisa Patterson
Councilmember Kathy Jo Shea
Councilmember Mark T. Snyder

STAFF: Jerry M. Schiro, Town Administrator
Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk
Elizabeth D. Whiting, Town Attorney
David M. Beniamino, AICP, Town Planner
Debbie J. Wheeler, Town Treasurer
Steven L. Webber, Chief of Police

ABSENT: Councilmember Judith Pryor Plescow

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2010 in the Town Hall Council Chambers, located at 10 W. Marshall Street. Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She led Council and those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Snyder moved, seconded by Councilmember Littleton, that Council approve the March 11, 2010 Regular Meeting minutes and the March 24, 2010 Work Session Meeting minutes as amended.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Kirk, Littleton, Murdock, Patterson, Shea and Snyder
No – N/A
Abstain: N/A
Absent: Councilmember Plescow
(Mayor Davis did not vote as there was no tie to require her vote)

Staff Reports

Town Administrator Schiro reported that the public hearing notices have been published for the proposed real estate and utility rate increases.

Town Administrator Schiro advised Council that the Town had experienced problems with bulk brush being placed at the curb; and, reported that there have been approximately twenty instances of this in the town. He noted that some localities offered a day for brush collection; and, suggested that Middleburg could notify the public and collect what was on the street. Mr. Schiro

advised that this would be done through the use of contractors; and, expressed his opinion that it could be done inexpensively. Councilmember Snyder expressed his belief that the Town's trash contractor, CSI, had been collecting yard waste. Town Administrator Schiro explained that they would only collect it if it was properly bundled. Councilmember Murdock expressed her opinion that years ago, CSI used to collect yard waste on certain days of the week; and, advised that anything could be placed out for collection. She suggested the residents did not know what to do with their yard waste. Ms. Murdock reiterated that the Town had a system years ago that went away. She suggested the need to tell the public what they should do with their yard waste. Town Administrator Schiro suggested the Town could start picking up what was out now and notify the public of the collection procedures. Vice Mayor Kirk agreed with the need to clarify the procedures for yard waste collection for the public. She noted that she always thought it had to be contained. Councilmember Snyder noted that he did not know the rules himself; and, advised that his front yard was "a mess" due to weather that got to a Magnolia tree. Mayor Davis recommended the yard waste collection procedures be included in the next newsletter. She agreed the Town should pick up the existing debris if the cost was reasonable. Town Administrator Schiro confirmed it was. Mayor Davis reiterated her suggestion that an article be written for the next newsletter.

Councilmember Murdock asked how often the yard waste collections would occur. Town Administrator Schiro advised Council that his experience was that the bulk yard waste collections were held once a year in the spring. Councilmember Murdock asked how residents would dispose of their leaves in the fall. Councilmember Snyder reminded Council that if the yard waste was properly bagged, CSI would pick it up. Vice Mayor Kirk noted that they would also take sticks if they were properly bundled. Town Administrator Schiro reminded Council that the bundles should be no more than four feet in length. Mayor Davis noted that they should weigh no more than fifty pounds. Vice Mayor Kirk expressed her opinion that there would be some residents who would not bundle it correctly.

Councilmember Shea reminded Council of Earth Day, which was scheduled for April 22nd; and, suggested the yard waste collection be held in conjunction with that event.

Councilmember Murdock suggested a spring pick-up in which the yard waste was recycled, as opposed to being placed in the trash. Town Administrator Schiro reminded Council that CSI separated the yard waste; and, ground it into mulch. He reported that if the Town collected it, it would take the debris to the pump station. Councilmember Murdock asked whether CSI turned the yard waste into mulch. Councilmember Shea reported that they place the yard waste in with the regular trash. She noted that she watched them place it in the garbage truck earlier in the week. Ms. Shea advised that this week, the recycling truck came early and the yard waste was placed in the garbage truck. Vice Mayor Kirk noted that CSI separated the debris on their site. Town Administrator Schiro explained that CSI operated a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) where it separated recycling. He suggested it was not in their best interest to co-mingle it with the trash; and, explained that CSI made a profit from the recycled items as there was a market for them. Mayor Davis asked that the staff check to make sure that CSI was collecting the yard waste separately. Councilmember Murdock suggested this defeated the purpose of recycling.

Mayor Davis asked whether the Council was in agreement that the Town should collect what was already out. Councilmember Shea agreed she was. Councilmember Snyder expressed his opinion that a once a year collection was reasonable. Vice Mayor Kirk asked how the staff would get the word out about the collection. Town Administrator Schiro suggested notices be sent by e-mail and placed on the Town's website. He expressed his opinion that once word of the pick-up got out, residents would call the Town Office. Mayor Davis noted that the staff was only talking about collecting what was already sitting out, not collecting new items.

Town Administrator Schiro advised that he did not know if he could get the word out before Earth Day, although he noted that the Town had an extensive e-mail list. Councilmember Shea recommended that a notice be put on the events calendar. Councilmember Snyder recommended that notices be placed at the Safeway and Post Office. Town Administrator Schiro suggested the notices not be made too public; and, explained that doing so would encourage people to bring yard waste into town from the county. Vice Mayor Kirk agreed; and, noted that she had seen this happen. Town Administrator Schiro advised Council that the staff would get the word out as best it could. Councilmember Murdock asked how the staff would handle the future education of the citizenry. Town Administrator Schiro confirmed that an article would be in the next newsletter.

Councilmember Shea reported that the Go Green Committee had talked about doing an Earth Day celebration next year. She suggested that next year's bulk yard waste collection be coordinated with them. Town Planner Beniamino suggested the Go Green Committee work with the Streetscape Committee as they were the organization that handled Arbor Day.

Town Administrator Schiro reminded Council that they discussed the recruitment and advertisement of the Town Administrator's position during the recent work session. He advised that unless the Council had questions, there was nothing further to discuss.

Town Administrator Schiro reported that Salamander had delayed the start-up of the new wastewater treatment plant. He advised that a meeting was schedule for next week to learn of the new schedule. Mr. Schiro explained that there was a problem extending the electricity to the site. He advised Council that the gravity sewer line was complete with the exception of its connection to the system.

Town Administrator Schiro reported a delay in the opening of the water plant due to delays in receiving the SCADA system. He noted that parts of the system had been received. Councilmember Snyder asked whether the treatment package had been received. Town Administrator Schiro confirmed that the largest component had been received.

Councilmember Shea asked about the problem extending the electricity to the wastewater treatment plant. Town Administrator Schiro explained that this involved a new service line; and, advised that some of the control panels were not complete. He reminded Council that the new treatment process required a great deal of electricity. Councilmember Shea asked whether this was a Town or Salamander issue. Town Administrator Schiro advised that the issues were Salamander's to address. He noted that he spoke with the contractor earlier in the week; and, advised that the installation had been pushed back to April 12th. Mr. Schiro reported that he would advise Council as soon as he knew more.

Town Administrator Schiro reported that the Town received a violation letter for allowing the wastewater treatment plant to operate at 95% design capacity for three months. He noted that this occurred due to the wet weather. Mr. Schiro reported that Loudoun Water drafted a letter explaining that the new plant would come on line soon; and, that this would address the problem. Councilmember Snyder noted that the Town has received over ten inches of rain this year.

Councilmember Murdock asked what was meant by the term "selective enforcement" on the Police Department's report. Chief Webber explained that this normally involved officers running radar in a particular area of town. He noted that they have also recently been asked by the School Board to watch the school bus stops. Chief Webber confirmed that the numbers associated with the selective enforcement were a combination of watching the bus stops and running radar. Councilmember Murdock noted that the number of tickets issued was up. She further noted the number of speeders cited. Chief Webber advised that the citations were for various violations; however, he confirmed there were a lot of speeders.

Councilmember Murdock expressed her opinion that an individual who was jaywalking recently caused an accident when a vehicle stopped quickly and a second vehicle hit the first one. She noted that this occurred in front of the Post Office; and, suggested a crosswalk was needed at this location. Ms. Murdock advised Council that she had spoken with the Chief about issuing jaywalking tickets; however, no one else in the area did so. She suggested that if the officers observed anyone jaywalking, they should give them a warning. Ms. Murdock expressed her opinion that the Town should publicly say it was frowning on jaywalking; and, encourage pedestrians to use the crosswalks. She noted that in the instance she described, the pedestrian was not hit. Vice Mayor Kirk noted that she spoke to someone who witnessed the accident; and, suggested the pedestrian was not jaywalking as she was walking between the bank and Post Office. Chief Webber confirmed the pedestrian was crossing the street, not in a crosswalk; and, explained that a car stopped to allow her to cross. He further explained that the driver of the second car was not paying attention and hit the first one. Vice Mayor Kirk advised Council that the report she received was that the driver of the second vehicle was talking on a cell phone. Chief Webber confirmed the driver was cited.

Councilmember Murdock reiterated her suggestion that the Town should publicly say that it frowned on jaywalking. Councilmember Snyder expressed his opinion that this would be like “spitting in a fire”. Vice Mayor Kirk expressed her opinion that the Town wanted pedestrians to walk around town. Mayor Davis expressed her opinion that the biggest issue was that pedestrians did not have the right-of-way; and, noted that they thought that if they walked out into the street that they did. Councilmember Snyder suggested that from a public safety standpoint, the only thing the Town could do was to watch the speed of cars on Washington Street. Councilmember Shea expressed her opinion that the Town could issue jaywalking tickets. Councilmember Snyder expressed his opinion that this would not dramatically improve public safety. He reiterated the need to control speed to make the roads safer for pedestrians. Mr. Snyder suggested that until there was a law on the books regarding talking on cell phones or texting while driving, the Town would have to deal with distracted drivers. Vice Mayor Kirk expressed a desire to ticket cars rather than pedestrians. She suggested that ticketing pedestrians would hurt tourism. Councilmember Murdock noted that this was also the Chief’s concern.

Councilmember Littleton suggested the newspaper reporter, Dan Marrow, write an article regarding this matter. Mr. Marrow agreed to do so. Councilmember Snyder reiterated that this was a public safety issue due to distracted drivers. Vice Mayor Kirk noted that she was rear-ended many years ago in this area; and, suggested it was a bad location because people were rushing to get to their destination.

Councilmember Shea asked whether the Council was done with the discussion of issuing tickets for jaywalking. Councilmember Murdock agreed it was not a good thing to do from a public relations point of view. She suggested the newspaper remind pedestrians of the need to use the crosswalks so that people would not get hurt. Councilmember Shea expressed her opinion that it was hard to convince someone to not cross in the middle of the street. She noted that she used the crosswalks; however, cars did not stop.

Town Attorney Whiting advised Council that the Leesburg Downtown Capital Project was looking at mid-block crosswalks. She noted that in older historic towns that had zero lot lines, it was much safer to cross in mid-block rather than at the intersection. Ms. Whiting reminded Council that Leesburg had jurisdiction over its streets, whereas Middleburg did not. She expressed her opinion that the various highway regulatory bodies were beginning to yield some, which may allow the issue of mid-block crosswalks to be revisited. Mayor Davis noted that she spoke with representatives from VDOT last year about a mid-block crosswalk at the Post Office; however, at that point, there was a driveway at this location that prevented the installation of one.

She reminded Council that the driveway had since been removed and this area now contained a full sidewalk; and, suggested it may be possible to get VDOT do something. Ms. Davis noted that the Town would lose a parking space if a mid-block crosswalk was installed. She advised Council that she would ask VDOT for one again.

Vice Mayor Kirk noted that there had been talk of banning cell phone usage and texting while driving. She further noted that Washington, DC had a law to this effect. Town Attorney Whiting advised Council that the laws in Virginia made texting while driving a secondary offense only. Mayor Davis noted that motorists could still talk on the phone. Chief Webber advised that this was an issue that had been discussed in Richmond over the last few years.

Mayor Davis suggested that pedestrian safety be promoted in the newspaper and that something be placed on the Town's website. Vice Mayor Kirk asked that an article be placed in the next Town newsletter encouraging pedestrians to cross at the crosswalks.

Councilmember Snyder expressed his opinion that the biggest problem with jaywalking occurred at the Post Office. Councilmember Shea expressed her opinion that the second problem location, that while not a jaywalking problem, was at the Community Center. She explained that while there was a crosswalk at this location, motorists did not stop. Ms. Shea noted that she used the stairs a lot; and, advised that she placed her life on the line when she stepped off the bottom step. She noted that VDOT had declined to install mid-block crosswalks; however, she suggested they be asked again. Councilmember Snyder agreed that he would like a crosswalk at that location. Vice Mayor Kirk agreed it was dangerous.

Councilmember Patterson asked whether there were any crosswalks on Federal Street. She further asked how a pedestrian legally crossed the street. Councilmember Shea confirmed there were no crosswalks; and, suggested that pedestrians were required by state law to cross at an intersection. She expressed her opinion that the law was that if a pedestrian was at an intersection, the car must let them cross. Chief Webber confirmed that, to his knowledge, this was not the case. He advised that he would research it and let Council know the results. Councilmember Snyder disagreed; and, advised that otherwise the Council would have insisted that all intersections be marked with crosswalks. Councilmember Shea expressed her opinion that the Council needed this information. Chief Webber confirmed he would look into it.

Councilmember Shea noted that the Economic Development Coordinator's report indicated that seventy surveys were sent regarding Christmas in Middleburg. She asked whether the surveys were sent to area businesses. Councilmember Patterson confirmed they were e-mailed to them. Councilmember Shea noted that she did not receive one. She advised that she would check on this with the Economic Development Coordinator upon her return.

Town Planner Beniamino reminded Council that the Planning Commission and HDRC meetings were both cancelled due to the lack of a quorum. He reported that the Planning Commission had rescheduled their meeting to April 19; and, the HDRC had rescheduled theirs to April 15.

Councilmember Murdock noted the Planning Commission public hearing for the property at 7 West Washington Street. She asked about the details of the application. Town Planner Beniamino explained that the Commission was supposed to hold this hearing in March; however, it was delayed due to snow. He reminded Council that they forwarded this request to the Commission; and, noted that it involved a request to allow offices on the first floor in the back hallway. Mr. Beniamino advised that the two front spaces would remain retail. He reminded them that the back hallway did not lend itself to retail use as the units could not be seen from the street. Mr. Beniamino advised that there were already some offices in this space; however, a special use permit was needed to convert the remainder since this was technically a first floor.

Councilmember Snyder reminded Council that when this matter was discussed, he urged restraint on the two retail spaces.

Town Planner Beniamino reported that the Streetscape Committee met earlier in the week to discuss the screening at the water treatment plant. He reminded Council that the issue was that the water tank was twenty-five feet tall, with ten feet visible from the street. Mr. Beniamino advised that the Streetscape Committee was looking at the installation of ten to twelve foot tall white pine trees that would be planted at ground level with the water tank. He explained that the trees could not be planted on the hill as this was Salamander's property. Mr. Beniamino noted that the Town could ask Salamander for permission to plant the trees on their property; however, he suggested this would result in line of site issues for the new entrance. He reminded Council that the Town was required to have two hundred eighty feet of unobstructed view at the entrance; and, advised that if trees were planted in this location, they would create a violation of VDOT's permit as they would block the site distance. Vice Mayor Kirk expressed her opinion that the site distance was already blocked. Town Planner Beniamino reiterated that it was not a good idea to plant trees in this location; and, suggested it was valuable property from Salamander's standpoint. He noted that they could build a house on this lot if they wanted as it was a separate building lot. Vice Mayor Kirk expressed her opinion that there was no way a house could be built on this lot; and, noted that a truck could barely park there. Town Planner Beniamino explained that as a platted lot, the property owner had rights.

Town Planner Beniamino reported that the Streetscape Committee talked to contractors about the planting of twelve to fourteen, ten to twelve foot white pines; and, advised that the cost would be \$350/tree. He further reported that they could go with fourteen to sixteen foot trees; however, the price would double. Mr. Beniamino noted that the Committee could not go with a larger tree; and, explained that the tree spade must be able to reach the planting location.

Vice Mayor Kirk asked how close the trees would be planted; and, noted that white pines spread. Town Planner Beniamino explained that the Committee wanted the Council's approval before moving to the design stage. He noted that the Streetscape Committee would cover the \$4,000 cost associated with planting the ten to twelve foot trees. Mr. Beniamino advised that going to the larger trees would cost an additional \$4,000. He reminded Council of the need to be careful in planting the trees so they would not interfere with the water lines. Councilmember Murdock asked how quickly the pine trees would grow. Mayor Davis noted that pine trees grew at a rate of one foot per season. Town Planner Beniamino confirmed that they would grow one and half feet in height and girth. He advised that it would be a couple of years before they were tall enough to shield the view of the tank; however, this was less time than it would take for the existing trees to screen it. Mr. Beniamino advised that these trees would not resolve the visual issues immediately.

Vice Mayor Kirk noted that white pines tended to break easily in storms. She further noted that they tended to grow into each other; with the limbs breaking off low in the tree. Town Planner Beniamino reminded Council that white pines were hardy trees. He explained that part of the issue was that as mature trees were transplanted, if they were less hardy there was a greater chance they would fail. Vice Mayor Kirk reiterated that white pines break easily. She advised that she did not want them to damage the tank. Ms. Kirk reiterated that she would like to see where the Committee was proposing to plant the trees. Town Planner Beniamino reminded Council that the trees would be planted in the circular area around the tank; and, noted that this area was removed from the treatment plant building. He reiterated that the Committee had not yet developed a design plan; however, they would like to get as much screening of the tank as possible. Mr. Beniamino advised Council that the building itself would not be screened; and, suggested that it was very attractive.

Councilmember Murdock asked what would happen to the existing trees. She further asked whether they were located near the building. Town Planner Beniamino confirmed the existing trees would stay; and, noted that they were in an area that still provided for the site distance requirement.

Councilmember Snyder agreed the Committee should go with the ten to twelve foot trees; and, noted that they would grow. Town Planner Beniamino reminded Council that Salamander had not yet subdivided the property; therefore, the Town did not own it yet. He expressed his opinion that they would not want another contractor on their site due to insurance concerns. Mr. Beniamino noted that the existing trees would bloom in the summer; and, suggested that the white pines be planted in the fall. Council agreed with this recommendation. Mr. Beniamino advised Council that he would bring back the design plan. He reiterated that the Committee was recommending the installation of the smaller trees; therefore, they would not resolve the view issues this year.

Town Planner Beniamino reported that he would be attending a national planning conference starting the end of the week. He noted that they would offer a lot of economic development courses for small towns; and, expressed hope to bring back some good information. Town Administrator Schiro reported that Middleburg was sharing the conference expenses with the Town of Hamilton. Town Planner Beniamino confirmed that Middleburg paid for the conference and Hamilton paid for the travel.

Action Items (non-public hearing related) –

Council Approval – Proclamation – Notre Dame/Middleburg Academy Day

Councilmember Murdock expressed her opinion that the Notre Dame Academy was not changing its name until after this year's graduation. Councilmember Shea confirmed it would change on July 1.

Mayor Davis reminded Council that the proclamation basically touched on the fact that the Academy had been a large part of the community over the years; and, that the Town was there to support it. She expressed her opinion that the proclamation was a support of the Academy's past, present and future contributions.

Vice Mayor Kirk moved, seconded by Councilmember Snyder, that Council adopt a proclamation declaring April 28, 2010 as Middleburg Academy Day in recognition of the contributions the Academy has made to the community over the past forty-five years.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Kirk, Littleton, Murdock, Patterson, Shea and Snyder
No – N/A
Abstain: N/A
Absent: Councilmember Plescow
(Mayor Davis did not vote as there was no tie to require her vote)

Council Approval – Resolution of Support – StoneSpring Medical Center

Councilmember Murdock expressed her opinion that the hospital personnel made an excellent presentation to the Council during the recent work session. Mayor Davis asked whether the staff was able to determine whether there were any problems associated with their special exception request before the Loudoun County Planning Commission. Town Clerk North confirmed that she spoke with Tracey White, of HCA Capital Division. She advised that Ms. White reported that

they have meet with all of the members of the County Planning Commission, as well as the planning staff; and, they did not believe there were any issues associated with the application. Ms. North reported that Ms. White indicated that they were only asked to provide some minor tweaks to the application. Mayor Davis asked why the special exception was necessary. Town Clerk North explained that under the County ordinances, a special exception was needed for hospitals. She further explained that medical offices were allowed by right. Ms. North advised that Ms. White suggested the Town simply offer its support for the project. Mayor Davis asked whether it was necessary for the Town to attend the Planning Commission public hearing or whether it could simply send a copy of the resolution of support. Town Clerk North expressed her opinion that it would not be necessary to attend, based upon Ms. White's belief that there were no issues associated with the application.

Councilmember Murdock moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Kirk, that Council approve a resolution of support for the StoneSpring Medical Center.

Councilmember Snyder advised Council that he was not comfortable supporting a special exception application for a private business, especially since he was not aware of all of the terms of the application. Mayor Davis noted that a special exception was needed for a hospital. Councilmember Snyder expressed an understanding of the reasons; however, he reiterated that he was not comfortable supporting the application. Mayor Davis asked whether the hospital was listed in the County Code as a special exception use. Town Clerk North confirmed that the property was appropriately zoned for a hospital; however, she explained that hospitals were uses that also required a special exception permit.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Kirk, Littleton, Murdock and Patterson
No – Councilmember Snyder
Abstain: Councilmember Shea
Absent: Councilmember Plescow
(Mayor Davis did not vote as there was no tie to require her vote)

Council Approval – Arbor Day Proclamation

Councilmember Snyder moved, seconded by Councilmember Shea, that Council adopt a proclamation declaring April 30, 2010 as Arbor Day in the Town of Middleburg; and, urging all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands.

Mayor Davis asked whether Arbor Day was April 30th. Town Clerk North confirmed that Arbor Day was celebrated nationally on April 30th this year, even though it was being celebrated locally on a different day. She advised that in checking past proclamations, she found that they listed the national date; therefore, she continued this past practice.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Kirk, Littleton, Murdock, Patterson, Shea and Snyder
No – N/A
Abstain: N/A
Absent: Councilmember Plescow
(Mayor Davis did not vote as there was no tie to require her vote)

Councilmember Murdock inquired as to the details of the Middleburg Arbor Day celebration. Mayor Davis confirmed it would be held on April 24th beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Middleburg Elementary School. Councilmember Murdock noted that several years ago, seedlings were distributed during Arbor Day; and, advised that her tree had grown and was now blossoming.

Town Planner Beniamino reported that an oak tree would be planted at the elementary school in honor of its principal. Vice Mayor Kirk asked whether it was correct that she simply had to read the proclamation as a part of the event. Mayor Davis confirmed it was.

Discussion Items

Vice Mayor Kirk reported that Street Superintendent Simms was very pleased with the support he had been receiving from the Council and staff. She noted that he stated that all was going extremely well in the Street Department. Ms. Kirk expressed her opinion that he was very positive and thankful for the Town's support. Councilmember Littleton expressed his opinion that Mr. Simms did a "great job".

Information Items

Councilmember Shea reported that members of the Go Green Committee planned to go around Town on April 9th to take pictures of the store fronts for their streetlight plan map. She explained that this was the reason why people may see the members out with cameras.

Mayor Davis announced that the "Minds Wide Open – Women in the Arts Celebration" would be held on April 16th. She noted that local businesses would be open from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. to showcase local artists' work. Ms. Davis reported that her business would also host a tasting that evening. She noted that this was also Foxcroft's Alumnae Weekend. Councilmember Shea reported that Solstice would offer ten minute seated chair messages the evening of the Artwalk.

Councilmember Patterson invited Council to attend the Biz Buzz on April 13th at Artrageous. She noted that the art for the Artwalk was already in some businesses; and, advised that she had a large painting in her restaurant. Ms. Patterson reported that Foxcroft was expecting approximately three hundred guests; and, advised that she would be there all day handing out information packets and promoting the Town. She noted that some visitors would arrive on April 15th, with most arriving on April 16th. Ms. Patterson advised Council that an event would be held on campus the evening of April 16th; however, she noted that it would end early. She expressed hope that the guests would then come into town for dinner; and, advised that the new restaurant – Julien's – would probably be open by that time. Mayor Davis expressed her opinion that Julien's appeared to be ready to open this weekend; and, advised that they were taking food into the building. Town Clerk North reported that the owner was in the Town Office earlier in the day; and, stated that he planned to open the next day.

Councilmember Patterson announced that the Community Center would hold its Annual Birdhouse Auction on April 9th at 5:30 p.m. Councilmember Murdock reminded Council of the Community Center tour scheduled for 5:00 p.m. this same day. Vice Mayor Kirk noted that she was unable to attend the tour.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

APPROVED:

Betsy A. Davis, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk