



TOWN OF HAYMARKET TOWN COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Chris Coon, Business Manager
<http://www.townofhaymarket.org/>

15000 Washington St
Haymarket, VA 20169

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

A Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Haymarket, VA, was held this evening in the Council Chambers, commencing at 6:00 PM.

Mayor David Leake called the meeting to order.

I. Call To Order

Due to the COV-ID 19 pandemic and to maintain the social distancing requirements set forth by Governor Northam, Councilman Robert Day and Vice Mayor Susan Edwards was present via Zoom from their respective homes.

Councilman Chris Morris: Present, Vice Mayor Susan Edwards: Late (6:12 PM), Councilman Robert Day: Present, Councilman Connor Leake: Present, Councilman Madhusudan Panthi: Present, Councilman Steve Shannon: Present, Mayor David Leake: Present.

II. Call of Special Meeting Notice

1. Notice of Special Meeting

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Leake asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Citizens Time

Mayor Leake opened the floor for Citizen's Time.

Town Planner Emily Lockhart shared that no citizens had join the meeting via Zoom at this time. Dottie Leonard, 14801 Washington Street, complimented the Town Council on their communication with one another. She also stated that she did not agree with the Town Council in striving to eliminate the real estate taxes completely. She stated that she thinks some taxes should be charged to protect the Town and the charter.

Bob Weir, 6853 St. Paul Drive, stated that he was happy to see there was some discussion on a real estate refund. He stated, however, that he was concerned on how the Town Council was going to carry it off. He stated that he doesn't see that there is a surplus in order to make it happen. Mr. Weir also stated that he applauded the effort with sending a letter regarding the extension of the Town elections to Delegate Roem and Senator Bell but felt it was a little late since they will be session before they receive the letter.

1. Citizens Comments Electronically- Join Zoom Meeting Via URL or Go on Town Website to Click on the Link <https://Zoom.us/j/94632412969>

V. Agenda Items

Councilman Leake asked that the tax rate agenda item be moved to later in the meeting when Vice Mayor Edwards is able to attend. Mayor Leake moved to the letter to Delegate Roem while waiting for Vice Mayor to join the meeting.

1. Approval of FY 20-21 Tax Rate

Councilman Morris asked for clarification from the Town Attorney on a comment that was made during citizen's time that the refund would need to come from a surplus. Town Attorney Crim confirmed that Virginia Code 15.2 -2511.1 states a locality may by ordinance develop a method for returning surplus real tax property revenues to taxpayers in any fiscal year in which a locality reports a surplus. Mayor Leake referred to Councilman Leake and Town Treasurer Roberto Gonzalez for further explanation of the surplus the Town would still have even in a worst case scenario situation. A discussion followed on the subject of the real estate refund. Councilman Morris stated that the subject of the proposed real estate tax rate and the refund are tied together and that is why he wanted to address it during this time. Councilman Leake stated that the tax rate is for the proposed FY21 budget and the real estate refund is the surplus on current

budget. Councilman Leake also presented to the Town Council a tax rate lower than the .136 that was discussed earlier. A discussion followed on Mr. Leake's presentation.

Councilman Shannon moved to adopt Resolution 2020-009 adopting the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Tax Rates and Fee Schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilman Morris. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Steve Shannon, Councilman
SECONDER:	Chris Morris, Councilman
AYES:	Morris, Edwards, Day, Leake, Panthi, Shannon

2. Letter to Delegate Roem and Senator Bell Regarding Local Town Election Date

Mayor Leake presented an article referencing an alternative to moving local elections to a date other than the November date that Governor Northam had requested. Mayor Leake gave the Town Council a few minutes to read the article while waiting for Vice Mayor Edwards to connect to the audio of the Zoom meeting. To maintain the social distancing guidelines, Vice Mayor Edwards joined the meeting via Zoom from her home at 6:10 PM.

Mayor Leake stated that he had Business Manager Chris Coon draft a letter to Delegate Roem and Senator Bell asking them to not support the November date change. A discussion followed on the different date changes.

With 3 dates suggested by council members, Town Attorney Crim advised that Robert's Rule of Order provides for motions to be made in order of the date with the least apparent support, then proceeding in order through the remaining dates, stopping when a motion for a specific date received a majority vote.

Councilman Shannon moved for the Council to consider sending a letter to the Governor and our legislators regarding the date of the election to be set as provided by the Council vote with consideration of the November general election date, the June 16th proposed date and the May 5th election date with a vote to be held by 3 consecutive roll call votes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Leake.

Town Clerk Henry called the roll for the November General Election Date:

- Shannon - Nay
- Leake - Nay
- Morris - Nay
- Panthi - Nay
- Day - Nay
- Edwards - Nay

Town Clerk Henry called the roll for the June 16th proposed election date:

- Shannon - Aye
- Leake - Nay
- Morris - Nay
- Panthi - Nay
- Day - Aye
- Edwards - Aye

With the vote a tie, Mayor Leake broke the tie with an Aye vote, providing a majority to write the letter with the requested election date of June 16th.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [5 TO 2]
MOVER:	Steve Shannon, Councilman
SECONDER:	Connor Leake, Councilman
AYES:	Edwards, Day, Leake, Shannon, Leake
NAYS:	Chris Morris, Madhusudan Panthi

3. Discussion on FY 2019-2020 Real Estate Refund

VI. Adjournment

With no further business before the Council, Councilman Shannon moved to adjourn with a second by Councilman Leake. The motion carried.

1. Motion to Adjourn

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Steve Shannon, Councilman
SECONDER:	Connor Leake, Councilman
AYES:	Morris, Edwards, Day, Leake, Panthi, Shannon

Submitted:

Approved:



Kimberly Henry, Clerk of the Council



David Leake, Mayor

