



OCCOQUAN TOWN COUNCIL
Work Session Minutes
Town Hall - 314 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22125
Tuesday, October 20, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Liz Quist, Vice Mayor Pat Sivigny, Tyler Brown, Jim Drakes, J. Matthew Dawson and Joe McGuire.
Staff: Kirstyn Jovanovich, Town Manager; Greg Holcomb, Town Clerk; Sheldon Levi, Chief of Police/Town Sergeant

Absent: None

1. Call to Order

Mayor Quist called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Regular Items

A. Visitor Center Status Update

Mayor Quist reported to Council on the two meetings the Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB) task force has held. She stated that the meetings did not have agendas and no minutes were taken for the first meeting. She noted that there did not seem to be a willingness of CVB taskforce members to work with the Town's representatives. Due to these occurrences, Mayor Quist advised the Council that they needed to start looking at the long term prospects of the Visitor's Center. She stated that the center is funded through February 2016 by the CVB. She believes we can absorb contractual costs that the center has, which amount to around \$2,300. Mayor Quist further stated that at the last meeting the task force sent the CVB President back to the board to see if they could find the additional \$14,000 needed to keep the Visitor's Center fully open seven days a week for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Mayor Quist stated that she will be attending the October 26, 2015 meeting of Discover Prince William and Manassas to discuss the issue further.

Councilmember McGuire believes the Town should reach out to other County Supervisors to discuss the issue further. He noted that they need to be informed when Discover Prince William submits their budget request to the county that the Visitor's Center is not part of that request.

Councilmember Brown discussed a recent trip he took. He stated that the visitor's center he visited had a gift shop and did hotel bookings to bring in revenue for the center. He thought this was a good idea to research for our center.

Councilmember Drakes asked Mayor Quist if she believed that taskforce members see the Visitor's Center as an "Occoquan Visitors Center" as opposed to a regional center. Mayor Quist responded that they do believe it only benefits Occoquan and is only used

for the restrooms. Mr. Drakes asked the Council if they thought there could be a higher value to the property other than a Visitor's Center.

Vice Mayor Sivigny was concerned about adding additional staff duties to Town staff to manage the project should the Town take over the responsibility of the Visitors Center long-term.

Mayor Quist stated that she would keep the Council informed on the status of the Visitor's Center.

B. Public Safety Priorities- Continued from September 15, 2015

Ms. Jovanovich began the conversation by presenting information that she and Chief Levi compiled at the request of Town Council. She asked Council to provide her with direction on public safety priorities.

The Council discussed what they believed were issues in Town. They agreed that traffic control and enforcement, protection of public property, late night disturbances and night and weekend patrols were the top issues.

There was further discussion on what could be done to increase patrolling. They discussed hiring administrative staff to open up more time for Chief Levi to patrol. In addition, they discussed the benefits of hiring off duty police officers during important events and on nights and weekends. Chief Levi and Ms. Jovanovich stated that current grant funding could be used for these activities.

In summary, the Council agreed by consensus to hiring off duty police to assist in night and weekend patrolling. They agreed that they would like to see time spent on traffic control and enforcement, and protection of public property.

Councilmember Brown asked about the status of implementing body cameras the Chief.

Chief Levi stated that he is working with Prince William County Police to have Occoquan included as part of their body camera program.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Greg Holcomb
Town Clerk