

Town of Pennington Gap
Council Meeting
November 20, 2023

Record of attendance:

6:00 PM

Mayor: Larry Holbrook
Council: Doug Alsup
Jeff Martin-absent
Gary McElyea
Terry Pope
Jimmy Warner
Town Manager: Keith Harless
Assistant Manager: Brian Skidmore
Town Treasurer: Tina Rowe
Town Clerk: Karen Maggard
Town Attorney: Greg Edwards-absent
Interim Police Chief: Matt Lawson
Powell Valley News: Rick Watson
Citizens: none

1. Mayor Holbrook called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Tina Rowe led prayer and the pledge
3. **Agenda-** Larry Holbrook made a Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of 8a, Zoning appointments and 8b, Christmas tree lighting. Gary McElyea seconded the Motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Doug Alsup	Aye
Gary McElyea	Aye
Larry Holbrook	Aye
Terry Pope	Aye
Jimmy Warner	Aye

4. **Approval of Minutes-** Jimmy Warner made a Motion to approve the minutes of October 23, 2023. Doug Alsup seconded the Motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Doug Alsup	Aye
Gary McElyea	Aye
Larry Holbrook	Aye
Terry Pope	Aye
Jimmy Warner	Aye

5. **Pay bills-**Larry Holbrook made a Motion to pay the bills as presented. Doug Alsup seconded the Motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Doug Alsup	Aye
Gary McElyea	Aye
Larry Holbrook	Aye
Terry Pope	Aye
Jimmy Warner	Aye

6. **Citizen's Recognitions-**none

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contractor returns to this area. Terry Pope expressed the need to make the county aware that some roads in town need paving as well.

- C) Town Manager Report-** Keith reported that the consultant working on an application for the Brownfield grant for the Creech Building cleanup missed the deadline. He attended the Governor's Housing Conference last week. Scott Napier went along and introduced him to another person who may be able to help with funding sources. We greatly appreciate Scott volunteering to help. A housing shortage report on SWVA will appear in The Cardinal News and mentions Pennington's work to move property to owners that will create housing.

The pre-bid meeting for Bailey-Robbins had only 3 contractors. None are looking to bid so we are extending the deadline to 12/21/23. With a shortage of contractors, one may be interested in it later.

Met with Dineen West, CainRashWest about the convention center.

11. Projects

- a. ARC Business Center/ Conference Center funding-applications are in for funding
- b. Industrial Revitalization Fund ARPA Grant application
 - i. Abatement bids
- c. Historic designation – Public hearing was held. Application moves to the state level in December.
- d. Virginia Housing Stabilization Grant-met director about the possibility of co-sponsoring with another property owner but they no longer allow the process
- e. Creech building brownfield grant-held public meeting
- f. Wastewater Treatment Plant Repair Grants –
 - i. DEQ/Lane
 - ii. SSES Grant-DEQ / Mattern & Craig-
 - iii. WW Pump Station Upgrade Grant-DEQ/Lane
 - iv. N. Fork Powell River Sewer Crossing-DEQ/Mattern & Craig
- g. Water Treatment Plant Structural Repair Grants
 - i. USDA/Mattern & Craig
 - ii. WTP Telemetry Upgrade-VDH/Mattern & Craig

12. Town Attorney-absent

13. Council Member reports:

Terry had asked Loretta See, Toys for Tots but she said the back room (where toys are prepared for distribution) speaks for itself. He commended her work and the number of children served. Council is very appreciative.

14. Closed session- At 6:40 PM, Terry Pope made a Motion to go into executive session pursuant to:

§ 2.2-3711(A)(1): Personnel. Provides an exemption for:


Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or

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16. Terry Pope made Motion to adjourn. Jimmy Warner seconded the Motion Roll call vote as follows:

Doug Alsup	Aye
Gary McElyea	Aye
Larry Holbrook	Aye
Terry Pope	Aye
Jimmy Warner	Aye

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM.



MAYOR LARRY W. HOLBROOK

ATTEST:



KAREN MAGGARD, CLERK

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Pennington Gap, Virginia has convened closed session meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Council of the Town of Pennington Gap, Virginia that such closed session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Pennington Gap, Virginia hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in closed session to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the Council of the Town of Pennington Gap, Virginia.

VOTE:

AYES: Mayor Larry W. Holbrook
 Terry K. Pope
 Gary McElyea
 Doug Alsup
 Jimmy Warner

NAYS: (for each Nay vote the substance of the departure from the requirements of the Act should be described)

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Jeff Martin
ABSENT DURING CLOSED SESSION: Jeff Martin
MEETING DATE: November 20, 2023


MAYOR LARRY W. HOLBROOK