

**TOWN OF CHARLOTTE COURT HOUSE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Monday August 19, 2013 7:30pm**

A regular meeting of the Charlotte Court House Town Council was held on Monday, August 19, 2013, at 7:30 pm. Mayor Walker called the meeting to order. Council Members Andrews, Watkins, Jones, Haskins, Parsons and Dunn (arrived after agenda item D) were present. Council Member Andrews motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Council Member Andrews motioned to approve the June 17<sup>th</sup> public hearing and regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 5 ayes and 0 nays. Council Member Watkins motioned to approve the financial statement as presented. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 6 ayes and 0 nays.

**Citizen Comment Period** Ray Mason stated that as a result of the recent investigation at the Town office, the police confiscated two of the fire department's computers, a laptop and desktop. He said that one had been purchased with grant funds and stated that they needed to get them back. Mr. Mason stated that the fire department was not involved with what happened and asked the Council to consider replacing the computers.

**Resolution Recognizing Officer Galbreath** Mayor Walker read the following resolution of recognition and appreciation to Officer I. Thomas Galbreath, Town Sergeant: WHEREAS, Ira Thomas Galbreath began serving the Town of Charlotte Court House as Town Sergeant in August 2006; and WHEREAS, Officer Galbreath consistently demonstrated his commitment to serving the community, being dependable and always willing to help; it was evident that he was proud to be a police officer, taking his job seriously and doing it well; and WHEREAS, Officer Galbreath encountered numerous challenges while serving as Town Sergeant, and faced them with unwavering confidence and with determination to "do the right thing;" all the while maintaining a positive attitude and professional composure; and WHEREAS, Officer Galbreath's light hearted personality and ever present sense of humor will be missed at the Town office; and WHEREAS, the Town Council is proud to commend Officer Galbreath for his service to the Town of Charlotte Court House; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Charlotte Court House Town Council expresses its gratitude and appreciation for Officer Galbreath's outstanding public service given to the community for the past seven years; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council and Staff wish to express their best wishes to Officer Galbreath for a long and happy retirement. Council Member Andrews motioned to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Haskins and carried by voice vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

**Museum Board** Mayor Walker stated that an attempt is underway to preserve the old school buildings on David Bruce Avenue. He stated that the Museum Board has submitted a resolution asking for support from the Town Council in this regard. The floor was offered to Ms. P.K. Pettus to elaborate on the proposed renovation project. Ms. Pettus reported that the State of Virginia offers tax credits to rehabilitate old buildings and that since its inception over 2,000 buildings have been renovated throughout the state. The Museum Board put out RFPs and selected Rehab Development for the proposed project. Ms. Pettus stated that the requested resolution would provide affirmation to Rehab Development that the Town is serious about moving forward. She stated that Rehab Development would purchase the properties and retain ownership for the long term. She said that Rehab Development is not asking for funding, and that they were hoping that donors would "come through." She stated that the County would not discuss the possibility of hooking into the sewer system unless the Town showed support for the project. Ms. Pettus stated that a second resolution was also being submitted that would request that the County allow the two buildings to be connected to the sewer system and to explore the feasibility and costs of allowing private property owners within the Town to connect to the system as well.

Council Member Jones motioned to adopt the following resolution of support for the Museum of Charlotte County to explore the possibility of preserving the historic school buildings by converting them into upscale one-bedroom rental apartments: WHEREAS, the Town of Charlotte Court House, Virginia has historic buildings, public squares, and scenic open spaces that give the Town great charm and define its character; and WHEREAS, a portion of the Town has been designated as an Historic District and placed on the *Virginia Landmarks Register* by the Virginia Landmarks Commission; and WHEREAS, the national significance of the Charlotte Court House Historic District was affirmed when it was added to the *National Register of Historic Places* by the United States Department of the Interior; and WHEREAS, the former Elementary School and former School Administration Building, are “contributing elements” to the Charlotte Court House Historic District; and WHEREAS, these two buildings were purchased by the Museum of Charlotte County, a 501c(3) organization, to pursue the goal of preserving their historic integrity while adapting them for new uses that will serve and benefit the community; and WHEREAS, the renovation of historic buildings has been shown to spark and sustain community revitalization and increase economic activity and tax revenue in towns and cities throughout Virginia and the nation; and WHEREAS, the Museum identified business firms that have successfully renovated historic structures and requested proposals from these firms for the renovation and adaptive re-use of the two buildings; and WHEREAS, Rehab Development wants to confirm that the residents of Charlotte Court House value the two historic structures and support the goal of adapting them to new uses that will benefit the community while preserving their historic character; and WHEREAS, the renovation and adaptive re-use of the two buildings has the potential to benefit the Town of Charlotte Court House in multiple ways: by increasing the value of the property which will generate increased local government revenue; by attracting new residents who will patronize local businesses; and by preserving the historic character of two important structures.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Charlotte Court House Town Council commends the Museum of Charlotte County for its efforts to preserve the historic school buildings and endorses the goal of working with Rehab Development to explore the possibility of converting the two buildings to become upscale one-bedroom rental apartments.

The motion was seconded by Council Member Andrews and carried by voice vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Council Member Jones motioned to adopt the second resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Brenda Haskins. Following a discussion about possible zoning issues, Vice-Mayor Watkins put forth a substitute motion to table action on the second resolution. The motion was seconded by Council Member Andrews and carried by voice vote: 4 ayes, 1 nay (Council Member Dunn left the meeting prior to this action.)

**Committee Reports**    Personnel Committee – Council Member Andrews reported that the committee needs to meet regarding the water operator position.    Grounds, Streets & Lights – Council Member Jones reported that he and Council Member Andrews met with Fred Kenner concerning the grass contract requirements. He stated that the grass contract needs to be rewritten.

**Clerk’s Report**    Karen Price reported that business license applications were received and approved for Jitney Transportation Services and Bridgeway Residential and Assisted Living. She reported that the annual VML conference would be held in Arlington, October 13-15.

**Water/Maintenance** Chris McCarty reported that Southern Corrosion was awarded the bid for repairs and maintenance to the water tanks. He stated that the tank on Moses Dr. would be sandblasted and painted inside and out, and that only the inside of the Court House tank would be treated. Chris stated that he has left messages with a welder regarding repairs to the drain pipe on the Moses Dr. tank. Ed Stanley reported

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that the spring is not performing as well and that it is pumped dry in six hours. Chris reported that Fred Jones was called to fix the pump and well #5. He stated that another pipe split at the arcadia treatment building.

**Council Comment Period** Mayor Walker stated that the trespassing charges were dismissed against Holly Skelton. He reported that the three Town computers taken by investigators will be gone for a while. He stated that the investigation is ongoing and is complicated.

Council Member Jones motioned to present Murrie Bates' with a resolution recognizing his service on the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Watkins and carried by voice vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Vice-Mayor Watkins reiterated the need to move forward with developing a Comprehensive Plan and updating the Town Zoning Ordinance. Mayor Walker stated that it would be added to the agenda at the September Council meeting.

With no further business, Council Member Jones motioned that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote: 5 ayes and 0 nays.

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Stephen D. Walker, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Karen K. Price, (Interim) Clerk of Council