

Altavista Town Council Regular Meeting – February 13, 2024

The Altavista Town Council held their February 2024 Regular Meeting in Council Chambers of the Town Hall/J.R. Burgess Municipal Building, 510 Seventh Street, on Tuesday, February 13th, at 6pm.

1. Call to Order

At six o'clock p.m., Mayor Mike Mattox called the meeting to order and presided.

Council Members

Present: Vice Mayor Reginald Bennett
Mr. Timothy George
Mr. Jay Higginbotham
Mayor Michael Mattox
Mr. Tracy Emerson
Dr. Scott Lowman

Members absent: Mr. Wayne Mitchell

Town Staff present: Mr. Gary Shanaberger, Town Manager
Mr. Matt Perkins, Asst. Town Manager
Chief Tommy Merricks, Altavista Police Dept.
Mrs. Tobie Shelton, Administration/Finance Director
Mr. Tom Fore, Public Services Director
Mr. Paul Hill, Asst. Public Services Director
Mr. Jeff Arthur, Public Works Manager
Mrs. Crystal Hailey, Assistant Town Clerk

Staff absent: Mr. John Eller, Town Attorney

Mr. Charles Snyder, Altavista Baptist Tabernacle, delivered the Invocation; afterwards, Mayor Mattox led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag.

2. Agenda Adoption

Mayor Mattox asked Council if they had questions regarding the agenda; of which there were none.

Councilman Tracy Emerson motioned to approve the February 13, 2024, Meeting Agenda as presented; Councilman Tim George seconded the motion, and with a 6-0 favorable vote, the agenda was unanimously approved.

3. Recognitions and Presentations

Mayor Mattox read aloud a proclamation for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness, proclaiming March as MS awareness and education month in the Town of Altavista, and presented the document to Denise Ellis, MS representative.

***WHEREAS**, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a chronic, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that affects approximately 400,000 people in the United States; and*

***WHEREAS**, it typically strikes young adults in the prime of life – in their 20's to 40's. Women are more likely to have multiple sclerosis by 3:1. Symptoms begin as tingling and progress to paralysis:*

***WHEREAS**, March is Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month. It is important for better education and awareness of multiple sclerosis so that its victims can lead more productive and satisfying lives – to benefit themselves, their caregivers and families, and the overall community; and*

***WHEREAS**, multiple sclerosis is a disease that not only affects the person with the condition, but also greatly impacts family, friends, and the community; and*

***WHEREAS**, the exact cause of multiple sclerosis is still unknown, and there is no known cure; and*

***WHEREAS**, the symptoms of multiple sclerosis may be mild such as numbness in the limbs, or severe, such as paralysis or loss of vision; and*

***WHEREAS**, every hour of every day, someone is newly diagnosed with multiple sclerosis; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Multiple Sclerosis Alliance of Virginia (MSAV) provides programs and services for anyone in Virginia whose life has been affected by MS; and*

***NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mike Mattox, Mayor of the Town of Altavista do hereby proclaim March 2024*

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS EDUCATION AND AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the Town of Altavista and urge all citizens to observe this month by becoming aware of the difficulties that individuals with MS face on a daily basis, supporting those who are working toward its end and participating in community efforts. The Altavista Town Council joins advocates and communities across the country in playing an active role to prevent Multiple Sclerosis.

Adopted this 13th day of February 2024, by the Altavista Town Council.

Altavista Town Council Regular Meeting – February 13, 2024

4. Citizen's Time

There were no citizen comments on this date.

5. Town & Community Partner Updates

- Altavista Area Chamber of Commerce
Board President Lori Watkins gave Council a brief update on the Chambers most recent actions pertaining to its dissolution. She informed Council that the Chamber Board had secured legal counsel in order to properly proceed.

Ms. Watkins said the Chamber office had been cleaned and records removed and stored securely at her business (State Farm Insurance Agency, 701 Broad Street, Altavista); and per counsel, would be stored for five years. She said the Chamber would be returning the Train Station keys to the Town by the end of April. Ms. Watkins stated, while all existing rentals (paid for) were being honored, no new rentals were being scheduled at that time.

Vice Mayor Bennett thanked Ms. Watkins for the update, and for the work she did with the Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Mattox also thanked Ms. Watkins and the remaining Board members for the work they have done for the Town of Altavista. he also shared his appreciation for them cleaning the office, making it ready for, hopefully, a future Board.

Ms. Watkins took this opportunity to thank Codie Cyrus, a previous Board member, stating that she had also been helping the current Board with the dissolution process.

6. Consent Agenda

- TOA Monthly Financial Reports - January 2024
- Town Council Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting and Work Session, January 2024
- Vista/Leggett Project – Preliminary Historic Review

Upon a motion by Vice Mayor Reggie Bennett, seconded by Councilman Tracy Emerson, Town Council voted 6-0 in favor to approve the February 13th Consent Agenda as presented.

7. Public Hearings

STAFF: Assistant Town Manager Matt Perkins presented both public hearings to Council

- Ordinance Amendment OA-2023-07
 - *Section 86-32, Use Types* - omitting helicopters
 - *Section 86-132, Permitted Uses* - adding Aviation Facility, private
 - *Section 86-463, (new)* - adding Use & Design Standards for Aviation Facility, private

Mayor Mattox opened the public hearing at 6:11pm.

Mr. Perkins informed Town Council that notice of this public hearing was published in the Altavista Journal as required; and stated that to this date, there had been no opposition from the public on the matter. He also stated that the Planning Commission approved a resolution in favor of the proposed amendment, OA-2023-07.

With no public comments offered, Mayor Mattox closed this hearing at 6:13pm; and asked Town Council if they had any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the proposed amendment, to which there were none.

Section 86-32, Use Types – omitting helicopters

Vice Mayor Reggie Bennett made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tracy Emerson, and the Altavista Town Council approved this portion of Ordinance Amendment OA-2023-07, with a 6-0 vote.

Section 86-132, Permitted Uses – adding Aviation Facility, private

Councilman Tracy Emerson made a motion, seconded by Councilman Scott Lowman, and the Altavista Town Council voted 6-0 to approve this portion of Ordinance Amendment OA-2023-07.

Section 86-463, (new) – adding “Use & Design Standards” for Aviation Facility, private

With a motion by Councilman Tracy Emerson, seconded by Councilman Scott Lowman, the Altavista Town Council approved this portion of Ordinance Amendment OA-2023-07, with a 6-0 vote.

Altavista Town Council Regular Meeting – February 13, 2024

- Ordinance Amendment OA-2023-08
 - Section 86-352 Permitted Uses – omitting Correction Facility from District C-2
 - Section 86-382 Permitted Uses – omitting Correction Facility from the Industrial District

Mayor Mattox opened the public hearing at 6:15 pm.

Mr. Perkins informed Town Council that notice of this public hearing was published in the Altavista Journal for two consecutive weeks as required; and stated that to this date, no citizen had been to Town Hall to inspect the document, and Staff had not received any citizen comments for, or against, this amendment.

With no public comments offered, Mayor Mattox closed this hearing at 6:16pm; and asked Town Council if they had any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the proposed amendment, to which there were none.

With a motion by Vice Mayor Reggie Bennett, seconded by Councilman Tracy Emerson, the Altavista Town Council approved Ordinance Amendment OA-2023-08, with a 6-0 vote.

8. Unfinished Business

There were no unfinished business items to review/discuss at this time.

9. New Business Item

- Special Event Permit Request: Altavista Area YMCA

STAFF: Assistant Town Manager Matt Perkins presented this item. YMCA Youth Athletic Director Eric Hall was also present at this meeting to answer any questions Council may have

Mr. Perkins referenced the Special Event Permit application, Council received in their meeting packet, and gave an overview of the requested event. He stated the request included closing Franklin Avenue between the YMCA's facilities, which they would need Public Works to barricade; and also closing a portion of the Altavista Trade Lot for event use.

Mr. Perkins stated that he spoke with Altavista's Public Works Manager and Police Chief, and neither foreseen any issues with the request.

Mr. Hall also shared some details about the requested Kids Triathlon event, which would include swimming and biking. He informed Council that first-aid stations would be at both ends of the

Town Council unanimously approved the YMCA request for a Special Event Permit to hold a Kids Triathlon on Saturday, May 11th; including the use of the Altavista Trade Lot, and closing the portion of Franklin Ave. between the YMCA's Athletic Center and Family Life Center.

10. Town Staff Departmental Reports and Project Updates – January 2024

- TOA Finance Reports
- Altavista Police Department Reports
- Public Services Monthly Report
- Utilities – Project Updates
- Employee Changes – January 2024
- Town Council Monthly Meeting Calendars

These items were included in Town Council's monthly agenda pre-packet, and delivered to Council on the Friday before their meeting, giving them time to review the reports.

- Assistant Town Manager Matt Perkins referenced the Town's ARS Program and informed Town Council that the Certificate of Occupancy was received for two houses recently built under this program. He said both were in the final stages of completion and soon would be ready to put on the market to sell.
- Finance Director Tobie Shelton stated that Staff continued to work diligently to develop the FY2025 Budget and CIP, and would bring the draft information to Council at their February Work Session.
- APD Chief Tommy Merricks asked for Council's permission to pursue a DCJS Grant opportunity that would help with the department's accreditation.

Town Council approved Chief Merricks' request, which included a \$2,000 contribution from the Town for the APD to hire an Accreditation Consultant to assist with grant preparation and guidance for this process.

Altavista Town Council Regular Meeting – February 13, 2024

11. Matters from Council

There were no additional comments from the Town Council.

12. Closed Session

Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) Discussion and consideration of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of any public body.

Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3) Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public bod.

With a motion by Vice Mayor Reggie Bennett, seconded by Councilman Tracy Emerson, Town Council entered into closed session at 6:28pm; and returned to open session at 7:15pm.

Notice was given to Staff, per the Town Manager, that no actions were taken after closed session.

13. Adjournment

With no further items for discussion, Mayor Mattox adjourned this meeting at 7:16pm.

Michael Mattox, Mayor

Gary Shanaberger, Town Manager/Town Clerk