

Altavista Town Council Work Session - Minutes from April 23, 2024

The April 2024 Work Session of Altavista's Town Council was held in Council Chambers of the J.R. Burgess Municipal Building, at 510 7th Street, on Tuesday, April 23rd, at 5:00 PM.

Mayor Mike Mattox called the meeting to order and presided.

Council Members present: Vice Mayor Reggie Bennett
Mr. Tracy Emerson
Mr. Timothy George
Mr. Jay Higginbotham
Dr. Scott Lowman
Mayor Michael Mattox
Mr. Wayne Mitchell

Also Present: Mr. Gary Shanaberger, Town Manager
Mr. Matthew Perkins, Asst. Town Manager
Mrs. Tobie Shelton, Finance and Admin. Director
Mr. Tommy Merricks, Altavista Police Chief
Mr. Tom Fore, Director of Public Services
Mr. Paul Hill, Asst. Director of Public Services
Mr. Jeff Arthur, Public Works Manager
Mr. John Eller, TOA Town Attorney
Mrs. Crystal Hailey, Assistant Town Clerk

1. Agenda Adoption

Mayor Mattox asked Town Council if they had questions, comments, or concerns pertaining to the Work Session Agenda, of which there were none.

Councilman Tracy Emerson made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Reggie Bennett, and Town Council approved the agenda as presented, with a 7-0 vote.

2. Presentations

- Tom Lawton, Campbell County Board of Supervisors, Altavista District, thanked the Town of Altavista for participating in the recent joint meeting with the county and the Town of Brookneal; and shared his favor with continuing the meetings, hopefully on a quarterly basis.

- Horizon Behavioral Health

Executive Director Melissa Lucy shared a PowerPoint presentation that gave an overview of the services and programs that Horizon offered, their vision and mission statement, and the FY2023 outcomes from community engagement and clients served. She said that 238 individuals, 171 adults and 68 children, were served from Altavista in fiscal year 2023.

Ms. Lucy also mentioned Horizon's Prevention Initiatives, that included prescription drug collection, in partnership with local law enforcement, which the Altavista Police Department participates in by housing a permanent medication lock box at their facility. She said a total of 738lbs was collected from the lock boxes in 2023, and Horizon would continue to make the collection boxes easily accessible to communities and their citizens.

Ms. Lucy concluded by stating that Horizon would continue seeking local partnerships and leveraging resources to improve treatment access, awareness, and education across all of its serviceable communities.

3. Citizen's Time

- Altavista High School Football Coach, Matt Deloach, came before Council and expressed how important he believed Town and community support was to local football teams. He shared his intent to bring the two closer through fundraising efforts and community/school events.

Mr. Deloach informed Council that 95% of the team's assets, such as uniforms, equipment, etc., came from donations and fundraising. He said they rely mostly on donations, because some kids were not as successful as others at fundraising. Mr. Deloach stated that he felt responsible to teach his players, not only to be good athletes, but also to be good men and good citizens in their community.

4. New Items for Discussion

There were none on this date.

5. Unfinished Business

Amherst and Novelty Street Project – Waterline Upgrade

Town Manager Gary Shanaberger informed Council that the bid process for this project was complete and feasible bids were received. He said that JCJ Holdings was moving quickly in their renovation process, and asked Council to consider voting on this item that evening.

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Scott Bortz, Peed & Bortz, informed Council that Concrete Foundations was the lowest bidder of all that were received, at just under \$300,000. He stated that the alternate additive to close the loop on Novelty Street would be the Town's funding responsibility.

Councilman Mitchell asked why Council needed to vote on this item so quickly, and what the impact would be if they did not vote that evening.

Mr. Bortz stated that JCJ Holding was completing their housing renovations at an exponential rate, and believed they would like to have people moving into the houses as soon as possible.

Public Services Director Tom Fore stated that delaying voting on the contract award would delay materials being ordered, and consequently a delay in beginning the project's scope of work.

Councilman Higginbotham asked if the houses could be temporarily reconnected to the existing water system; to which Mr. Fore answered they could not, because the existing pipes in that area were old and contained lead connecting parts.

Mr. Higginbotham asked what size the new waterlines would be, to which Mr. Fore answered 6" lines.

With a motion by Councilman Tracy Emerson, seconded by Councilman Tim George, the Altavista Town Council voted 7-0 in favor to award Concrete Foundations the contract for the Novelty Street and Amherst Avenue Waterline Improvement/Upgrade Project.

6. Updates from Town Staff

No further items or updates were given.

7. Matters from Town Council

Vice Mayor Reggie Bennett referenced the decorative water fountain located at the entrance of Shreve Park, and asked Staff to find out what it would cost to have it in working order; with cost estimates for both new parts and refurbished, if available.

8. Council Closed Session: *Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3)*

Town Council convened in closed session from 5:28pm until 6:01pm.

No actions were taken by Town Council after the closed session.

9. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Mattox adjourned this meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Michael Mattox, Mayor of Altavista

Gary Shanaberger, Town Manager/Town Clerk