

COUNCIL WORK SESSION SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

The work session of the Council of the Town of Altavista was held in the Council Chambers of the J.R. Burgess Municipal Building, 510 Seventh Street, on September 22, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Council members

present:

Mrs. Micki Brumfield
Mrs. Beverley Dalton
Mr. Tracy Emerson
Mr. Timothy George
Mr. Jay Higginbotham

Council members

absent:

Mayor Michael Mattox
Mr. Charles Edwards

Also present:

Mr. J. Waverly Coggsdale, III, Town Manager
Mr. Dennis Jarvis, Economic Development Director
Mrs. Tobie Shelton, Finance Director
Mr. David Garrett, Public Works/Utilities Director
Ms. Misty Johnson, Water Plant Superintendent
Mrs. Mary Hall, Administration

1. Vice-Mayor Dalton called the meeting to order and presided.
2. A motion was made by Mr. Emerson, seconded by Mr. Higginbotham, to approve the agenda as amended: Amended Write-Off of Delinquent Personal Property Taxes for Deceased Individuals, Budget Amendment-Police Weapons, Exchange, Main Street Drainage, WWTP EOP, DEQ.

Motion carried:

VOTE:

Mrs. Micki Brumfield	Yes
Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
Mr. Timothy George	Yes
Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

3. Public Comments—Agenda Items Only

Vice-Mayor Dalton asked if anyone would like to speak on anything listed on the agenda.

No one came forward.

4. Introductions and Special Presentations

5. Old Business

- a. Certificate of Public Necessity and Convenience-Thomas Kathan

Mr. Coggsdale advised at the September 8th Town Council Regular Meeting, a public hearing was held on the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity application filed by Mr. Thomas Kathan. Mr. Kathan was unable to attend the meeting due to a last minute work situation. Council conducted the hearing and deferred any action on the application until Mr. Kathan could be present and answer any questions that Council may have regarding the application. The Town Code that addresses such applications states *“The council, upon such application, shall determine whether the public convenience and necessity requires the operation of the public vehicle for which the application is filed.”* He advised it is Town Council’s role to make such determination in deciding whether to grant or deny the certificate.

Mrs. Dalton asked Council if there were any questions for Mr. Kathan.

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Mr. Emerson advised his questions had been answered in the letter Mr. Kathan presented to Council. He stated if there is one person in the community that has this need he did not see denying the request.

Mr. George stated he did not have a problem; it seemed like a good business.

A motion was made by Mr. Emerson, seconded by Mr. George to grant the request of Mr. Kathan for one (1) "vehicle for hire" (transit bus) based on a finding of public convenience and necessity.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mrs. Micki Brumfield	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

6. Items Contingent for the Regular Meeting

a. Avoca Resolution

Mr. Coggsdale advised Mr. Michael Hudson, Executive Director of Avoca Museum, is traveling to England and would like to present a resolution during his visit to the City of Galway where the Lynch family originated.

A motion was made by Mr. Higginbotham, seconded by Mr. Emerson, to adopt the resolution as presented to Council by Mr. Hudson.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mrs. Micki Brumfield	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

WHEREAS, the area now known as the Town of Altavista, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, United States of America traces its English-speaking roots to the Lynch family, originally from the City of Galway, in the province of Connacht; and

WHEREAS, an immigrant from Galway, one Charles Lynch, Sr., journeyed to Virginia in 1720 as an indentured servant and seeking to make his way in America; and

WHEREAS, Charles Lynch, Sr. enjoyed success in America thanks in large part to the assistance and friendship of the Clark family and the Quaker Church; and

WHEREAS, the Lynch family of Virginia played an instrumental role in the settlement, infrastructure expansion, and economic progress of English-speaking Virginia; and

WHEREAS, one Colonel Charles Lynch of this family served as a zealous and active Patriot of the Revolution who performed in many capacities as a representative, legislator, and field-grade officer in defense of his Commonwealth and country; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Lynch contributed logistically to the cause of American independence through his efforts to mine saltpeter and as Superintendent of Lead Mines for Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Lynch family of central and southern Virginia provided a great deal of support in developing the settlements now known as the City of Lynchburg, Virginia and Town of Altavista, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, relatives and descendants of the Lynch family have consistently improved the community in which the people of Altavista, Virginia live today; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Altavista, Virginia that this Council appreciates the contributions of Irish-Americans to the establishment of our nation, recognizes our Irish heritage, affirms the deepest respect for the people of Ireland, and sustains goodwill toward the City of Galway.

Approved this 22nd day of September, 2015 by the Town Council of Altavista, Virginia, United States of America.

Michael E. Mattox, Mayor

b. Manufacturing Day Resolution

Council was presented with a resolution declaring Friday, October 2, 2015 as National Manufacturing Day.

A motion was made by Mr. Higginbotham, seconded by Mr. Emerson, to adopt the resolution declaring Friday, October 2, 2015 as National Manufacturing Day.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mrs. Micki Brumfield	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

WHEREAS, for generations, manufacturing has played a critical role in the town of Altavista's diverse economy; and

WHEREAS, Altavista is home to over 2,000 manufacturing jobs in our community, producing quality products in sectors from Nutrition, Industrial Specialty fibers, Automotive, and Wood products; and

WHEREAS, Altavista's employers support the local, regional, and State of Virginia's economy; and

WHEREAS, most manufacturing jobs in Altavista provide employees with an outstanding quality of life; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing jobs enable Altavista and Central Virginia families to realize the dreams of owning a home, sending a child to college, and supporting our community with revenue to support schools, law enforcement, emergency responders, public works, and other essential services,

NOW THEREFORE, the Town of Altavista does hereby proclaim Friday October 2nd, 2015 as Manufacturing Day in the town of Altavista.



c. **Water** Plant Emergency Repairs Update

Mr. Garrett advised Council in the next two to three weeks the water plant should be running at 100%; noting the plant would not be running on the new pumps because of the electrical service. He presented Council with a handout detailing the total dollar amount thus far with the repair. Some items were done while the plant was down. He had items listed that would possibly be covered by VML totaling approximately \$375,597.29; listed were items that needed to be fixed authorized by the Council. The handout included a listing of items not authorized by the Town Council totaling \$450,000 which are needed for repair. He added if the electrical is included the total cost is \$1,136,859.80.

Vice Mayor Dalton asked the reason for these items being in the VML column.

Mr. Garrett responded that these items are due to the immediate damage to the plant.

Vice Mayor stated we have to take care of what could be the next tragedy.

Mr. George asked if the situation with Woodard & Curran and the local engineering was worked out.

Mr. Garrett advised there is a contract with Woodard & Curran; staff is working with the local SCADA group and there is a possibly of leaving the contract and working with the local group.

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Mr. Coggsdale advised there was a meeting and staff is evaluating how to proceed.

Mr. Herb White, WW Associates, advised they have looked at the pumps and pipes and the idea of hooking the new pumps to the existing electrical service. The main distribution panel was build in 1968 (parts for an electrical panel are obsolete) and there are concerns with hooking the new variable speed pumps up to the old device. Mr. White referred to the electrical room which houses a caustic soda tank which is approximately 3 feet from the panel; noting water, electricity and caustic don't mix. The suggestion is to build a masonry building exterior to the present building to house the electric panels.

Mr. Garrett stated the hope is to prevent failure and he has concerns with the electrical set up.

Mr. Higginbotham questioned who the electrical subs would be and asked if this is something that local businesses could be contacted for a price. He suggested that this project be looked at from a design/build standpoint.

Vice Mayor Dalton asked what the procurement rules are.

Mr. Coggsdale responded this is not an emergency procurement; therefore, we have to go through a process of designing and put it out for bid.

A motion was made by Mr. George, seconded by Mr. Emerson, to approve the concept of proceeding with the electrical and construction of a new building at the Water Treatment Plant as outlined in Mr. Garrett's memo.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mrs. Micki Brumfield	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

7. Items Scheduled for the Regular Meeting Agenda

- a. Amended Writeoff of Delinquent Personal Property Taxes for Deceased Individuals

Mr. Coggsdale advised an additional name was added to this listing.

This item was moved to the consent agenda.

- b. Budget Amendment-Police Weapons Exchange

Mr. Coggsdale advised this has been previously approved by Council, approving the Budget amendment completes it.

This item was moved to the consent agenda.

8. Late Arriving or Matters from Council

- a. Main Street Drainage

Mr. Garrett advised he has spoken to VDOT and the representatives have not been able to come up here and look at the drainage on Main Street. They plan to come in the next two weeks, mark the pipe and see what has to be done to repair/replace.

Mr. Higginbotham advised there is a 18" drain pipe that was replaced under the intersection of Pittsylvania Avenue and Main. At the corner of Feller's running across to the Pittard's property is a new concrete pipe. This pipe goes up Main Street on the same side as the waterline with a drop inlet around Feller's, another drop inlet

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further up with 20 feet of evaluation difference between Pittsylvania Avenue and the next intersection. Mr. Higginbotham stated if this line is replaced and lower the evaluation we can get drainage off the intersection of Charlotte, Amherst and 5th Street. Mr. Higginbotham noted the majority of the drainage runs on the west side of the street. The bid opening is scheduled for September 23, 2015, he suggested postponing this process.

Mr. Coggsdale stated the pipe may not even be in the road but under the sidewalk. It needs to be determined if the pipe belongs to the Town or VDOT.

Mr. Higginbotham stated the point is there will be traffic control and there would be a better price if this is included in the bidding process.

Mr. Coggsdale noted this would be an opportunity to address some bigger picture items.

Mr. George asked if this was the same problem Mr. John Tomlin, former Public Works Director, was working on on Pittsylvania Avenue through the BGF parking lot.

Mr. Coggsdale advised some of this has been addressed by clearing a blockage in front of the florist on Main Street. This might be an opportunity to look at the drainage and see if it can be upgraded.

Mr. Garrett noted the pipe was broken when a new traffic signal was installed at the intersection of Franklin and Main and the pipe was like tissue paper; corrugated metal pipe.

Vice Mayor Dalton questioned the solution lying in VDOT's coordination with the town's project.

Mr. Coggsdale stated it has not be determined if that item is on any of VDOT's drawings; trying to find the pipe on somebody's drawings to see who it belongs to.

Mr. Higginbotham stated the bid for September 23 needs to be postponed with an alternate added for the pipe.

Vice Mayor Dalton questioned how this could be done, if staff is unsure of who the pipe belongs to. She asked if the bids are ready to be turned in on September 23.

Mr. Garrett responded the bids are due on September 23rd.

Mr. Coggsdale advised this could be an add on or it could be a standalone project but it has to be coordinated.

Vice Mayor Dalton did not see this happening the day before bids are due and felt the contractors would not be happy.

Mr. Higginbotham noted this would be more work for them to bid on.

Vice Mayor Dalton called for the pleasure of Council.

Mr. Emerson asked Mr. Garrett for his recommendation.

Mr. Garrett stated this has been put off once and would hate to do it a second time; a change order could be made. He stated his concern is not knowing who the pipe belongs to.

Mr. Higginbotham felt there would be all the more reason to add an alternate if the pipe belongs to the town and if it is VDOT the town could work out a cost reimbursement.

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Mr. Coggsdale reminded Council staff has been working with VDOT for a while on the Main Street project and is coordinating that project; VDOT is going to pave Main Street next summer. He advised this has been postponed once and this will push us up to the window of VDOT's pavement. Staff has worked with VDOT and they have been patient. This could take two months and we won't be ready.

Mr. Higginbotham motioned to put an alternate in the bid of 18" pipe with inlets, priced under five feet and over five feet and have this as a alternate so if the town doesn't want to do it but if we decided to do it there would be an alternate. He felt this could be turned around in a week to two week time. He suggested calling the contractors and advise them the bidding process has been postponed.

Mr. Coggsdale advised he understood this and staff would do what Council directs them to do but the other side is you are going to add more work to his contract noting the opportunity is there either way. He was sure if Mr. Higginbotham was looking at saving a little bit or a lot and may not save any by deferring.

Mr. Higginbotham stated staff should be able to use the sewer cameras to locate the pipe.

Mr. Garrett responded they knew where the pipe is located; partially under the curb and gutter partially under the street near Pittsylvania Avenue. Near the florist this pipe is located under the sidewalk. VDOT doesn't show this pipe on their drawings but is still in their right of way.

Mr. Higginbotham suggested while the street is being torn up is the time to take care of these repairs.

Mrs. Dalton clarified the decision for tonight is does Council postpone the receipts for bids and lump this project with the Main Street project or does staff proceed with receiving the bids and once staff knows more about the Main Street drainage it become a potential change order.

Mr. Higginbotham felt the cost savings would be substantial. He stated he would like to be upfront with the contractors and let them know this is seriously being considered and make it an alternate in the bid. He felt in two weeks time the bids could be squared away to address this.

Mr. George motioned that Council move forward with receiving the bids on September 23rd and continues with the due diligence. No second.

Mr. Higginbotham motioned that the bid be postponed for "x" number of weeks assuming the pipe belongs to the Town of Altavista, put an alternate in the bid to add an 18" water line reinforced concrete pipe up to Amherst Avenue with drop inlets and drainage, rely on the town manager and Public Works Director to set the time frame.

Mrs. Brumfield asked why the bids could not be received on September 23rd and let them know of the changes.

Mrs. Dalton felt the theory is a bid is done on a competitive bases and a change order has no competition.

Mr. Coggsdale stated a change order does not have to be accepted; it can be put out as its own project; noting this could be done by Public Works.

Mr. Higginbotham asked if Public Works would do their own traffic control.

Mrs. Dalton noted this was done with the present project and done successfully; this would be another option.

Mr. Higginbotham stated an alternate would give more flexibility and it probably needs some curb and gutter.

Mrs. Brumfield seconded Mr. Higginbotham’s motion.

Mr. Emerson stated the motion did not bother him one way or the other; he was concerned that staff is telling Council one thing and he believes VDOT and staff will work together to accomplish the goal at the end.

Vice Mayor Dalton mentioned if staff does not like the change order it can be done by the town.

Mr. Emerson questioned what if the bids were not received within 3 weeks.

Mr. Higginbotham felt the information could be put together in a day’s time.

Mr. Coggsdale questioned if the current bid is lump sum; lump sum water line and unit price storm water.

Mr. Higginbotham amended his motion to 3 weeks maximum of delaying the bid.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mrs. Micki Brumfield	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	No
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

Staff is to contact the bidders to advise them of the postponement of the bid opening and to return the bids.

b. WWTP EOP-University of Iowa Request

Mr. Coggsdale advised Dr. Scott Lowman, IAR** has gathered his samplings and staff is awaiting the results. He noted the samples for University of Iowa are there.

Mr. Higginbotham mentioned Dr. Schnoor wants a berm and that decision will need to be made in the next month or so.

Vice Mayor Dalton stated the sample results should tell Council if the berm should or should not be.

Mr. George referred to a letter from the EPA stating the town basically did not have to do anything in regards to the PCBs but if Council did they had to follow by the EPA’s rules. He asked the Town Attorney if this was correct.

Mr. Eller stated although the letter is vague but that is the interpretation.

Mr. George asked if we don’t have to do anything why is Council spending all this money doing something especially when it is something they don’t approve of.

Vice Mayor Dalton stated she has been on Council for 10 years now and it has always been the mindset of this group that it had a conscious about it when it came to that pond and that PCBs had been deemed a material that had negative effects in some circumstances. We should to the degree that we have the power do what can be done to keep the community safe from those ill effects. Over time other things have been learned; not only are they there but they have been there for a long time. To this date, Council knows of no person or thing that has been damaged by the PCBs presence. Council also knows regardless of what the letter says we keep getting a reminder of what is Council going to do about it. This all means Council has made an effort to do what was thought was prudent at time given the resource they have to work with. Council will always be working toward getting rid of them or containing them. She felt this is why Council is where they are.

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Mr. Higginbotham felt this was well said and said University of Iowa is working on this matter, Institute of Advanced Learning and Research, and University of Maryland.

Vice Mayor Dalton stated regardless of the specifics of what has been done it is not just Council's problem it is a public safety problem worldwide and Council has learned to have them contained in a pond as the Town does is something unusual.

Mrs. Brumfield advised she has spoken to the personnel director at BGF who advised they had their PCB dug up and hauled off 17 years ago and they have yet to receive a letter of closure.

Mr. George stated this was different because their PCBs were draining into the river.

Mrs. Brumfield stated this manufacturing plant did as they were told to do and still did not receive a letter of closure.

Mr. George stated we do not know if what we are doing is causing harm. DEQ says they suspect what is being done is causing harm. This is an international problem, it is being looked at by countries that have unlimited check books. Altavista is a small town with over \$350,000 being spent thus far and still plugging away. Mr. George said he didn't understand why Council continues to spend if the letter says we don't have to and there are letters from the DEQ that say they don't like what is being done. Why does Council continue to try when no one really knows what they are doing? He referred to Dr. Lowman and \$20,000 has been spent with him and he commented for his experiments to work ultimately the cap and seal is recommended. Mr. George stated there is a lot of opposition to the cap and seal and he didn't understand the opposition. Council has been told for years and years the only solution was "Dig and Haul" or "Remediate". He did not feel this was true; the cheapest price and most accepted with the DEQ and EPA is cap and seal. He stated this would work with one of the people that Council has hired as an expert and that can be talked about because it seems ridiculous to some of the Council members. He noted there was a large pile of rubble at the Lane building that could help with this process. Mr. George asked Mr. Steven Rock about the cap and seal who said that was done all the time. He noted Mr. Rock has been told by his superiors not to communicate with the town. Mr. George said considering everything it makes no sense to him to keep plugging on and spending more money when we don't have too.

Vice Mayor Dalton stated it is quite a complicated and told Mr. George she appreciated his thought process. Given time and the big picture, Vice Mayor Dalton stated her perspective has changed and told Mr. George she appreciated him keeping Council's feet on the ground and reminded of one of the possibilities.

Mrs. Brumfield stated Council is not doing anything until the test results are back.

Vice Mayor Dalton confirmed Council is waiting on test results and the meeting with DEQ.

Mr. George stated one thing he likes about the berms is there is still half the pond for emergency overflow, if berms continue to be built there wouldn't be a pond left.

Mr. Higginbotham stated this is not accurate.

Mr. George referred to the conversation of building berms along the edge and working the way into the pond.

Vice Mayor Dalton stated she didn't think the pond had not been made part of the emergency overflow system.

c. DEQ-Informal Fact Finding Process

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Mr. Coggsdale advised he is still awaiting official notification and is still gathering information. This information will be presented to DEQ and they will decide if this is acceptable.

9. Public Comments

Vice Mayor Dalton asked if anyone would like to come forward and speak on anything not listed on the agenda.

10. Adjournment

Vice Mayor Dalton adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Beverley Dalton, Vice-Mayor

J. Waverly Coggsdale, Clerk