

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 25, 2016, 6:00 P.M.
WORK SESSION
Council Chambers

PRESENT: The Honorable W. Eugene Hunt, Jr., Mayor
The Honorable Carey L. Freeman, Vice Mayor
The Honorable Traci-Dale Crawford
The Honorable Herbert R. Green, Jr.
The Honorable Raymond E. Vernall
The Honorable Henry W. Ayer III

J. Randall Wheeler, City Manager
Judy F. Wiggins, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk
D. Wayne Moore, City Attorney

ABSENCE: The Honorable Charles “Bud” M. Southall III

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hunt at approximately 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Bunting Lane:

The City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, reminded City Council that at their May 23, 2016 regular meeting they discussed traffic concerns on Bunting Lane and received significant public comments on this issue under Audience For Visitors. He stated that subsequent to the discussion that evening, Council requested that additional traffic data be collected and that this matter be discussed again in a summer work session. Since the May meeting, Mr. Wheeler stated that the Police Department has provided increased speed enforcement on this street and has also installed two *Children at Play* signs.

In addition, as a result of the May Council discussion, Mr. Wheeler stated that staff had contacted VDOT for guidance and additional information on how to appropriately address this issue. He stated that *Traffic Calming* is a formal VDOT program established for residential roads that provide direct access to homes and is intended to slow speeding traffic without restricting access to the street itself. However, he pointed out that such measures do not require State approval but rather approval from City Council.

The City Manager stated that prior to implementing any traffic calming measures, i.e. speed humps, traffic circles, raised crosswalks, etc., increased community awareness and stepping up traffic enforcement should first occur. In addition, he pointed out that Council may wish to consider other options such as establishing a Residence District that would establish a maximum fine of up to \$200 for speeders and provided the steps whereby this could be enacted. Also he pointed out that the installation of one or more enlarged speed limit electronic signs, which display the actual speed of oncoming traffic, could be installed.

Chief of Police, Clifford Bowen, stated that stealth radar was used on Bunting Lane on May 19, 2016 through June 2, 2016 and again the week prior to this work session showing very little difference, i.e. out of the approximate 3,900 vehicles that were counted during each of the given periods approximately 20 of them were traveling 35+ mph. He explained that the data also shows the Police Department at what time speeding is more prevalent so that the Police can increase enforcement accordingly.

Councilwoman Crawford stated that she had learned that it is illegal to use stop signs as a traffic calming measure.

Councilman Green stated that prior to implementation of any drastic traffic calming measure(s); he would want to see a petition supporting such a measure(s) signed by a large percentage of the residents in the affected neighborhoods.

Mayor Hunt suggested that solar-powered electronic signs showing drivers the speed limit and their personal vehicular speed be erected on Bunting Lane and that the Police Department use the new data to determine at what times they should increase enforcement.

In response to a Council query, the City Manager stated that the solar-powered speed signs cost approximately \$3,500 to \$5,000.

Councilman Ayer stated that should such signs be purchased and erected on Bunting Lane, residents on similar roadways will likely request the same signs which could cost the City a great deal of money.

Councilman Vernall stated that no extreme traffic calming measures are called for on Bunting Lane; however, he could support the installation of solar speed signs as well as additional typical speed signs.

Councilwoman Crawford suggested painting white lines on the edges of road pavement.

Police Chief Bowen stated that his department is also looking at improving visibility along Bunting Lane to see if any vegetation needs to be removed to improve the line of sight.

Mayor Hunt stated that it appeared to be the consensus of Council to:

- Paint white lines on the pavement edges of Bunting Lane;
- Improve visibility of the existing speed postings and remove any vegetation necessary to improve visibility for drivers; and
- Add solar-powered digital speed sign(s).

Lastly he stated that the creation of a \$200 speeding fine district would be the last resort and that he would like to see the stealth unit used more frequently.

Brewery Conditional Use Permit:

Kevin Wyne, Planner, stated that Rae and Phoebe Harcum, property owners, and Samuel Straight, applicant, are requesting a Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a

small, independent craft brewery to include a tap room and an outdoor beer garden on a 2.42 acre parcel located on the south side of Victory Boulevard, east of City Hall Avenue. He gave a brief overview of the request which highlighted the following information:

- That a Use Permit is required since a brewery is not specifically permitted in the VC District;
- That the total building will measure 6,000 square feet in size;
- That the applicant is willing to work with the City pertaining to right-of-way dedication;
- That traffic generation is not expected to be heavy;
- That the Architectural Review Board approval will be required; and
- That the Planning Commission, by a vote of 4-0, recommended approval of the Use Permit inclusive of the eight conditions suggested by staff.

Mayor Hunt pointed out that a brewery is only allowed in the Research & Development District in the City which is in close proximity to the subject parcel. He also encouraged Council to allow new businesses to come into the City with as few obstacles as possible.

In response to Council queries, the Planner stated that the subject parcel will be accessed from the City Hall Avenue traffic circle and that the applicant has assured staff that all brewery odors would be contained on-site.

Mr. Sam Straight, applicant, confirmed Mr. Wyne's earlier remarks and provided a brief mission statement for this business. He pointed out that the business would be environmentally friendly using sustainable technology, conserving water and energy as much as possible and having no odor emissions. Lastly he stated that he is committed to using Virginia resources as much as possible and to make the brewery a destination for Poquoson residents and tourists alike.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.