



**COUNCIL MINUTES  
TOWN OF CLIFTON FORGE, VIRGINIA  
7:00 P.M. TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019  
CLIFTON FORGE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
547 MAIN STREET**

**INVOCATION-** David Davis provided the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-** Mayor Irvine led the attendees and Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER-** Mayor Irvine called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Jeff Irvine, Vice Mayor Pamela Marshall, Councilman Robert Umstead, Councilman David Oeltjen, and Councilman Ronald Goings

**Also, present but not on the roll:** Darlene Burcham, Town Manager, David Davis, Town Attorney, and Angela Carper, Clerk

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**A. First Readings and Public Hearing: Proposed FY 2019-2020 Operating and Capital Budgets**

LeeAnna Tyler, Finance Director provided a brief summary of this year's budget proposal, explaining that there are no proposed tax increases again this year even with a very tight budget. Mrs. Tyler also advised that this year's budget does not include any salary increase for employees. She provided a handout to Council that included summary information for the proposed FY 20 budget as compared to the FY 19 Budget, a list of Capital projects, a schedule of the top 10 revenue items in the proposed budget, and a schedule of the top 10 expenditure budget—noting that there are a lot of misconceptions regarding where money is actually being spent and emphasizing that the Town Manager's budget is actually at the bottom of the list of ten expenditures. The information provided is as follows:

## FY 20 PROPOSED BUDGET

	FY 19 ADOPTED BUDGET	FY 20 PROPOSED BUDGET	
GENERAL FUND	\$3,149,541	\$3,130,649	REDUCTION \$18,892
WATER FUND	\$1,460,200	\$1,470,200	INCREASE \$10,000
SEWER	\$1,628,277	\$1,786,936	INCREASE \$158,659
TOTAL BUDGET	\$6,249,129	\$6,387,775	

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

General Fund	Generator	\$ 70,000
Debt funded		
	Fire Truck Equipment	\$ 38,500
Water Fund	Tank rehabilitation	\$174,000
Cash funded		
	Valve & Hydrant Replacements	\$ 46,000
	Main Transmission Line Rehab	\$170,000
Sewer Fund		\$ 0

General Fund - Real Estate or Personal Property remains same.

Reassessment only resulted in \$6,000 total revenue increase.  
All other taxes and fees remain the same

Water fund - One Dollar Increase (\$1) to base water rates = generates \$17,500

Basic bill increases from \$109 to \$110.

Rural Development Grant/Loan package for Dam Project requirement

Sewer Fund – No change

No Employee raises

## FY 20 PROPOSED GENERAL FUND

### SCHEDULE OF REVENUES “TOP 10”

Categorical Aid from the Commonwealth	\$875,348
Meals Tax	\$400,000
PPTRA (Personal Property Tax Relief from Commonwealth)	\$316,644
Real Estate Tax	\$302,500
Personal Property Tax	\$259,000
Consumer Utility Tax	
\$240,000	
Business License Tax	\$215,000
Local Sales & Use Tax	
\$120,000	
Bank Stock Tax	\$ 75,000
Alleghany County Cont’b to Fire Services	\$ 71,000
Total Revenue from Local sources in budget	\$1,933,291 or 61.8%
Total Revenue from Commonwealth in budget	\$1,197,348 or 38.2%

## FY 20 PROPOSED GENERAL FUND

### SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES “TOP 10”

Police Department	\$837,207
Street Maintenance	\$728,00
Fire Department	\$213,973
Library	\$203,375
Parks	\$169,220
Debt Service	\$139,560
Non-Departmental (telephone, LODA, maintenance contacts, etc.)	\$122,000
Finance *	\$ 96,638
Community Development	\$ 91,268
Town Manager *	\$ 75,467

\*Only General fund portion – Cost shared with water/sewer

Following her summary and explanation, LeeAnna Tyler, read each budget ordinance and resolution for first reading, stating that the \$1 increase in the water rate will only equal approximately \$17.5K in revenue for the Town and that it is required by USDA

in order to receive the grant and loan for the dam repairs. The items will appear for second reading and adoption at the May 28, 2019 meeting.

Mayor Irvine opened the public hearing for the first item at 7:19 PM and opened the floor for public comment.

**1) An Ordinance Imposing And Levying Taxes Within The Town of Clifton Forge, Virginia Upon Real Property For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019 and Ending June 30, 2020, and Upon Personal Property and Machinery and Tools For the Calendar Year Beginning January 1, 2019, and Ending December 31, 2019.**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Proceed to second reading

John Moser of Church Street asked what the general fund is. It was explained to him that it is the general operating budget for the town.

Councilman Oeltjen stated that he appreciated the work on the budget and again noted the significance of not having any proposed tax increases.

Councilman Umstead thanked LeeAnna Tyler, Finance Director and Mrs. Burcham, Town Manager, for their work on the budget and the presentation.

Mayor Irvine closed this section at 7:22.

Mayor Irvine opened the public hearing for the first item at 7:22 PM and opened the floor for public comment.

**2) An ordinance to amend Section 86-95, Water Services Charges and Fees beginning July 1, 2019.**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Proceed to second reading

John Moser of Church Street commented on a situation he had experienced with a leak at his residence with questions about the water meter, stating that he was told that the meters when installed by the Town were not new, but used that were bought from Lynchburg. Mayor Irvine commented that it was his understanding that the meters were not new but refurbished. Mrs. Burcham requested time to address the question and explained that the water meters were in fact new when they were installed over 10 years ago, prior to her arrival in the Town, and were actually purchased with grant

funding provided by the Virginia Department of Health, which is very strict with their requirements.

Mayor Irvine advised that this was a public hearing on the charges and that the situation Mr. Moser was mentioning should be discussed with the Town Manager and not during this time. Mr. Moser stated that the water charges are always going up and that he does not feel it is fair, that there should be a minimum and noted that in Fairfax people are billed for their usage. He then mentioned the flower baskets and the watering of them and stated he did not feel it necessary because there are other areas to the Town other than Main Street.

Diana Kling-Smith thanked Council for explaining things and stated that the increase had been explained in great detail a few different times, with the most recent being last year when the engineers from Draper Aden came and provided the presentation that explained that the reason for the increase is in order for the Town to get the loan and grant for the required repairs to the dam. The rate will go up, but then come down. She advised that people need to attend the Council meetings and read the materials that are put out so that they can be.

Mr. Moser stated that he was not aware of that, but that it had been said that Loves Truckstop who purchases water from the Town would help with the rate and that it had not. Councilman Goings asked Mrs. Burcham about the water at the Loves location to verify if that water was supplied by the County. Mrs. Burcham advised that to be correct, it is supplied by the County and they purchase it from the Town.

Vice Mayor Marshall advised that the previous Council had advised of the increase and that it was to secure the funding needed for the dam. She explained that it would be \$110 this year, another \$1 increase the following year to \$111 where it will stay for two years and then it will decrease back to \$107, based upon a five-year projection, and advised that it had all been discussed, disclosed, and presented last November during that presentation. Diana Kling-Smith thanked her and stated that she just wanted to make it clear that the citizens have been made aware.

Caroline Ahmed stated that water prices are too high and that the flowers are nice, but do not help the citizens pay for the high costs.

Diana Kling-Smith stated that it is her understanding when the rates were originally set it was stated that if they were charged for actual usage, the rates in order to pay for the Town's debt they would have been charged much higher rates so the rates were created to make it more equal.

Mayor Irvine closed this section of the public hearing at 7:32

Mayor Irvine opened the public hearing for the first item at 7:32 PM and opened the floor for public comment.

**3) Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating and Capital Budgets For the Town of Clifton Forge, Virginia and Appropriating the Requisite Funds for Said Budgets**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Proceed to second reading

John Moser of Church Street asked if the Capital fund includes the new fire truck. He stated that he lives across from the Fire Department and sees the truck being used to run errands and other things instead of just being used for emergencies. He stated that he also sees many of the members washing their personal vehicles at the station and does not think that is right for them to receive free water when he and everyone else has to pay high rates for it.

Mayor Irvine stated that the fire trucks are used during the day when the person on duty goes to lunch because they are on duty 24/7 and if they receive a call during their lunch it requires them to go so having the truck cuts down on response time. He also advised that the new truck is being bought by the County and the amount listed in the capital budget is for the new equipment that will be purchased for the truck to replace the old equipment on the old truck and asked Mrs. Burcham how old the truck being replaced is, guessing 10-15 years old.

Mrs. Burcham advised that the truck is actually closer to 15-20 years old and that most of the equipment by the time the new truck arrives will be out of date as specified by the usage and requirements of the manufacturer. She advised that the old truck will be sold as surplus once the new truck is ready for service. She also mentioned that the price of the new truck is close to \$450,000 and since it is being purchased by the County, it is a huge savings for the Town.

Councilman Goings asked where the surplus monies go and how much the fire truck might bring when sold.

Mrs. Burcham advised that the monies from all surplus sales go back into the General Fund so it is actually some additional money for the town and stated that it is hard to predict the amount that the truck may bring, but mentioned a previous “antique” fire truck that did rather well, better than expected. She mentioned to Council that there will be a surplus list included on their next agenda for items to be declared surplus so that they may be then sold on the “GovDeals” website. She mentioned that it will be some time yet before the new truck will arrive as the order for the build was just placed in April.



**Motion to approve minutes**

**Motion made by:** Councilman Oeltjen

**Seconded by:** Councilman Goings

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**Councilman Umstead** Aye

**Councilman Oeltjen** Aye

**Councilman Goings** Aye

**Vice Mayor Marshall** Aye

**Mayor Jeff Irvine** Aye

**Motion passed:** 5-0

**3. REQUEST FROM CLIFTON FORGE MAIN STREET FOR STREET CLOSURE AND USE OF THE “TRACKLESS” TRAIN AS A SHUTTLE FOR HERITAGE DAY**

Clifton Forge Main Street, along with the Heritage Day Committee, is requesting permission to have Church Street, between Commercial and Jefferson, closed from 6 AM – 5 PM on Saturday, June 1, 2019 for the Heritage Day event. They are also asking permission to use the trackless train to travel from the parking lot behind the Pure service station back through Main Street and Ridgway Street to Loop Street.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Grant requests

**Motion to grant request**

**Motion made by:** Councilman Oeltjen

**Seconded by:** Councilman Umstead

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**Councilman Umstead**           Aye  
**Councilman Oeltjen**           Aye  
**Councilman Goings**           Aye  
**Vice Mayor Marshall**           Aye  
**Mayor Jeff Irvine**           Aye

**Motion passed:**                   5-0

**4. REQUEST FROM CLIFTON FORGE MAIN STREET FOR PERMISSION TO HOST THE DOWNTOWN MARKET**

Clifton Forge Main Street requests permission to hold the Downtown Market on Thursdays from 3:30–6:30 pm, beginning June 13, 2019 through August 29, 2019, on Commercial Street between Ace Hardware and Sona Bank, with that area blocked off by 2:45 PM on those days to allow vendors time to set up.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Grant request

**Motion to grant request**

**Motion made by:**    Councilman Umstead

**Seconded by:**        Councilman Oeltjen

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**Councilman Umstead**           Aye  
**Councilman Oeltjen**           Aye  
**Councilman Goings**           Aye  
**Vice Mayor Marshall**           Aye  
**Mayor Jeff Irvine**           Aye

**Motion passed:**                   5-0

**INFORMATION**

Town offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2019 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

## **MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

Mrs. Burcham mentioned that Governor Northam has declared this week as Virginia Police Week and Wednesday as Peace Officer Memorial Day and requested everyone to thank officers they see this week for their service.

Mrs. Burcham mentioned the newly painted murals on the stairs off Keswick Street and stated that the Town has received many positive comments and that they have brought a lot of smiles! She stated that the Town is hoping to do more with art in the future, possibly on the walls at the cemetery by hiring an artist and having others paint the drawing once completed.

Mrs. Burcham mentioned that June 1 will be the annual Heritage Day Festival, which is always great, but this year there will also be the “Bags, Badges, and Bridges” Corn Hole Tournament which will be held at Booker T. Washington Park which has been put together by our Police Chief, Chad Wickline and a local resident. There is a \$20 entry fee per person and all proceeds will be going to the park’s rehabilitation fund. The event is drawing a lot of publicity from all over and there are many coming to participate, not only from the Town.

Mrs. Burcham reminded everyone of the generous donation made by the Kroger employees recently and advised that Councilman Umstead and his wife have now provided a \$500 donation as well for the Washington Park fund and that they have also purchased a swing set for the newly developed park on Roxbury Street.

Mrs. Burcham advised that the Alleghany Highlands through EDC has obtained a \$600K grant from the EPA that can be used to do Phase I and Phase II environmental studies and remediation. She stated that if anyone knows of individuals or businesses in the region who are possibly wanting to develop land or building sites they have but have been cautious due to the previous use of the site to contact Marla Akridge at the AHEDC. She stated that they have a comprehensive list of possible properties, but do not wish to start using the funds until there is actual need. Currently, a Phase I study is being done at the old East School/Jefferson High, which is also available to receive historic tax credits for development.

Mrs. Burcham advised that the milling and paving within the Town will begin tomorrow on Lowell Street and advised that those traveling that area may want to consider an alternate route.

Lastly, Mrs. Burcham stated that she has been fortunate in the last several weeks to attend programs in Pulaski and Wytheville, one dealing with Main Street marketing and the other with small business entrepreneurs using old buildings. She mentioned

that on Thursday the Gauntlet will host an awards ceremony in Vinton which will include competitors from not only the Alleghany Highlands, but Roanoke, Salem, Botetourt, and many other areas and that our area is fortunate enough to have 7 of the 10 finalists.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**CLIFTON FORGE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**TODDLER TIME—WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019, 11-11:45 AM**

**PRESCHOOL STORY TIME—WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019, 11 AM – NOON**

**CLIFTON FORGE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

**JAMMIN AT THE MILL—FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019, 7 PM**

**MASONIC THEATRE**

**HISTORIC MASONIC THEATRE TOUR—SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019, 11 AM**

**GLENDA’S FANCY FEET DANCE RECITAL, 2019—SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019, 7 PM**

**VA OPRY, KEITH BRYANT SHOWCASE—SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019, 3 PM**

**THE “WANNABEATLES” TOUR—SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2019, 7:30 PM**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mark Bowser addressed Council requesting that the bridge on Commercial Avenue at Venus Way which has been closed since 2012 be reopened with a weight restriction. He stated that it has been closed for too many years without anything being done and he feels that it creates a safety issue with fire trucks not being able to get through to respond to emergencies. He stated that he is sitting with his mother and that there is also another elderly neighbor who lives there, and he is concerned. He stated that people are parking and walking and that he was told that it was closed by VDOT, but he has a voice message from VDOT stating that they have not closed any bridges within the Town and that it would be the Town’s decision.

Mayor Irvine advised that he had spoken with Darlene about the bridge and if there is money in this year's budget the Town is going to do another structural study which VDOT requires.

Mrs. Burcham advised that Mayor Irvine is correct, and that the reinspection of the bridge has already been requested. She advised that the last inspection listed over \$310K in repairs that would need to be done to the bridge which the Town cannot afford. VDOT will not allow the bridge to be reopened without the repairs being made and when the engineer who inspects the bridge was asked if he felt that they would allow it to reopen with a weight restriction, he advised that he does not feel VDOT will approve, but that a reinspection is the first step of the process to request that of VDOT.

Mr. Bowser stated that VDOT has said they have nothing to do with the bridge.

Mrs. Burcham advised that VDOT provides the Town with an inspection schedule which we must follow, and the reports are sent to VDOT and it is upon VDOT's recommendation that repairs are done.

Mr. Bowser asked if the Town could at least, in the time being, enforce a no parking area which Mrs. Burcham advised she would speak to the Chief of Police about.

Shorty Wolfe addressed Council for a few different items. He stated that his group is wishing to start an open mic night at their 420 Ridgeway location and asked what he needs to do in order to make that happen. He also asked about using the Rose Street parking lot on October 31 for a Halloween event for children, with the area being closed off from 8 AM – 10 PM. Lastly, he stated that there is a small turn-around spot across from his home on Prospect that is gravel and overgrown with weeds, that people use to turn around regularly and asked if the Town would form up the area and he would purchase the concrete to make it more appealing.

Councilman Goings asked who would be sponsoring the events he mentioned. Mr. Wolfe advised that his Fellowship would be the sponsor.

Mrs. Burcham advised Mr. Wolfe that he will need to come in and speak to her in regard to his requests and provide some further detail, so that they can be presented formally to Council for approval. She also advised that she will speak to Public Works and the Police Department about the area he mentioned to see what would be appropriate for that area.

Mr. Wolfe mentioned in closing that Dabney now has a men's and women's basketball teams which his son is a coach and that they are looking for a way to provide housing for them.

John Moser of Church Street again spoke regarding his water meter and stated that he does not see where it is new, but that the leak that his residence has now been fixed with metal. He stated that his meter reading during the leak showed he had used 24K gallons and felt that to be high. Mr. Moser stated that watering the flower baskets throughout the Town is wasteful spending. He stated that he lives across from the Fire Department and that he sees the people there washing their personal vehicles all the time. He doesn't understand how the water is going to the sewer plant and that it should be taken care of by the County. He stated that there is a big problem in the alleyway behind his residence and that Public Works has not fixed the apron in the alleyway which creates a problem with water coming down the street and running under his home which is causing the floors to rot out. He stated that he was told to contact Columbia Gas and told that Public Works was going to call them as well to report the problem with water standing in the area, but when he contacted them was told by Columbia Gas that they had not received a complaint. He stated that the Town should quit wasting money on the flowerpots and make the whole Town beautiful, not just the Main Street area. He stated that money is being spent on Roxbury Street, but not on his street. He complained that there needs to be more stop signs placed on Church Street because people are flying down his street or possibly begin using speed cameras like they do in DC. He mentioned various Police vehicles from other localities and emergency vehicles constantly going down his street and stated that the Police Department does not monitor speed on the street.

Vice Mayor Marshall addressed Mr. Moser's complaints and stated that she talks to him often during her time at the Library and was curious to know if there are so many problems at his residence, why the homeowner is not at the meeting to address the issues instead of him. She stated that as far as street beautification, the Town has gone beyond the entrance corridors to do things and that more will be done, but it costs money and takes time. She stated that he had complained previously about people speeding on Church Street and she had witnessed the Police using radar on the street to monitor the speed. She advised that he should do more research before coming to a meeting to complain or bashing things when a lot of the issues he mentioned are being taken care of and mentioned the radar trailer being used on his street as well.

Mayor Irvine asked Mr. Moser who he was referring to as speeding emergency vehicles, or citizens and advised that the emergency vehicles goal is to arrive at a location as quickly as possible, which he would want if they were responding to his emergency, and that if it is citizens, the Police Department will deal with them as they

have been. He asked Mrs. Burcham to verify, but stated that the members of the Fire Department are allowed to wash their vehicle as one of the benefits of being a member, but there is a separate meter on site and the volunteers pay for that water.

Mr. Moser stated that he wasn't aware of that and then asked if they were billed at the same rate as everyone else. Mrs. Burcham advised that they are.

Caroline Ahmed, Seth Dressler's mother, stated that she had driven from Charlotte, NC to attend the meeting. She stated that she had tried to resolve the issues with the water leak at her son's residence with Public Works and the Town Manager but that they would not accept payments. She stated that the bill is now down to \$800, but they still have no water with a teenager and baby in the home. She stated that it was unfair of the Alleghany Journal to put out the story because they weren't given a chance to tell their side of the story, even though they were given permission to release the information. She stated that she feels like Mrs. Burcham and her crew did not inform people as they should have and that the Mayor and Vice Mayor tried to help. She said she had a check stub for \$216.70 which was a payment made by her mother, Seth's grandmother, which paid the account current through February in advance of what was due so it should have been a red flag. She stated that she has heard all the codes and heard all the stories, but something needs to be changed. She stated that Mrs. Burcham had made the comment that the Town could not fix their water leak because it was on private property, but the Town can go mow grass and feels it is a gross negligence and out of control. She stated that there are a lot of poor people here and that incorrect statements had been made, telling them that the bill was a computer error, and something needs to be done.

Seth Dressler of Madison Avenue addressed Council regarding the water leak which resulted in a very high water bill in which they are struggling to pay. He stated that first and foremost he wanted to personally thank the Mayor for going above and beyond. He stated that what his mom had said is partially how he feels, but that the video on the Alleghany Journal made him out to be a liar and that he could not remember who commented, but that none of the water that leaked went into the sewer system, only into the ground and that his step daughter had turned off the water drip outside which caused it to freeze and that his basement had flooded. He stated that he didn't pay any attention to it at that time because there was snow melting and that other homes in the area sometimes had flooded basements as well. He stated that when he received the first bill, he called the office and asked, and it was his mistake not to write down who he spoke to. He stated that Public Works spoke to him on multiple times, but when he was told in February he did say to leave the water on because the baby was due and he did not know there was a leak up until that time because he was told that it could have been a computer error. He stated that he didn't even have a license until his mom let him borrow the money to get it back and that he

wasn't working at the time but has since the baby was born. He stated that they were given the adjustment, but that the bill was way high and they are struggling to pay it. He thanked those who have helped out with payments towards the balance. He then stated that he didn't understand the \$1 increase in the water rate when the Town already has one of the highest in Virginia and that he feels it doesn't benefit all of Clifton Forge. He stated he regrets moving back here and lastly stated he heard that the Town was considering eliminating the Town decal and said thank you.

Jeffrey Stern, Director of the Masonic Theatre provided an update on the Amphitheatre renovations and repairs. He stated that they have been talking for a while and that the Amphitheatre has not held up as they all had hoped, but repairs are being made. He wished to thank Glenn Bryant, Don Roberts, and Chuck Almarez for replacing the wood on the bridge with "trex" alternative products to make it safe again and long lasting. He stated that they have begun removing the wood from the walk deck and have the Virginia Tech crews and others helping as well. Currently, they do not have any long-range plan as to how to address the issues with the curved wood on the rear of the Amphitheatres, but do not plan to remove it. Their goal is to make the Amphitheatre usable and safe again and will be replacing the current wooden ramp with a concrete one, which should have been installed in the beginning since trucks like to park there while unloading. Lastly, Mr. Stern thanked Council for their budget consideration.

Mayor Irvine asked if anyone in the audience who had not signed up to speak would like to say anything.

Jenny Oeltjen, owner of Livy's Closet mentioned the 3 hour parking signs in front of her store and asked if possible to move one a little further down the street as she feels that people do not realize that the entire street is a 3 hour parking area so some are parking and leaving their vehicles for the day which eliminates parking for customers of the shops. Mrs. Burcham advised she would have the Police Department take a look.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilman Umstead stated that he wished to thank the Clifton Forge Rescue Squad who responded to his home the previous week when he experienced difficulty breathing. He stated that he was taken to the hospital where tests were run and then transferred to Lewis Gale in Salem for further testing where it was found that he had fluid around both his heart and lungs. He advised that they were able to remove 8 liters of fluid from him, that he has lost 12 pounds and feels better than he has in a long time. He jokingly stated that his Doctor had stated he has the heart of a 40 year old, but after dealing with him and listening to him he wasn't sure that was a good thing.

Mr. Umstead stated that he is going to become more aggressive in dealing with people because he is offended by all of the bashing and blaming. He stated that he is willing to talk to anyone but demands respect and will walk away if it isn't given. He thanked both LeeAnna Tyler and Mrs. Burcham for all of their hard work on the budget and the struggle to balance it. He stated that he also believes that they will find a way to address the decal situation, but it will take time and effort. He mentioned his grandfather's farm in Michigan and stated that his grandfather always said he could have anyone there as long as they respected it and that goes a long way. He mentioned the mural on the steps and stated that they look wonderful and stated that people should be taking care of each other, but that we don't always do such a good job. Lastly, he thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Councilman Oeltjen thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated that he appreciates all of the comments. He also mentioned the Town's trails system and stated that it is great. He mentioned the garden club and all of their efforts in taking care of flowers and stated that a lot of the flowerpots throughout the Town are taken care of by individuals who donate their time and efforts. He stated that there is a lot of community spirit in the Town. Mr. Oeltjen provided an update on the Vision 2025 Curb Appeal and stated that the group is trying to find ways to deal with population loss and the loss of revenue and lack of industry within the area which all play a huge role in the vitality of the area. He stated that we lack a place to put industrial businesses within the Town, but the goal is to educate people in order to draw in new people, find and establish acceptable housing and encourage everyone to make the area better.

Councilman Goings thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated that it was a big crowd. Mr. Goings stated that there seems to be nothing but problems, problems, problems, and that he does not have all the answers, but hopefully in time he will.

Vice Mayor Marshall thanked LeeAnna Tyler and Mrs. Burcham for all of their hard work on the budget and stated that it is a tight budget and very difficult and that you can't always get all you want, but they did the best they could. She thanked Mr. Stern for the recognition of Mr. Bryant, Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Almarez and mentioned Martha Crawford and Wendy and Martha at Jack Mason's for their Chamber of Commerce Tourism Week awards.

Mayor Irvine thanked everyone for coming and stated that there is a misunderstanding over code enforcement and stated that just because you see things does not mean it isn't being addressed, there is a procedure that has to be followed. He mentioned the Summer Lunch program which will again be held at the Fire Department. He stated that he had met with a representative of the census bureau last week and that they will soon be coming around town taking the information for the current census. He stated

that he was told that 20% of the Town was not counted for the last census and that equals to about \$2K per person the Town could be using. He stated that he hopes this census goes better and would like to see a better outcome. Lastly, he read a statement thanking Council for their work with him and working together, quoting John F. Kennedy.

***Motion to continue meeting until 7 PM on May 21, 2019 for Public Hearing to consider Ordinance to purchase real estate and modify lease/purchase agreement***

**Motion to continue meeting as stated**

**Time: 8:46 PM**

**Motion made by: Councilman Umstead**

**Seconded by: Councilman Oeltjen**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

**Councilman Umstead** Aye

**Councilman Oeltjen** Aye

**Councilman Goings** Aye

**Vice Mayor Marshall** Aye

**Mayor Jeff Irvine** Aye

**Motion passed: 5-0**