

REGULAR MEETING OF STAUNTON CITY COUNCIL
Thursday, September 8, 2016
7:30 p.m.
Council Chambers

PRESENT: **Carolyn W. Dull, Mayor**
 Ophie A. Kier, Vice Mayor
 Erik D. Curren
 James J. Harrington
 R. Terry Holmes

ABSENT: **Andrea W. Oakes**
 Walter J. Obenschain

ALSO PRESENT: **Stephen F. Owen, City Manager**
 Steven L. Rosenberg, Deputy City Manager
 Douglas L. Guynn, City Attorney
 Linda L. Little, Clerk of Council

Mayor Dull called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor read the following proclamation and presented it to Chrystal Graham.

2016 National Suicide Prevention Week

WHEREAS, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the 2nd leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 to 34; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in the United States, one person completes suicide every 12.3 minutes, resulting in nearly 43,000 suicides each year; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the only leading cause of death in the United States that has increased every year for the past decade; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are over 1.1 million suicide attempts each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Virginia experienced 1,122 deaths by suicide; and

WHEREAS, in Virginia, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death overall; and

WHEREAS, over 90% of the people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition, although often that condition is not recognized or treated; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, suicide results in an estimated \$44.6 billion in combined medical and work loss costs nationally; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, suicide results in an estimated \$1.12 billion in combined lifetime medical and work loss costs in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide loss and people with lived experience of suicide; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention envision a world without suicide, and are dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, through research, education, advocacy and resources for those who have lost or struggle, and urge that we:

1. recognize suicide as a preventable national and state public health problem and declare suicide prevention to be a priority;
2. acknowledge that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities;
3. encourage initiatives based on the goals contained in the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, a report of the U.S. Surgeon General and of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention;
4. promote awareness that there is no single cause for suicide, and that suicide most often occurs when stressors exceed current coping abilities of someone suffering from a mental health condition; and
5. develop and implement strategies to increase access to quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Carolyn W. Dull, Mayor of Staunton, on behalf of the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, do hereby designate September 5 through 11 as National Suicide Prevention Week in the City of Staunton.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2016.

s/Carolyn W. Dull

Carolyn W. Dull, Mayor

ATTEST: s/Linda L. Little

Linda L. Little, Clerk of Council

Ms. Crystal Graham thanked Council on behalf of The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

The Mayor also reported that members of Council joined in the celebration of Mary Baldwin College's transition to Mary Baldwin University and the institution's 175th anniversary.

Mayor Dull noted that she was also asked to speak at a joint subcommittee of the Virginia General Assembly regarding historic tax credits.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Vice Mayor Kier noted that the Nominations Committee had recently met and moved that the following appointments be made:

Ms. Linda Czyzyk to the Valley Community Services Board for a three year term beginning immediately and expiring June 30, 2019.

Mr. Nickie Mills, City Engineer, to the Technical Advisory Committee for the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro MPO to fill the unexpired term of James Davis.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Curren and carried unanimously as follows:

Vice Mayor Kier	aye	Dr. Curren	aye
Mayor Dull	aye	Mr. Holmes	aye
Dr. Harrington	aye		

Vice Mayor. Kier stated that he had attended The Virginia Food Truck Battle & Beer Competition at the Frontier Culture Museum sponsored by The MaDee Project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Harrington moved to approve the work session and regular meeting minutes of August 25, 2016.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Holmes and carried unanimously as follows:

Mayor Dull	aye	Mr. Holmes	aye
Dr. Harrington	aye	Vice Mayor Kier	aye
Dr. Curren	aye		

REGULAR MEETING**A. Recognition of James Davis and James Gallaher for Years of Service to the City of Staunton**

Mr. Steve Owen, City Manager, presented Mr. James Gallaher and Mr. James Davis with Certificates of Appreciation on behalf of the City.

B. Public Hearing and Consideration of a Request by the Staunton Augusta YMCA for a Special Use Permit at 638 North Coalter Street, to Utilize an Existing Space Consisting of 1,400 Square Feet as a Meeting Room and Office

Mr. City Manager, called on Mr. John Glover, Building Official. Mr. Glover stated that the Staunton Augusta YMCA is requesting a special use permit to use approximately 1,400 square feet of space in the North Coalter Street Shopping Center (adjacent to Food Lion), located at 638 North Coalter Street, for a meeting room and office. This location was used previously by SunTrust Bank. As a part of the application, the existing drive-through canopy will be removed, and the existing window will be replaced.

The original shopping center was developed in 1974. In 1980, the Staunton Racquet Club was developed on the adjacent parcel and over the years the facility has expanded and transitioned to the Staunton Augusta YMCA. The expansion of the YMCA was approved in 2009. The property is zoned B-3, Planned Business District, in which all uses require Special Use Permit review and approval.

Planning Commission held its public hearing on Thursday, August 18, 2016. No negative comments were received, and the Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the special use permit with the following conditions:

1. All proposed exterior signs, lighting, or other exterior elements shall meet the requirements of the zoning code, including the Entrance Corridor Overlay District, and the recommendations included in the Entrance Corridor Overlay District Design Guidelines for Augusta and Coalter streets.
2. The use and reconfiguration of the space must meet all applicable building and fire code requirements.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Mr. Josh Cole, 1016 Ridgemont Street, Executive Director of the YMCA, thanked city staff for all their help on this project.

There being no one else present to speak to this matter, the Public Hearing was closed.

Dr. Curren moved that City Council approve the special use permit, as recommended by the City Manager, with the following conditions:

1. All proposed exterior signs, lighting, or other exterior elements shall meet the requirements of the zoning code, including the Entrance Corridor Overlay District, and the recommendations included in the Entrance Corridor Overlay District Design Guidelines for Augusta and Coalter streets.
2. The use and reconfiguration of the space meet all applicable building and fire code requirements.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Holmes and carried unanimously as follows:

Dr. Harrington	aye	Vice Mayor Kier	aye
Dr. Curren	aye	Mayor Dull	aye
Mr. Holmes	aye		

C. Consideration of a Resolution Establishing the Percentage of Relief at 41% for Purposes of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA)

Mr. Steve Rosenberg, Deputy City Manager, stated that the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998 (PPTRA) was modified by legislative action taken during the 2004 and 2005 General Assembly sessions. The legislative enactments required the City to take affirmative steps to implement changes and to provide for computation and allocation of relief. The legislative enactments also provided for an appropriation to the City, commencing in 2006, for a fixed sum

to be used exclusively for the provision of tax relief to owners of vehicles subject to the City's personal property tax, and to provide the opportunity for the City to fashion a program of tax relief that best serves the citizens.

On April 13, 2006, Council adopted an ordinance that defined procedures and responsibilities for implementing the changes to the PPTRA, including the method of computing the tax relief and allocation of tax relief, plus transitional provisions. The ordinance requires that Council shall set the percentage of tax relief at such a level that is anticipated to fully exhaust PPTRA relief funds provided to the City by the Commonwealth. The Commissioner of Revenue recommends the rate of 41 percent for calendar year 2016. The Commissioner of Revenue, the City Treasurer, and the Chief Financial Officer have worked as a team to bring this matter to Council so as to implement Council's April 13, 2006 ordinance.

Mr. Holmes moved that the resolution, as proposed, be adopted, establishing the Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA) percentage at 41 percent.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Harrington and carried unanimously as follows:

Dr. Curren	aye	Mayor Dull	aye
Mr. Homes	aye	Dr. Harrington	aye
Vice Mayor Kier	aye		

RESOLUTION
IMPLEMENTING ORDINANCE 2006-05, CODIFIED AS SECTION 3.10.015 OF THE
STAUNTON CITY CODE,
TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE 2004-2005 CHANGES
TO THE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 1998

WHEREAS, by Ordinance 2006-05, adopted April 13, 2006, and codified as Section 3.10.015 of the Staunton City Code, the Council of the City of Staunton fashioned a local program of tax relief that serves the best interests of the citizenry regarding personal property tax on qualifying use vehicles, pursuant to modifications made by the General Assembly of Virginia to the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998 (PPTRA);

WHEREAS, the City's program of tax relief contemplates the allocation of PPTRA relief provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance 2006-05, codified as Section 3.10.015 of the Staunton City Code, as further implemented by resolution adopted annually after the personal property tax book is certified by the Commissioner of Revenue and delivered to the Treasurer;

WHEREAS, on September 1, 2016, the Commissioner of Revenue delivered to the Treasurer a certified personal property tax book; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Revenue has recommended to the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, that with respect to qualifying vehicles with assessed values of more than \$1,000 the percentage of relief to be applied to the first \$20,000 in value of each such qualifying vehicle should be 41%, which the Commissioner of Revenue estimates will fully use all available state PPTRA relief.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Staunton, Virginia, that 41% shall be the percentage of relief to be applied to the first \$20,000 in value of each qualifying vehicle with an assessed value of more than \$1,000, pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.10.015 of the Staunton City Code.

Adopted this 8th day of September, 2016.

s/Carolyn W. Dull

Carolyn W. Dull, Mayor

ATTEST: s/Linda L. Little

Linda L. Little
Clerk of Council

Matters from the City Manager

The City Manager stated that Chief Garber and a few other firefighters from the Staunton Fire Rescue Department will participate in the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb in Richmond. This is a way for our firefighters and the community to honor and remember the New York firefighters who selflessly gave their lives so that others may live.

Matters from the Public

Mr. Baldwin Jennings, 332 Sharon Lane, Staunton, commented on Mr. McDonough's op-ed piece in The News Leader.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Linda L. Little
Linda L. Little, Clerk of Council