

REGULAR MEETING OF STAUNTON CITY COUNCIL
Thursday, October 27, 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
 Andrea W. Oakes
 Walter J. Obenschain

ABSENT: **Steven L. Rosenberg, Deputy City Manager**

ALSO PRESENT: **Stephen F. Owen, 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 had nothing to report.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Vice Mayor Kier stated that the Nominations Committee met recently and moved to appoint Michael Norris to the Industrial Development Authority of the County of Stafford and the City of Staunton for a term beginning immediately and to expire June 30, 2020, and to appoint Courtland Robinson to a rotating seat to represent Staunton on the Industrial Development Authority of the County of Stafford and the City of Staunton for a term beginning immediately and to expire June 30, 2019, and in addition, to re-appoint Council members to their current various boards and commissions for another two years, as follows:

Erik Curren	Food Policy Council
	Ag-Forestal Advisory Committee
	Tourism Advisory Board
	Virginia Municipal League – Environmental Commission
Carolyn Dull	Nominations Committee
	CAPSAW
Jim Harrington	Nominations Committee
	SAW Metropolitan Planning Organization – Policy Board
	Planning Commission

	Staunton Downtown Development Association
	Virginia Municipal League – General Laws Commission
Terry Holmes	Redevelopment & Housing Authority
	Historic Preservation Commission
	Virginia Municipal League – Finance Commission
Ophie Kier	Nominations Committee
	Economic Development Authority
	Virginia First Cities
	Virginia Municipal League – Economic Dev. Commission
Andrea Oakes	CAPSAW
	Valley Program for Aging Services
	Cable TV Commission
	Food Policy Council
	Virginia Municipal League – Human Services Commission
Walt Obenschain	School Board
	Youth Commission
	Lewis Creek Advisory Committee
	Virginia Municipal League – Transportation Commission

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

Dr. Harrington	aye	Ms. Oakes	aye
Dr. Curren	aye	Vice Mayor Kier	aye
Mr. Obenschain	aye	Mayor Dull	aye
Mr. Holmes	aye		

Ms. Oakes stated that all of Council was very proud to represent the City of Staunton and the Augusta County Board of Supervisors and City Council of the City of Waynesboro were very proud to represent their localities, and that the three localities work well together. She noted that when she is complimented about Staunton she is proud, but also proud when she is complimented about Augusta County as well as Waynesboro, because the three localities together are a community in the Shenandoah Valley. She stated that she would like to thank the citizens of Augusta County for considering the important issue of the referendum on the courthouse. She wanted to thank them for giving it such thought and consideration and remembering we are a community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Oakes moved to approve the work session and regular meeting minutes of October 13, 2016.

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

Mayor Dull	aye	Mr. Holmes	aye
Dr. Harrington	aye	Ms. Oakes	aye
Dr. Curren	aye	Vice Mayor Kier	aye
Mr. Obenshain	aye		

REGULAR MEETING**A. Recognition of Chris Ashby and Samuel Burns for Years of Service to the City of Staunton**

Mr. Steve Owen, City Manager, stated that he would like to acknowledge the long careers of Chris Ashby in Public Works and Samuel Burns in Engineering. He called upon Tom Sliwoski, Director of Public Works, and Nickie Mills, City Engineer, to present certificates to Mr. Ashby and Mr. Burns.

B. Transportation Capital Improvement Projects Update

Mr. Steve Owen, City Manager, called on City Engineer Nickie Mills to provide updates on the following transportation capital projects:

- Central Avenue Streetscape Project
- Smartscale Grant Application for Staunton Crossing Extension
- Smartscale Grant Application for Richmond Road Diet and Traffic Circle
- Smartscale Grant Application for Richmond Road-Statler Boulevard Intersection Improvements

Central Avenue Streetscape Project: In 2009, the City of Staunton received a Transportation Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$1,074,676 for the Central Avenue Streetscape Project. The estimated total project cost was \$1,343,345, with a local match in the amount of \$268,669, previously approved by City Council. The latest cost projection is for a total project cost of \$1,669,827. Staff expects to use Greenville Avenue Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) six-year plan funds to make up the shortfall.

The Transportation Enhancement Grant program is administered by VDOT. Enhancement activities are activities or improvements which increase the value or worth of a project or make it more aesthetically pleasing. They should provide a "quality-of-life" benefit. A project is "enhanced" by doing something that is not a common transportation practice. The City has received several such grants previously, including grants for similar projects on South Augusta and South Market streets. The project will also benefit from a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, in the amount of \$75,000, which will fund the installation of permeable pavers.

The current project will enhance the portion of Central Avenue from Frederick Street to Pump Street. The enhancements planned are streetscape elements including: underground wiring, brick

sidewalks, brick crosswalks, historic light poles and landscaping. Draper Aden Associates has designed the project, consistent with the City's *Streetscape Plan*. Input on the design has also been provided by the Staunton Downtown Development Association's Design Committee. This committee worked with the City to assist in the design of the initial streetscape as well as the formal plan.

Smartscale Grant Application for Staunton Crossing Extension: A grant application has been submitted to VDOT for Crossing Way. The proposed project will extend Crossing Way through the Staunton Crossing development site and connect to Valley Center Drive. Project elements include:

- 3,960 linear feet of street between Crossing Way and Valley Center Drive with a posted 35 mph speed limit;
- construction of a roundabout;
- construction of a 100 space park and ride facility and transit stop;
- construction of an electric car charging station;
- construction of a bus shelter; and
- construction of a 10' shared use path with buffer.

The total estimated project cost is \$8,765,000. Engineering is anticipated to start in 2017, with construction from 2021 through 2023.

Smartscale Grant Application for Richmond Road Diet and Traffic Circle: A grant application has also been submitted to VDOT for Richmond Road Diet and Traffic Circle that will create an urban boulevard with a new roundabout, all within an urban form to reinforce a transition into downtown Staunton and calm traffic. Improvements include:

- transition of existing Richmond Avenue travel lanes from 4-lane, divided, to 2-lane, divided, both east and westbound;
- transition of existing Greenville Avenue travel lanes from 5-lane, undivided, to 2-lane, divided;
- improvement of access management at each existing median cut;
- construction of 12' shared use path with 5' grass buffer from curb on Richmond Avenue;
- transition of shared use path to existing sidewalk at Commerce Road and at Richmond Avenue;
- construction of 5' sidewalk adjacent to The Villages at Staunton development on Richmond Avenue;
- improvement of pedestrian facilities at intersection of Commerce Road and Greenville Avenue with pedestrian signal heads and crosswalks;
- landscaping;
- improvement of turning movements into The Villages at Staunton by providing a full-width left turn lane from Richmond Avenue into the development;
- enhancement of pedestrian and traffic movement at the intersection of Greenville Avenue, Garber Street and Richmond Avenue by a combination of geometric layout and pedestrian signals within a new roundabout;
- improvement of delay/operations at the Greenville Avenue and Richmond Avenue intersection; and
- improvement of signalization at the Greenville Avenue and Commerce Road intersection.

The total estimated project cost is \$2,245,800. Engineering is expected to begin in 2021, with construction from 2024 through 2026.

Smartscale Grant Application for Richmond Avenue - Statler Boulevard Intersection Improvements: This grant application has been submitted to VDOT for intersection improvements at Richmond Avenue and Statler Boulevard. The project will address concerns with safety and traffic congestion, and pedestrian safety. Project elements include:

- addition of a second southbound left turn lane from Statler Boulevard onto Richmond Avenue by converting the southbound through lane to a through-left combination with split-phased signal operation, and reconstruction of traffic signal with mast arm poles, pedestrian signals and luminaires;
- median modifications on Richmond Avenue to include reconstruction of median on Richmond Avenue to accommodate the dual left turn movement from Statler Boulevard; and
- installation of raised concrete island for pedestrian refuge and right turn channelization to make right turns a free flow movement from Richmond Avenue to Statler Boulevard.

Total estimated project cost is \$573,000. Engineering is scheduled in 2021, with construction following in from 2024 to 2026.

Matters from the City Manager

Mr. Owen had nothing to report.

Matters from the Public

Mr. Baldwin Jennings, 332 Sharon Lane, thanked the City Manager and staff for the overlook in Woodrow Park on Sears Hill.

Ms. Clayton Brooks, 891 Preston Drive, was present to support building a new high school. She presented Council with a petition with 61 signatures.

Ms. Lori Swortzel, an administrator at Robert E. Lee High School, introduced students Kyle LeGore and Joshua Smith, who made a presentation to Council favoring construction of a new high school.

Mr. Jared Hatcher, 1220 N. Augusta Street, stated that he was a 1989 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School and teaches and coaches at Lee. He noted that it was time to tear down the old school and build a new one.

Ms. Denise Lowman, 1618 N. Augusta Street, was present in favor of a new high school.

Ms. Christine Hawley, 322 N. Waverley Street, President of the Staunton Education Association, was present in support of the School Board's recommendation for a new high school.

Mr. Frances Newman, 1318 Ashby Street, stated that raising a few taxpayers taxes will not support a new high school.

Ms. Christine Poulson, 315 Sherwood Avenue, asked Council to consider creating a financing scenario for the option that was recommend by the School Board, which will be a new building on a new site.

Mr. Mark Rowicki, Principal at Robert E. Lee High School, stated that inadequate spaces and access to technology are a large problem for teachers and students. He also stated that it would be great to have a high school with the athletic complex all in one location.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.


Linda L. Little, CMC
Clerk of Council