

MINUTES
PURCELLVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 26, 2016, 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The regular meeting of the Purcellville Town Council convened at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers with the following in attendance:

PRESENT: Kwasi Fraser, Mayor
John Nave, Council member
Joan Lehr, Council member
Patrick McConville, Council member
Doug McCollum, Council member
Karen Jimmerson, Council member
Melanie Fuller, Council member

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Robert Lohr, Jr., Town Manager
Danny Davis, Assistant Town Manager
Sally Hankins, Town Attorney
Patrick Sullivan, Director of Community Development
Hooper McCann, Director of Administration
Joe Schroeck, Police Dept.
Sheryl McIlvaine, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER OF REGULAR MEETING:

Mayor Fraser called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL:

Council member McCollum made a motion to amend agenda item eleven to add 11e for discussion of the April 22, 2016 formal complaint filed with the Council against a Council member. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehr.

Motion: Council member McCollum
Second: Council member Lehr
Carried: 5-2-0

Nave - Aye
Lehr - Aye
McConville - Aye
McCollum - Aye
Fuller - Aye

Jimmerson - Nay
Mayor - Nay

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS:

- a. Loudoun Valley High School State Champion – Cade Kiely, Wrestling
- b. Loudoun Valley High School State Champion – Sean Conway, Wrestling
- c. Loudoun Valley High School Boys Distance Medley Relay National Champions

Colton Bogucki, Nathaniel Thompson, Will Smagh and Drew Hunter were recognized for their achievements as DMR National Champions.

- d. Proclamation – Drew Hunter Day

Mayor Fraser issued the proclamation to Drew Hunter and announced that Wednesday, April 27th, 2016 is Drew Hunter Day in the Town of Purcellville.

- e. Proclamation – Look Up Awareness Day

Mayor Fraser issued the proclamation to Ayesha Paracha and Katie Rahn, Blue Ridge Middle School 8th Graders, and announced that Thursday, April 28th, 2016 is Look Up Awareness Day in the Town of Purcellville.

- f. Proclamation – Dave Becker Day

Mayor Fraser issued the proclamation to Dave Becker, crossing guard, and announced that Friday, April 29th, 2016 is Dave Becker Day in the Town of Purcellville.

A few students/residents thanked Mr. Becker for his service. Mr. Becker thanked the students, parents and staff for the recognition.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

PRESENTATIONS:

None

CITIZEN AND BUSINESS COMMENTS:

Mayor Fraser granted each speaker three minutes.

John Workman of Workman Fitness LLC, 201 N. 23rd Street, came forward to introduce his new personal training studio in Town. Mr. Workman announced that Saturday, April 30th is his grand opening from 11AM-4PM and requested a ribbon cutting at 10AM.

Kelli Grim of Devonshire Circle stated her disappointment for the false accusation by a resident that has been added to the agenda and added she would serve as a witness of having been at the incident and did read the letter. Mr. Grim stated she was shoved by the man's/boy's father and told that the conversation was over. Ms. Grim added she was having a civil conversation as was Council member Jimmerson, and said that if you call "civil" disagreeing that if a resident or business does not pay their taxes that it hurts all the citizens. Ms. Grim noted a few things that were not on the agenda that Council may want to consider including no notice of gathering issued where three council members were at a Council members business. Council member Lehr stated that no Town business was discussed. Ms. Grim requested that Council member Lehr not interrupt and added that this is not appropriate and that she has spoken to the state. Ms. Grim noted she went through the Code of Conduct and talked about preferential treatment and added she entered one of four letters from a Council member that on three and four occasions throughout their statements continually berate and criticize the Mayor for his stage side chats which the public has been appreciative of. Ms. Grim stated it is a shame that the item has been added to the agenda because it is a lie and added that a number of Council members have violated the Code of Conduct on so many more occasions that no one has addressed. Ms. Grim recommended that Council read the Code of Conduct again because it is clear about very specific things. Ms. Grim submitted documents for the record.

Mary Ellen Stover of 415 S. Maple Avenue stated she is dismayed at the addition to the agenda and stated she has known Karen for some time and feels it is the most ludicrous thing she could imagine that she would ever do. Ms. Stover stated she was sitting next to her during this and never saw anything of this sort of any comment of it to bring such an action forward.

Chris Bledsoe of 237 E. Skyline Drive stated his opposition of the action to amend the agenda and stated he was at one of the forums and was staring at Ms. Jimmerson during the time in question where she was accused of making a gesture and he never saw it. Mr. Bledsoe further testified that the business of the people is the most important thing before Council and urged Council to stay on topic. Mr. Bledsoe added that this is a distraction and should be resolved behind closed doors and by protocol as far as any accusation directly addressing the supposed actions of any Council member. Mr. Bledsoe added he has known Karen Jimmerson since she moved into the community where she immediately became active in their HOA and community and she has been a shining example of not only an HOA Board Member but a Council member since she was elected has exhibited the utmost character as a public servant and is something he strives to emulate in terms of her ability to serve the public and members of the community. Mr. Bledsoe stated he has benefitted from her on Council and her advice and feels she is a perfect example of what any public servant should be and applauded her actions.

Nedim Ogelman of 140 S. 32nd Street came forward and attested to Karen Jimmerson's character and added he feels she is one of the most civic people in the community. Mr. Ogelman asked Council why they are taking up the citizens' time talking about some innuendos and hearsay and not focusing on the work of the people, the people of the Town, and doing their business instead of this. Mr. Ogelman stated the people are asking for Council to provide leadership and not this kind of squabbling.

Frank DiPerna, 37559 Allder School Road, came forward and stated it is sad that the evening started out on a positive note and looking like it will end on a negative one which is disturbing. Mr. DiPerna stated he was at the forum Saturday and was not in a position to see what did or didn't happen and feels citizens have the right to bring forward what they saw however does not feel this is the way to resolve this. Mr. DiPerna added this has no business being on the agenda and those that voted on it to be discussed should be ashamed of themselves, and feels there has to be another way of investigation that would take place first to find out who said what to who and who saw what. Mr. DiPerna stated he is shocked this is on the agenda.

Lydia Clark, 38111 Highland Farm Place, stated she neglected to request that the email she sent earlier today be added to the record for tonight. Ms. Clark added she was a witness at the PBA luncheon and clearly stated in her email she did not see any crude gesture or tone change. Ms. Clark stated the Town needs to get back to business and requested that Council revisit adding it to the agenda and for someone to make another motion to remove it from the agenda and get away from this and move on.

Sandy Nave of 728 Sturbridge stated she is a candidate in the election and added she has listened to this and has been personally messaged by Karen Jimmerson, emailed by Kelli Grim, and asked about the issue by a citizen and has told the citizen what she saw. Ms. Nave stated she was at this forum and there were nine people who were in a position to see what happened. Ms. Nave added this isn't a trial and shouldn't be and feels a lot of the things that have been said are absolutely correct and that you can either do the right thing or the right thing can be done tonight, and stated she feels the right thing needs done tonight and that is to get on with the business at hand. Ms. Nave added that we know what happened whether it was a blatant gesture or not or an implication, which she believes it was whether it wants to be denied or not, the people involved know what it was. Ms. Nave stated that everyone at the meeting that was at the forum that saw it. Ms. Nave added she has always admired Karen Jimmerson and has no issue and loves that there is another woman on the dais and noted her integrity is at hand and other things that have been said to her are at hand and stated she is telling the absolute truth. Ms. Nave challenged Mayor Fraser that when this happened that he should have taken upon this and moved on with this and that it needs to stop and to move on with business.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council member McCollum thanked Alex Vanegas and team for efforts on the water break on the nature trail last week. Council member McCollum stated that yesterday he attended the hearing on the petition of Ms. Stover pertaining to Vineyard Square and added that the judge noted that Ms. Stover failed to appeal the decisions of the Town Council on the CDA's or the prior decision of the BAR to grant CDA's. Council member McCollum added that the Court denied the petitioner's writ. Council member McCollum stated that Council needs to review Chapter 54 and the Zoning Ordinance to clarify and reconcile these two code sections, which he feels the hearing reinforced. Council member McCollum stated that at their May 5th meeting, the Planning Commission will discuss the interest of Makersmith to begin operations on S. 20th Street.

Council member Fuller had no comments.

Council member Nave talked about the people in the Town reflecting what our founding fathers did many years ago in hoping that the country is what it is today. Council member Nave added he hopes that everyone has a positive attitude about what you have and what was seen tonight.

Council member Lehr talked about the wonderful athletes in the community. Council member Lehr stated in response to an earlier comment that she held a private function at her facility which included the Rose family that she has been involved with since she moved into Town. Council member Lehr talked about Don Rose and noted she was asked to be part of the scholarship funding program that has been put together recently. Council member Lehr added there were three Council members and no Town business was discussed and therefore a Notice of Gathering was not needed. Council member Lehr stated she does not feel that anyone else needed to be invited other than those that were. Council member Lehr talked about a Facebook post about her business and how much money the Town spends with her business. After doing some research and requesting numbers from the Town, stated the numbers were totally different than the post, and reviewed the numbers over the past few years between her business and the other printer in Town, and added she does not feel this is an issue. Council member Lehr added she will continue to do business with the Town when the Town feels that it is appropriate and most cost effective, and does not feel she receives any preferential treatment.

Vice Mayor McConville talked about the small-town feel of Purcellville which is the reason he moved to Purcellville.

Council member Jimmerson stated she has been falsely accused of two things – one was that she made a gesture at the Purcellville Gazette forum. Council member Jimmerson addressed comments made by Sandy Nave and denied making the gesture to anyone on the stage. The second was that a letter was delivered to the Town last Thursday which alleged that she held up her finger to a gentleman for a period of time in front of a crowded room. Council member Jimmerson stated that the alleged incident happened on the 12th and for ten days it didn't make social media or any news at all and finds it hard to believe that not anyone would witness it other than the person making the accusation. Council member Jimmerson noted that these accusations are being made by those running for Town Council and that may be associated with their campaigns that do not have her support have falsely alleged that she gave a vulgar hand gesture in a public forum at a public event. Council member Jimmerson stated for the record that she has never and would never make a crude gesture to any of these candidates, and added they are using false claim in an effort to discredit her and possibly those she supports in the election. Council member Jimmerson reminded everyone that making false allegations against even a public official is defamation and if it continues will pursue legal action. Council member Jimmerson stated those who have made these false allegations are those who have been critical of her, are political opposed of her, and who do not align with her on Town issues. Council member Jimmerson added she feels the voters will take full advantage of the opportunity to tell those who orchestrated this appalling attack what they think about this tactic when they vote on May 3. Council member Jimmerson noted that for Sam Chapman to enlist others to take part in the smear campaign shows you there is no low that he and other

candidates won't go to seek an elected office. Council member Jimmerson talked about the culture of politics, the incentives and the characters involved.

Mayor Fraser asked Sandy Nave if she had approached him on this matter. She stated she had not and added she did not say she had approached the Mayor however had hoped this would have settled by now. Mayor Fraser congratulated again those that were honored at the beginning of the meeting. Mayor Fraser stated that from his perspective this was an allegation that was made and believes that such allegations should be done in private as he feels this is a personnel issue. Mayor Fraser stated he feels Ms. Jimmerson should have been approached and the matter discussed with her then as a Council behind closed doors to discuss and determine the validity of it before it goes before the public. Mayor Fraser added his recommendation to the citizen that made the allegations was that maybe the citizen should have approached Ms. Jimmerson to try to work things out. Mayor Fraser stated he has known Ms. Jimmerson for five years and when the allegations were made said that is not her based on the person he knows. Mayor Fraser stated there is no evidence and would need to see that before making a decision on something like this. Mayor Fraser stated he saw on social media talk about the scheme the Mayor has for the sale of Fireman's Field, and stated this is not the truth. Mayor Fraser stated that the proposal that came to the Town was based on the diligence of Town staff who looked at the expense in Parks and Recreation and Fireman's Field and made a sensible proposal, and commended staff for doing the due diligence. Mayor Fraser referenced the Comprehensive Plan back in 1996 where it was stated that if Fireman's Field ever became available from the fireman, we should consider selling it to the County or the Town consider purchasing it. Mayor Fraser stated that Mr. Sam Chapman mentioned on social media that the Mayor wants to sell Fireman's Field and for the common citizen without the additional data, believes the Mayor wants to sell it to a private entity. Mayor Fraser stated that he does not have a scheme to sell Fireman's Field but wants to conduct a strength, weakness, opportunities, threats analysis to understand exactly where we stand with Fireman's Field so a decision can be made based on that. What was proposed to the Council was to sell it to the County and the County said they are not interested.

Council member Jimmerson made a motion to dismiss the discussion item about the April 22, 2016 letter.

Council member Fuller stated it was her understanding that the addition of this to the agenda was not to discuss the particulars of the letter but to discuss how to handle it when something like this happens and that it was not the intention to talk about the details of the item. Council member McCollum noted that he feels when a complaint is filed that Council has to take some action and wanted the Council to discuss how they would handle it and what they would do in the future – the process that needs addressed.

Council member Lehr added that she thought that was why the item was being added to the agenda and feels Council needs to have the conversation and understand what the rules and regulations will be.

Sally Hankins referenced the email she sent earlier in the day however the rules state that to change the agenda it needs to be changed at the proper time in the meeting which is at the

outset of the meeting, and to remove an item at this point, the rules are the same in that this would be an agenda amendment. Ms. Hankins added that if no one wants to discuss an item, when Council gets to that item the matter can be considered closed, however if the purpose of the item is to discuss a process then she is prepared to discuss the item.

Mayor Fraser requested that Council member McCollum restate the addition so it is clear. Council member McCollum stated he made a motion for discussion of the April 21, 2016 formal complaint lodged with the Council against a Council member, and added that if he had a chance to would state to discuss what action Council believes should be taken when a complaint is filed and how to bring the matter to the general public. Mayor Fraser stated that when the motion was first stated saw it as Ms. Jimmerson being the object of the process but when restated seems like it is for any accusation. Council member Jimmerson withdrew her motion.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

a. Public Safety Reports

i. Purcellville Volunteer Rescue Squad

Aaron Kahn, President of the Volunteer Rescue Squad, stated he was elected for a third year. Mr. Kahn noted the annual members banquet was held Saturday night and talked about the volunteers. Mr. Kahn stated they have received 94 calls so far in April and 398 calls so far this year and added that ambulance billing is a big topic. Mr. Kahn added that the volunteer squads received their first checks in the last month and hears on social media that this is creating a windfall for the volunteer organizations and stated that is not true for Purcellville Rescue and that they have received \$12,000 over \$700,000 collected county-wide. Mr. Kahn talked about the billing process and upcoming initiatives and events.

ii. Purcellville Police Department

Joe Schroeck stated the report will be provided next month and added that Prescription Drug Take Back Day will be Saturday.

iii. Purcellville Volunteer Fire Company

Rob Lohr noted that a report is provided in the agenda packet.

iv. Purcellville Police Citizens Support Team

Council had no questions or comments.

b. Public Works Monthly Operations Report

Danny Davis thanked the Public Works staff for their efforts on the well issue. Danny Davis provided an update on the HVAC work at Town Hall.

c. Personnel Update

Danny Davis stated that Shannon Bohince is the new IT Director and that three people are being interviewed for the part-time IT position and the Town is still recruiting for the positions of a police officer and the payroll accounting specialist.

d. Issues of School Traffic on Elliott Drive

Joe Schroeck noted there are issues with people parking as a pick up point for school which the road was not intended for and the school has a pick up lane where parents can pick up kids. Lt. Schroeck noted this was specifically an issue the day the school was on lock down, and added meetings have been held with the school and HOA and feels parents are starting to comply with not using Elliott Drive. Mayor Fraser asked about follow up meetings and Lt. Schroeck stated the Chief has a meeting with some concerned residents however have met with the school system and feels things are progressing.

Rob Lohr added that the Town has been working with the County and the school system to make the last connection which could not be engineered and designed nor was it affordable, however stated that Maple Avenue needs to be connected back to the school which will be a safe public linkage from all sidewalk networks which may eliminate some problems.

Council member Lehr asked if the flow pattern at the school can be reviewed and noted she heard from some angry parents recently whose driveways are being used as turnarounds.

Rob Lohr provided some history on the kiss and ride as well as options the HOA has for the road.

e. Process for Addressing Allegations Brought Against a Town Council member

Council member McCollum introduced the item and noted there is no process currently in place and by having a process that is known ensures the integrity so that everyone feels comfortable that if they do have a complaint and it is brought to Council that it will be treated fairly and will know what the consequences may be. Mayor Fraser requested a skeleton process from Sally Hankins to include Council member McCollum's points. Council member McCollum added he does not feel that staff should be doing the investigation and that maybe it is three rotating Council members. Mayor Fraser asked about a citizen serving on the committee. Council member Lehr added a group consisting of Council and citizens could be set up to develop the process. Council member Jimmerson noted she feels Sally Hankins may be able to put this together based on what other municipalities may have in place. Council member Fuller added if this were handled properly from the beginning that the citizen's complaint would not have been made public. Mayor Fraser added that the process needs personalized for Purcellville and would like the committee of a citizen and Council member to draft the process with outside research. Council member Nave agreed that a clear process that is communicated is needed. Vice Mayor McConville also agreed that a process is needed for when a formal complaint is filed. Rob Lohr talked about possible independent outsources once

the policy is in place, and added staff will provide options for Council to evaluate and determine direction.

ACTION ITEMS:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. April 5, 2016 Special Meeting/Budget Work Session
- b. April 12, 2016 Town Council Regular Meeting

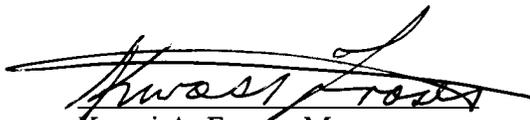
Vice Mayor McConville noted he sent a comment to the Clerk about a minor change to a motion during the April 12th meeting which has been corrected.

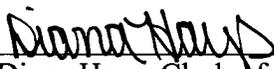
Vice Mayor McConville made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2016 Special Meeting/Budget Work Session in wave reading. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehr and approved unanimously.

Vice Mayor McConville made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2016 Town Council Regular Meeting with the edit on page 33. The motion was seconded by Council member Lehr and approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Council member Jimmerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 PM. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor McConville and passed unanimously.


Kwasi A. Fraser, Mayor


Diana Hays, Clerk of Council



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Don Rose Sr., a two-time Buzz Batts Hall of Fame and longtime Loudoun County coach, hands out awards to young players.

Scholarship Fund Continues Rose Legacy

📅 2016-04-19 👤 Margaret Morton 💬 0 Comment

Long one of the most respected sports figures in the county, the late Don Rose will have a youth sports scholarship established in his name.

During an April 15 ceremony held at Purcellville Copy, Town Councilwoman Joan Lehr welcomed a group of family, friends and supporters as the

No Notice of gathering - called council members - The Blue Ridge Supervisor was in attendance -



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KNUTSON DEVELOPMENT PLACE

announcement was made by Supervisor Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge) of the Don Rose Sr. Youth Scholarship Fund.

A Purcellville resident, Rose is a two-time Babe Ruth Hall of Famer and father figure to countless young ball players.

Lehr, who has long been associated with youth sports in Purcellville, said the fund would continue Rose's legacy and honor his name.

The group included three of Rose's brothers—Penny Rose, Mike Rose and Tom Rose—as well as his sister Sherry Garrison and his son Don Rose Jr. Others at the announcement included Town Councilman Doug McCollum and Vice Mayor Patrick McConville, as well as Casey Chapman and Matt Lowers.

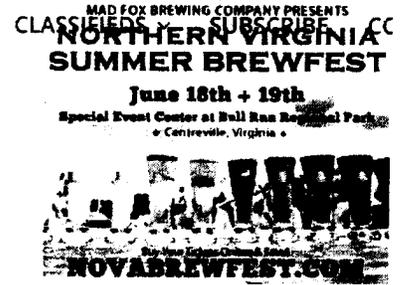
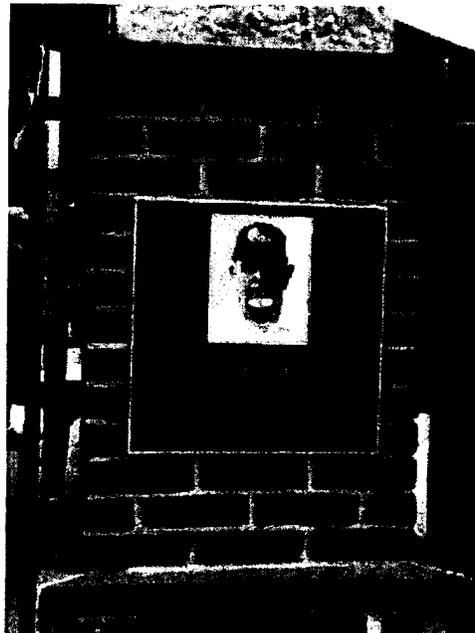
Penny Rose has been the mover and shaker behind the effort to establish the scholarship, which was suggested by his nephew, Don Rose Jr. as a fitting memorial to his father's legacy.

There was probably no more celebrated coach in Loudoun County than Don Rose Sr.

"He coached football, baseball, basketball and was involved with youth sports for 47 years," Penny Rose said Monday of his brother, who died in 2013 after a lengthy illness.

It was Rose, as the Babe Ruth Commissioner of Virginia, who was instrumental in bringing the several Babe Ruth World Series tournaments to Purcellville, and it was he and his brother Mike who got Fireman's Field into shape for the series, through their family company, Leo Construction.

Sadly, he did not live to see the home team, the Greater Loudoun Lions, win the championship in a thrilling finish in 2013. As part of the opening ceremonies for the series, a memorial plaque to Donald Neff Rose Sr. was placed at Fireman's Field. The plaque described Rose as "A generous and passionate man who dedicated his time to youth sports not only in Loudoun County, but throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia."



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He served as the president of Upper Loudoun Youth Football, president of the Greater Loudoun Babe Ruth, president of Western Loudoun Basketball

League and was the commissioner for both the Virginia State Babe Ruth and Babe Ruth District 8. Many remember his iconic voice on Friday nights as "The Voice of Viking football" for more than 25 years at Loudoun Valley High School, where he is a member of the Sports Hall of Fame.

"I know for a fact that he would help kids who couldn't afford to pay the fees; he'd buy socks and other things for them." And he was awarded "the first and only Optimist Club Man of Youth Award," Penny Rose said.

The board of directors for the scholarship fund include Don Rose Jr., president; Penny Rose, treasurer; Don Jr.'s wife Lynne, secretary; and Mike and Tom Rose.

The Don Rose Sr. Youth Scholarship Fund has been established to provide financial support for Loudoun County high school graduates who wish to further their education. Students can use the funds to pursue their dreams at a college, technical or trade school, and applicants may be from public, private and home schools, with one caveat—that they must have participated in youth sports in Loudoun County.

Penny Rose said to avoid any conflict over how applicants are chosen, "we decided to start at the oldest high schools and work down to the newest." Under that format, the four oldest schools in the county—Loudoun County, Loudoun Valley, Broad Run and Park View—will each receive two scholarships of \$500, for one male and one female student. The ultimate goal is to award two scholarships to every high school in Loudoun.

"Four weeks ago, we did make an exception. We brought Woodgrove in to receive two scholarships in 2017 because Don coached so many of the parents of kids there now, and older siblings of the kids there now," he said.

Learn more about the Don Rose Sr. Youth Scholarship Fund aenetwork.com/websites/rose. Contributions to the fund can be mailed to P.O. Box 1879, Leesburg, VA 20177.

mmorton@loudounnow.com



← French Students Test Drive Careers in Loudoun

Upcoming Events

- TUE 26 **Lego and Durablock Drive ending April 30**
April 26 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
LearningRx Leesburg
Leesburg VA
- TUE 26 **Bicycle Outfitters Evening Shop Rides**
April 26 @ 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Bicycle Outfitters Leesburg
VA
- TUE 26 **Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Prospective Member Meeting**
April 26 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Station 6 Ashburn
- WED 27 **Michael Lynche & The Black Saints Concert**
April 27 @ 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Barns of Rose Hill Berryville
VA
- WED 27 **Western Loudoun Leadshare Spring Networking Mixer**
April 27 @ 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Ij Canns Purcellville VA

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McCollum statement

Agenda Item # 10: Council Comments:

Thank you Mr. Mayor. I apologize for the length of the comments I want to present and I ask for the Mayor's and Council members' indulgence.

1. I want to welcome Council members back from our Christmas respite. I hope all had a wonderful holiday. I am looking forward to a productive 2016 for the Council.
2. On December 9, 2015, I attended the public informational session for the Nursery Avenue Roadway and Drainage Improvements. I might add that I was the only Council member present even though the storm water, sidewalk, etc. issues for Nursery have been problems for the Town for years. After listening to the presentation and looking at the diagrams and photos, I believe that when this project is finished, Nursery Avenue will be greatly improved. I want to extend my appreciation to Alex Vanegas and Dale Lehnig and the Town Staff for developing an excellent plan for Nursery Avenue.
3. On December 21 I wrote the mayor and Council member Nave to propose an initiative to "jump start" economic development in Town. I proposed that the Council form a "**high-level committee**" to address how the Town can best support efforts to fill empty spaces. I was gratified that the mayor agreed with me the examination of "in-fill" and consideration of annexation are complimentary and not mutually exclusive. This "high-level committee" would be comprised of the mayor and Council member Nave, who serves as Council liaison to EDAC, 2 Staff members (Ass't T/Mgr. and Director of Economic Development) and a representative from EDAC, chosen by EDAC. This committee would meet in the first instance with the property management firms where there are empty retail/office spaces to explore, among other things, what these management firms are doing to lease/sell their properties, what efforts they may be considering to "spruce up" the facades, etc. of their properties and to impress on them that the Town wants to hear from them on what the Town can do to support their efforts. I was gratified that the Chair of EDAC supported my initiative. The mayor, however, responded that he wanted to avoid "redundancy that negates value proposition of either option."
 - I was pleasantly surprised, however, with the mayor's support at his PBA presentation. I ask the Council to consider my proposal. I note that Fairfax County is undertaking a similar effort although on a much larger scale
 - I would add that I would also like to explore the Main Street Virginia Program to determine if it is cost effective to utilize this program to focus on our downtown revitalization efforts.

members. I understand that the budget for next year should include funds for this newsletter. I ask the Council to ensure that this quarterly newsletter is funded.

Finally, in light of some comments that have been made in one publication, I want to reiterate my commitments to the Town as a Council member that I made on September 23, 2014:

- **My commitment is to continue to listen to citizens** whether they are made during Citizen Comments or Public Hearing periods or to me personally while I walk around Town or when I am enjoying a mug of coffee at a local coffee shop. I can't commit to accept everything they propose or comment on **but I will listen carefully and consider their comments thoughtfully.**
- I have referred to a major article in the Post about the contentious debates among the members of the Fed. Reserve. I related to several of the comments in the article that express well my purpose in conducting open and frank discussions with the Mayor, my Council members and the Staff.
- "When all men think alike, no one thinks very much."
- "Life is not full of consensus and unanimity, particularly in these highly uncertain times."
- "When our debate is done, the majority carries the day."
- So, if after our discussions we cannot all agree on a subject, I want all of my fellow Council members to know this, but once voted on the decision becomes the Council's decision. ." I will respect that outcome.
- Accordingly, I believe that once a matter has been presented to the Council, fairly debated and considered, and a vote taken, then each Council member is obligated to support the Council's action in public. I don't believe that comments made in newsletters or blogs or in newspaper interviews should criticize the action of the Council. Even if a member of the Council, including the mayor, was in the minority on a vote, each Council member is nevertheless thereafter obligated to support the Council's action. Otherwise, we do not function as a united body, but rather as individuals who happen to be Council members.

1. I attended the mayor's "State of the Town" presentation at Town Hall on January 5. I was gratified to hear the mayor cite his opinion that the Zoning Use effort and the Public Hearings as Strategic Planning achievements during 2015. He repeated this at the PBA luncheon today. I agree with this. At the same time in his BRL interview he "begs the question about the "integrity" of the process" that lead up to the development and approval of these Uses. He can't have it both ways. His statements in his State of the Town and PBA presentations are supportive of the Use Review effort but his criticism in the BRL undermines the Council's efforts.
2.
 - I note that December 31, 2015 issue of Loudoun Now (pages 8-9) article on the new LoCo Planning Commission in which it is reported that one of the commissioners (last year's chairman) noted that because of the complexity of LoCo current ordinances, "simple questions and applications . . . have become long and expensive processes. Applications to P/C take year to resolve. Commissioner noted that property owners or developers ask Planning Staff/Commission if they can do this or that with their property and they are told the Staff is uncertain. The commissioner said that "simplification is the key." I am pleased that with our Use Changes, our P/C and Council have already taken a major step toward simplification. This effort will help those who contact the Town Community Development Staff as well as facilitate a more effective review of the Comprehensive Plan.
3. I was also very interested in the mayor's citing the Town Hall Forum held on March 16 2015 as a positive effort to establish effective communications with citizens. [He repeated both the Town Forum and his 2 Stage Side Chats are "Key Measures" for 2015.] Yet, he did not explain why no other such forum was held in 2015. While I recognize that there were glitches in the format of the forum, I believe these could be addressed and additional forums held. I believe there is a benefit for the community to hear from various Council members at the same meeting. Citizens would get a better idea of the thinking of Council members on particular issues.
 - Instead of holding additional forums in 2015, citizens were treated to 2 "Stage Side Chats" where only the mayor interacted with attendees. The answers he presented in many instances only told his narrow part of the picture, not the wider view, and in some instances were incomplete. The mayor's Stage Side Chats are not achievements of the Councilor the Town because the Council has no role in these "chats."
4. The mayor also cited improvements in Community Engagement. I agree that discussions during Council sessions have been informative. I believe that the Council can further improve community engagement by ensuring that the quarterly Town Newsletter is prepared and distributed. The survey highly rated the Quarterly Newsletter as a source of information about Town activities [ranking behind the Town website and newspapers] even though it has not been published for nearly 18 months. In fact, this newsletter received much higher ratings than blogs and newsletters issued by Council

Hays, Diana

From: Lydia M Clark <lydiamclark@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 4:33 PM
To: Only Town Council
Subject: Complaint regarding Council Member Karen Jimmerson

Dear Town Council Members,

It is unfortunate that I should have to send an email to all of you regarding a complaint that was made against Council Member Jimmerson, however, I feel that I must inform you what I witnessed as I was the person standing with her at the time of the alleged event.

I attended the PBA luncheon at Patrick Henry College on April 12th and once the event was over, I was saying good bye to Council Member Jimmerson. Groups of people were talking in different parts of the room, when Mr. Casey Chapman directly approached her and attempted to goad her into an argument about something that happened on social media. I had no idea what he was talking about and kept quiet as he was engaging her, not me. When it appeared that Council Member Jimmerson was not going to battle with him over it, he became slightly annoyed which was when Mr. Sam Chapman came over to us.

Even though Sam Chapman began repeatedly yelling at Council Member Jimmerson that she was the 'most negative person in the world', she never once raised her voice back at him or made a crude hand gesture. I was standing there the entire time. Quite frankly, I was shocked at what was happening in a public forum, by a candidate running for Town Council. The situation became so heated, that Mr. John Chapman and I believe the woman was Sam Chapman's mother, forced themselves in between the small group saying 'Sam let's go' and they physically removed both Sam Chapman and Casey Chapman from the area. In doing so, I don't think Mr. John Chapman realized that he bumped into me enough to slightly knock me into the table I was standing next to. I'm sure his focus was on removing Sam and Casey from the small area we were standing in.

Having attended many events throughout the Town and the County and seeing Council Member Jimmerson at many of these, I have always seen her represent the Town Council with the utmost respect and dignity. Others might have succumbed to the taunting that was displayed that day, however, she did not 'take the bait'. To the contrary, she handled the interaction extremely well in light of the highly charged situation.

I will state again, firmly and unequivocally, that Council Member Jimmerson never made a crude hand gesture. If you have any further questions about the incident, I will be more than happy to discuss with you.

Sincerely,
Lydia

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Lydia M. Clark
Cell: (732) 309-2298