

Council Chambers, 25 West Market Street, 7:30 p.m. Mayor Kristen C. Umstattd presiding.

Council Members Present: Kelly Burk, David Butler, Thomas Dunn, II, Suzanne D. Fox, Katie Sheldon Hammler, and Mayor Umstattd.

Council Members Absent: Council Member Dunn left at 9:15 and returned p.m.

Staff Present: Town Manager Kaj Dentler, Deputy Town Manager Keith Markel, Town Attorney Barbara Notar, Director of Parks and Recreation Rich Williams, and Executive Associate I Tara Belote.

AGENDA

ITEMS

1. **Work Session Items for Discussion**

- a. Downtown Parking Task Force – Proposed Recommendations
Richard Smith, Downtown Parking Task Force, introduced the other members of the Task Force: Kate Armfield, Paige Buscema, Alexis Belton, Jerry Hill, Alicia McFadden, Gigi Robinson, and Carrie Whitmer.

Key Points:

- Tasked with developing ideas to incentivize all-day parkers in the downtown to relocate to alternative parking areas that are less convenient so that more convenient parking is available for short-term parkers.
- Met over four meetings.
- Brian Boucher provided information to the Task Force on zoning issues.
- Peter Burnett provided some history and knowledge of the parking situation to the Task Force.
- Some issues include:
 - Lack of sidewalk continuity.
 - Needed sidewalk repairs.
 - Lack of lighting.
 - Distance between outlying parking and target destinations.
- Currently available public parking includes:
 - Liberty lot – 106 spaces
 - Semones lot – 68 spaces
 - Pennington lot – 202 spaces
 - Town garage – 372 spaces
 - County garage – 290 spaces (only available to the public on nights and weekends)
 - On-street parking – 148 spaces
- Detailed data collection showed that the garage is only 56% utilized on an average weekday.
- Highest occupancy in the town garage is the evening of First Friday.
- Surface lots had an average utilization of 40%.

- Proximity to destination is a large factor in the lack of full utilization of surface lots.
- On-street parking shows 41% average utilization.
- Why so much vacancy?
 - Signage – needs uniformity and clarity.
 - Poor pedestrian experience – lack of continuity and crumbling infrastructure.
 - Distances over two blocks.
 - Disregard of regulations – cheaper to get a ticket than to pay to park.
 - No escalation of fines for repeat offenders.
 - Town garage is uninviting – cramped, dark, with poor signage.
- Demand exceeds supply in the southeast quadrant of the downtown.
- Short-Term Recommendations:
 - Improve signage to parking lots.
 - Improve pedestrian experience to parking lots – widen sidewalks, ADA accessibility, and contiguous sidewalks.
 - Improve lighting.
 - Potentially install speed tables to slow down vehicles and improve pedestrian experience.
 - Reduce speed limits throughout downtown.
 - Identify parking project that will receive Payment In Lieu payments.
 - Raise Payment In Lieu payment to reflect the true cost of structured parking.
 - Town contributes a portion of the Payment In Lieu payment towards structured parking.
 - Amend Section 11-44 of the Town Code regarding proximity to public parking – do not allow credit for proximity to the County parking garage.
 - Increase parking violation fees – higher fines will increase compliance and increase turnover in more sought-after spaces.
 - Implement a graduated fee scale to penalize repeat offenders.
 - Make all spaces in the town garage a three hour max parking with meters.
 - Floors above the first floor of the garage would be free.
 - Rented spaces remain in the basement.
 - First floor garage payments would be through a payment kiosk machine to eliminate the need for attendants, booths, and gates.
 - Eliminate the parking validation program and first hour free policy in the garage.
 - Parking garage staff would be used for enforcement.
 - Re-stripe the parking garage spaces to give more space for larger vehicles.
 - Establish drop off/pick up zones to allow those who are elderly or impaired to wait for a ride to park further from their destination.

- Recommendations would result in a net gain of income.
- Long-term recommendations:
 - Credit and debit kiosks for on-street parking payment.
 - Structured parking in the southeast quadrant utilizing a public/private partnership or a partnership with Loudoun County.
- Next steps:
 - Council review of the report and recommendations.
- Schedule a follow-up meeting with the Task Force to review the recommendations and discuss implementation plans.

Council Comments/Questions:

- Dunn: On the graphs you have showing the on-street parking, it would be good to know what days of the week these are. It looks like almost consistently on every street there is really two days each week that we start to peak out or reach our highest points in the occupied spaces on on-street parking and do you know what that corresponds with? What is going on that is causing those two days per week – obviously they are work days I would assume, unless they are weekends, but I would doubt to be the case. Do you know what is happening on those two days a week?
Staff answer: They are color coded. The blue bars represent weekdays, and the red all represent weekends. We picked one of the days – you will see Saturday and Sunday afternoons tend to be very high on-street parking demand days. You will see we measured mid-morning/mid-afternoon on every day of the week for the entire month so we captured the full snapshot of what is happening in the months.
- Dunn: The red days, again, are the weekends?
Staff answer: Correct. That would be the same on all the charts, so whether you are looking at the street parking, the surface lot parking or the town deck – they are all color coded the same way.
- Dunn: You also had – I didn't add up the numbers of what you had on the charts; but, I don't think – it looks like you maybe just took the larger concentration of meters because it doesn't look like each chart represents the total 148, is that correct?
Staff answer: That's correct. There is the total cumulative chart and you will see individual streets. We just pulled out some of the streets that were high traffic streets – so King Street/Loudoun Street section just to really show you where the concentration of the parking was.
- Dunn: Do you have the data on those less concentrated? My guess is those numbers probably have greater availability of parking.
Staff answer: Absolutely.
- Dunn: Did those areas reach red on the weekend also?
Staff answer: Not to the same degree that King Street and Loudoun Street would, but everything saw an uptick on the weekends. But those that we left out were the maybe 50% occupancy. We have all the information, if you want to see that.

- Dunn: You used the term quite a bit about the pedestrian experience and the impact the pedestrian experience has on parking. Where are you getting the information from?
Task force answer: The data suggests that the lots – for example, the Liberty lot or the Pennington lot is under-utilized and in our walk through, we see going back to the lack of continuity, dim lighting and the items that were put forth and some public feedback from some of the members of the Task Force in what we are hearing in that parking down there – what about the sidewalks? What about getting there on foot? Its fine that its close, but getting there on foot is not – is easier said than done. While the space is there, you have to walk in the road in dim lighting, or what have you.
- Dunn: You use that phrase quite a bit and it almost sounded like people – because the pedestrian experience is not good, I’m choosing not to park.
Task force answer: In some instances. That’s not the sole reason they are not parking there, but it plays into the formula as a portion. At least if it was better lighted and the sidewalks and such was there and in good shape, it would incentivize people – make it more friendly and inviting.
- Dunn: Do we have detailed recommendations – obviously, the pedestrian experience is a broad term, yet that may not be true for every location that people are walking from. Do we have some detailed information as to some improvements you are suggesting in those areas where you feel that the pedestrian experience is the most detrimental.
Task force answer: The Task Force did not identify specific locations. We did give a few examples and I’m not sure how to point to them, but I think some of the examples that we gave are on the way to the Liberty lot where the sidewalk just ends or the sidewalk was uneven, crushed, what have you. So, to answer your question, there was some examples, but we did not detail specifics.
- Dunn: Do you think you can provide that information because otherwise if we are looking at this and saying “well, we’ve got to improve the pedestrian experience”, then all of a sudden, we’ve got a whole new round of downtown improvements we are going to be looking at spending money for and I don’t know if we are prepared to go that direction. So, if you can take a look at your notes, possibly, and provide some additional information about exactly where you are looking at. We’ve got 40 feet of improvements we would like to see on X street and what you suggest that being. It would be when folks are looking for a place to park, I would think they would seek out the parking space and worry about how to walk afterwards. They might do that once and decide I’m not going to do that again, but in essence, what is driving what? Is it the “it was such a bad pedestrian experience, I’m choosing not to park there anymore”, or the other way around. So, I’d just like to get some more detailed information about this whole

pedestrian experience concept. I also want to thank you all for doing a tremendous amount of work. What I found in this is I don't know that there is a lot of new, general information, but what you did was put some facts and figures to ideas and concepts that I think have been already floating around, which is great because otherwise we are just making anecdotal ideas and you all may have found when you went into it, I've got certain ideas about where we are at in parking and all of a sudden you say, "This is not what I expected to see". What it looks like to me, is really something that we have been saying for years – is that there is plenty of available parking in downtown. It looks like generally speaking – depending on how you want to look at this percentage, whether you look at percentage of space, or percentage of time, that generally you've got a 40% chance of finding a decent parking space downtown, which is pretty good. Theoretically, you could say most of the time, you've got 100% chance of finding parking downtown because on every street, I didn't see one, there wasn't a time – granted you weren't there 24/7, but there wasn't a time that you could not find parking on almost any street within the study. So, we often hear, I drive around and around and around and I couldn't find a parking space. I don't know what day they were doing it, but it wasn't on these days. So, it will be interesting to see where we take this. I know that we've already done some action, but again, I'd like to hear more about this pedestrian experience and if you are really talking about some major improvements of the pedestrian experience to and from walkways. I would like to hear more about that, but generally I would have to say looking at the information you have here, that people can park downtown and if we did no pedestrian experience or no improvements, they would still find plenty of parking downtown. That may change based on business improvements and greater traffic – foot traffic downtown, but from what I'm seeing here it looks like there is plenty of parking downtown. Generally speaking, almost any time you come down – weekends might be a little bit of a challenge, but even on those weekends we are not maxing out. What we don't know is how many of those people on the weekend got to that 80 % level and decided I'm going to go ahead and head back to Ashburn where I came from or whatever. Do you know that – I guess it would be hard to tell – how many people turned around and didn't stay because they really did drive around and it was on one of those 80% days. What was the highest day you had percentage wise? Did you ever hit 90? I saw 82 a couple of times.

Staff answer: It depends on where you are talking – in the deck, the highest day was the First Friday night in March. It reached it's highest capacity for the whole month. Streets maxed out on Saturday afternoons – those are the highest. Depending on the street segment – King Street would have been fully maxed out at that time. So, you would have to circle the block.

- Dunn: It was great to see – I’m glad you pointed out that it was on the weekend, because again, it was anecdotal discussions that we had in the past. If you had told me that the greatest need for parking was on the weekend – it wasn’t during the work week, I probably wouldn’t have believed you. What I would love to see is what we want to get to and I’m sure the business folks downtown want this – I’d love to see red lines all the way across.

Staff answer: One of the interesting things we saw in the data was that the weekends had the highest demand for on-street parking, but that was actually when the deck has less demand. So, we think that is a messaging or signage issue so people coming to our downtown on those Saturday afternoons for restaurants or shopping maybe aren’t familiar with the downtown, aren’t familiar with the deck. If we made the deck more obviously public and inviting and free, that they would be more willing to use that space and not be frustrated with having to drive around the block looking for on-street spaces which are fully maximized at that time.

- Dunn: Or being able to find those more satellite locations. And again, I don’t think that those people are choosing not to park there just because they feel the walking experience, they feel the pedestrian experience is going to cause them to change their mind about coming downtown because now that I’ve found a place to park and I’ve actually decided to park here – you know what – I don’t know that I want to do this because there is not a sidewalk there or it is crumbling or so forth. That is up for debate. But, again, thank you for the report. It was very informative.
- Butler: The good news is I think most of my questions were answered on the tour. I thank you for the walking tour. That was a great idea. But, I am looking forward to chewing on these a little bit and I suspect Council may have another work session soon on it because there is some quick hitters that we could make here and kind of prioritize these to decide which ones we want to go after first. I think it’s a good exercise for Council. Like Tom, I think that the data you have collected is outstanding – that it really helps a lot. I was surprised by a little bit of the data. Like, I have been saying for quite a while that I didn’t think the garage was utilized as heavily during the day as people suspected and it is utilized even less than I thought. So, I think that some of the changes that you recommend, like making the spaces wider – great ideas. I think we should make some of that happen. Nights and weekends, it is clear that we do not have a parking problem at all, but we may have a parking communication problem or marketing problem. I think that a lot of people don’t know, say that the County garage is open and this kind of thing. That should be relatively easy to fix. What I’m getting is around King Street area, we don’t have a parking quantity problem. There are signage and other issues that we need to deal with. Like at the Market Station area, we do have a parking quantity

problem, so that is something we need to address. Of course, one of the big wild cards in the whole thing is we have some discussions with the county on the courthouse. As that goes through, they are putting in a huge parking garage. Now it is not in the direction that you recommend the parking garage, but it is a parking garage. They will be over-parked for quite a while. Is there some way we could work with the county and figure something out? I don't know. I guess we will know that over the next few months. That might be something that can bear some fruit. In any case, I just want to let you know, I think it was a fantastic job and I appreciate all of your work. It has given Council – this was not just good general information – these are specific recommendations that we could take and move forward with. I am looking forward to that.

- Burk: Dave's last comment was quite a compliment to you, because I think he was a little skeptical when we decided on doing this. So, it is a great compliment to you guys. First off, the tour was great. That was absolutely what we needed and was very, very helpful. It also answered a great deal of my questions. My husband and I walk around town a lot. We try to get four miles – sometimes we get more. I never feel unsafe, no matter what time of the day or night, we've never felt unsafe, but we have run into streets that are difficult because of the sidewalks – Liberty being one of them, that you are walking down the sidewalk and the sidewalk is gone. So, if it dark as it is on Liberty and you are not familiar with it, it could cause problems. I understand that if you are going and using that lot and you walk up towards the town and you can't find the sidewalk, or you are afraid you are going to trip, I would imagine that would have a negative impact on you. I want to know – that picture right there – who put the pole in the ADA spot? Was the pole there first? I mean, come on.
- Butler: These kinds of things float around on Facebook a lot. That one could be added right to it.
- Burk: It could. Let's make a handicapped spot that people could get their wheelchair out and put a pole in the middle of it. I really appreciate the specific examples that you give. I think the idea of speed tables are a great idea. I would like some feedback from the police and fire and rescue people if that is an impact to them at all. But, I think if it could work out, that's a great idea – King Street sometimes seems like a racetrack. People are going so fast that slowing them down would be a great idea. I like the recommendation of the first floor. I don't know if there is some way – Dave and I were talking about doing an app – or something that you could pay on your phone kind of thing. Having the first floor you pay for – you know, have individual meters, and then the rest of the floors above are open – that's a great idea. I think that's really neat. Definitely widening the spots. There are places I will not park because I know I'm not going to be able to get back in because the spaces are so close. The kiss and ride spot was very interesting, but I

was trying to imagine where that would go. Did you guys talk at all about where that might be located?

Task force answer: We didn't identify specific locations. There were ideas tossed around of some underutilized areas that are either parking spaces or utilized some other way converted to something like a Kiss and Ride that would...

- Burk: That would make sense and you see people doing that – stopping right in the middle of Market Street dropping someone off.

Task Force Answer: One north of Market Street and one south or something like that.

- Burk: Right, and I'm sure that we can tease that out as we get more into the meetings, there. And then, would we – this is a question for you, Kaj, would we have to follow this up – to continue with this would it be necessary to have some sort of study conducted to identify what locations do need to be improved, what sidewalks need to be improved – what would make walkability much more conducive to people. Would that require a study of some sort?

Town Manager: Yes, we can do that in house to give you an idea of what the challenges are versus paying someone to do that.

- Burk: Then, don't we have a certain amount of money from the in-lieu parking that we have already?

Town Manager: We have some.

- Burk: Maybe some of that could go towards some of those improvements.

Town Manager: Possibly.

- Burk: Thank you. This is really a very good report and I really appreciate all the effort and work that went into it.

- Martinez: (unaudible).

Task force answer: Yeah, the data revealed a lot that brought detail to maybe thoughts that we thought or thought negatively of. But the idea – what it brings to light is obviously the convenient spots – those are the spots that are most used and the focus being trying to incentivize people to use the less convenient spots.

- Martinez: (inaudible).

Task force answer: I don't remember the specific numbers but a structured parking space – the cost of such is a variable that is dependent on soils and construction materials, but generally speaking you are at \$20,000 per space. Right now, the parking in lieu fee is somewhere about the \$6,000 range and that isn't even getting you started. Increasing that was our recommendation, but increasing it to the full \$20,000 may not be the right path. Correct, 10,000 and then the town bears the other 10,000 as sort of a partnership and a strategic way to get funding.

- Hammler: Well, I too will start with my deep gratitude. It was a great walking tour, one of the best reports I have ever read. I will say that I know in 2003, we spent \$50,000 on a consultant and I think your report

was far more valuable, so thank you so much. I guess, I'll be brief and just summarize some of the same things you've heard, but I just feel, I too, would like to reiterate some of the key points that you've made and where I agree so that we can move forward and take action. As far as our existing garage, completely agree on things like making it more user friendly, getting rid of the gates, adding the visitor information, more lighting, restriping, not having locked gates on Loudoun Street – maybe just have one exit there that will facilitate some other improvements we are making on Loudoun Street. So, those are also great ideas. Loved the loading zone – kind of the Kiss and drop or Kiss and Pick up area. One idea I mentioned on the walk was possibly not having a full time police spot. Maybe that could be converted to that area, but make it very user friendly with benches. In terms of the technology, I was thinking the same thing that Marty just mentioned – not only things like Bango, which we know cities like Alexandria have incorporated extremely effectively in meters because literally nobody carries cash. They just don't. It's an inconvenience and another one of those reasons not to go downtown. But, an app that just literally – if we could at least investigate, as Marty has mentioned, sensors for all of these lots to be able to check on a smart phone, Oh, I can definitely park here. I guess that does get back to the fact that I love the idea of having the first floor of the garage metered and the rest free – great idea there. In terms of the pedestrian accessibility around the downtown, the only thing I'd like to add is one of the things we mentioned on the walk – which is if it is possible to ensure that folks aren't putting their trash cans right in the middle of the sidewalks, which simply makes it very difficult to get around – whatever we need to do to follow-up on that. And, in terms of the southeast, completely support the fact that it makes no sense then to have this parking in lieu because “the county garage is there”, when in fact you can't account for that. As far as the town, more tactically providing money for payment in lieu for that fund, I would support getting really serious about where that long term garage needs to go and figuring out what that public/private partnership needs to look like so that we can actually have that on a capital improvement plan and look at the financials and look at the right partner – whether it's a performing arts type of educational venue that we want in the downtown as another anchor – it could trigger that type of investment. Look at that in detail versus coming up with some sort of hypothetical matching figure and we never achieve this long term goal. I know we referenced Frederick Maryland as an example of a city for whatever reason, perhaps they got grants because they are flooding, but they made a commitment to building garages and ultimately that became an economic catalyst. So, in summary, just really appreciate what a tremendous job you did providing very important, actionable, short term, you know, low hanging fruit that we as a Council can move forward on and support looking at that prioritization – the financials, so

that we can put dates to that action plan as well as start looking at the longer term in getting each of those projects solidified. The only question I have is actually for Kaj. Because one of the back to the central point of why you did this task force – the problem of how you create incentives for long term parkers to go to long term spaces. But, Kaj, that is really a question for you, because one of the main recommendations is for town employees to park somewhere other than the town garage. At some point you need to provide guidance to Council on what your decision is or what you feel the hurdles are for making that happen and/or for what you would do to help facilitate making it happen. A related aspect of that is when we are looking at the partnership with the county, you know, what you would recommend in terms of those partnership elements with the county because clearly you need ask Tim Hemstreet that same question.

- Fox: I wanted to thank each one of you for your efforts. I enjoyed walking with you today and I enjoyed getting to meet you and I enjoyed getting to know some of you better. I, too, think this was an excellent report. A lot of things I didn't think about. A lot of things to think about. I think that we are addressing some of these things already, such as signage and it was nice to take a walk, as a pedestrian just to see where some people might stumble – some sidewalk issues and everything like that. I agree on most of these recommendations. There are a few I might question, but the parking – the increase in parking violation fees totally, totally makes sense. I guess one of the biggest without me going over everything else everybody else just said, I think one of the biggest questions I would have is the long term goal of allowing for alternative payment systems. I was wondering if anybody did any sort of research on what the cost might be of that – staff or the Parking Task Force. Is there any sort of information that you have that you could give us that we might want to take a look at?

Task Force answer: Actually, I believe we did. Do we have any numbers on the alternative payment kiosks.

Staff answer: The kiosks was were Scott Parker has done the most research on it. We are looking at 10s to thousands of dollars of initial capital outlay to buy those structures. As far as the pay and go or the pay now through different apps, there are certainly user convenience fees – I am sure there are some transaction fees on the management side of things. We have reached out to a few companies but we haven't had any meetings yet or any walk throughs of their products. We don't have the specifics yet, but if that is a direction of you all want to start heading, I think based on the discussion and wanting to have some follow-up meetings with you all with the task force, we would be happy to start getting into those details and report back.

- Fox: Have you done any comparisons with any different municipalities in Virginia about what they do?

Staff answer: We haven't yet.

Task Force answer: And one point I would point out is in one of the slides that you saw, the increase in revenue that the new set up would provide, so at \$30,000 a year in the first year, who knows, you may pay for that.

- Mayor: Very good report to all of you and a couple of questions. Your recommendation, I think, is for potentially a garage in the southeast quadrant. Presumably, if it is more than two blocks from the destination, you might figure people won't park there – extrapolating from your thoughts on Liberty Street parking lot. Did you guys, when you thought about a parking structure in the southeast quadrant – did you think about the possible location of it? Did you take into consideration how far it would be to walk from that parking structure to whatever businesses or offices it is intended to serve and what was your conclusion?

Task Force answer: We certainly discussed that. That was a little bit more challenging of an item, as far as the whole two block radius. Given that you are getting a parking structure at the Pennington lot, placing one immediately southwest of Market Station, again the challenge is not only financially there, but if you could somehow discuss and be able to provide a structured parking in, for example, say the Bowman parking lot – if you were able to do that, share the cost of that, and give the current land owner the bottom floor, per se, or something strategic like that. We discussed it, but no specific location. We did not come up with specific locations.

- Mayor: Did you take into consideration the plans at Courthouse Square do have a parking structure there? They have multiple thoughts on it, as they have expressed to me, anyway. They have expressed the possibility of allowing paid parking for people not in the building itself, but people could come and use spaces there during the day and would pay for that privilege. I don't know that they have really settled on any one particular plan at this point, but you imply a very logical thought, which is they are going to want it for their own use first and only public use if there are additional spaces. Did you discuss the plans of the Board of Supervisors to put a three deck garage on the Pennington lot and that, I know the third level, which is a \$2 million addition to their original plan would provide about 169 spaces. I am extrapolating from that that the other two levels might also provide about 169 spaces. Did you look at whether that is close enough to the county government center and Market Station to provide any parking for them? I'm getting a shaking of heads in the background.

Task Force answer: I don't believe that was specifically discussed.

Staff answer: We looked at the numbers and if you look at parking that is currently in that lot – Pennington is woefully underutilized. County staff aren't even parking in that lot to walk to the facility now. The County was running a shuttle bus for a short while this past fall that connected Pennington to our Liberty and to the County building and

they discontinued it because they were only getting three or four riders a week on their shuttle bus. It is just one of those things – kind of out of sight, out of mind. We don't know if maybe it was the distance or just a line of sight issue, but Pennington is not utilized except for motor pool and some of the court facilities folks are using it for that. We figured that a parking deck, unless there is a major shift with the court expansion – you know, a major increase in demand, we don't see that right now with being a major parking destination for folks walking to the core downtown to do shopping/dining – you mid-town King Street and Market.

- Mayor: Okay, thanks. You did a really nice job outlining how many spaces are in each particular area and you've got 290 spaces in the county parking garage. Tim Hemstreet, at a recent meeting, indicated that he has got 400 employees in the County government center. Do you think that is accurate? So, they have about 100 fewer parking spaces in the county garage that they might need. There is some speculation that the reason they agreed to put a third level on the Pennington deck was to accommodate those county employees on top of the expanded courthouse needs. Now, here is one thought that someone smarter than I came up with – because putting the third level on the Pennington garage is going to be a real problem for the residents, I think, on Wildman Street, on Ariel and on Marshall, because they are going to see it. It is going to show about the trees and it will have potentially 20 foot lights on top of it, would it make more sense for the county to only build the two levels and then partner with the \$2 million it would then not have to expend up there – partner with the town and the private sector down closer to where the parking need actually is – near Market Station/southeast quadrant. Is that something you guys would be interested in thinking about?

Task Force answer: I think I can speak for us in that in our discussions the biggest demand is that southeast quadrant. If there was a way to reallocate that \$2 million to the southeast quadrant and find a way to provide whether it be surface or structured parking – parking in general in that southeast, that is your biggest need right now.

- Mayor: I appreciate – this is really good work that you've done so thank you very much, all of you.
- Martinez: My mic was off – can I start all over again?
- Hammler: I really appreciate that great suggestion, Kristen. One of the things we noticed on the walking tour is that particularly in the southeast, there are privately owned lots that have been observed as being greatly underutilized. We certainly brainstormed that it makes sense in the short term to at least consider whether we could enter into some sort of agreement to rent those spaces, just to have more spaces available in the shorter term. I just wanted to bring that out because we had talked about it. The other thing that we had talked about, that Gigi had brought up, which I thought was a good point, is if one of the

longer term goals is to encourage infill development, by definition, it will have to go where the existing spaces are for the buildings. All the more reason to get serious about structured parking as relates to the long-term infill development plans for the downtown.

It was determined that next step would be a work session.

b. Skate Park

The three Council representatives that attended the meeting with the School Board and the County offered their perspectives.

- Burk: We met on June 4 with the representatives from the School Board – three representatives from the School Board and three representatives from the County. I believe there was at least one additional school board member that came. I can't remember if there was an additional county member that came. So we were presenting to the six individuals. I went over the information on the history, where the site is, how much effort we have put into it and that at present it is at its end of life. It needs to be repaired and that we were looking to find out - that someone from the county had reached out to one of the Town Council members to discuss a partnership, so we were there to talk about a partnership. I made the point that we would be interested if they wanted to take over the whole thing – that we might be interested in having them help fund part of it. We might be interested in having them move it to the school site – any sort of partnership, we would be willing to consider. They listened. They were very polite. It was a very nice meeting. It became – in the discussions, it became very clear that the school site will not become available any time soon. We are looking about 10 years out. The County representatives talked about how they would want to master plan it. They haven't done that yet. The site itself will not be available for about ten years. We talked very briefly about the location – if we didn't move it to the school site, that our police had some issues with the location – but there were other locations on the site that might work. They kind of indicated, most of them, indicated that at this point, they might not be willing to move the skate park to the school for the reasons stated before. We emphasized the fact that we had a timeline and we very much wanted this to get done. We have it on our CIP for this year – for 2016. They said that there was no way that would happen. It couldn't be done in such a short time, but they did leave the door open to a future partnership that perhaps in the future when the site does become available, that perhaps that would be a good time to talk about partnerships. There was a reference made at one point by the chairman, Mr. York, that perhaps in the not too distant future, there could be a partnership even if it stayed on Catoctin Circle. So, we left there with the idea that in the future there could be a partnership. I'm not sure that anything would become

immediate. There was a fair discussion – everybody asked questions and everybody was interested, but it just doesn't seem to me that the timeline was going to accommodate what we were looking for, but I did leave optimistic that in the future there is the opportunity to perhaps to have a partnership and they would be willing and open to listen to that and have that discussion. At this point, it is for the future.

- Mayor: When you say in the future, did you get a sense is this the ten years in the future?
- Burk: Yes. I mean the discussion could start now, but that the partnership in earnest would not really begin until the school site became available and they were not anticipating that for 8-10 years.
- Hammler: First of all, Keith and Rich did a great job with the presentation. And Kelly did a lovely job as Vice Mayor representing all of us. It was only 30 minutes, so my first observation is given the fact that half of the time, by necessity was taken up by the presentation, and that, you know, there were three different groups represented, it wasn't realistic to think that we were going to get into a meaningful discussion. That being said, I definitely took away the key point that Chairman York mentioned, which is that there is a great opportunity for the county to be a partner regardless of where it goes. I had a slightly different interpretation of the dialogue regarding, you know, the necessity to wait ten years to determine whether it could go at Douglass and I actually called Kaj right after the meeting, because I felt as much as we had a very quick conversation, side bar conversation, with Eric Williams and Tim Hemstreet, and to just try to distill what we collectively tried to discuss, but really couldn't get into – that we need to determine where and how they can meaningfully discuss this even if they have the opportunity to do it between now and even this summer because we won't be initiating anything until then. For instance, Chairman Morse, said that it seems like a natural fit, but can we get this all done in three months? So, in other words, they knew there was sort of a fire drill in terms of can we react so quickly. So, yes, by that definition, time lines would be insurmountable, but on the other hand, realistically, if we got more specific in terms of getting guidance in terms of in the short term – even within the ten year span, is it possible that between parks and rec at the county and Douglass determine would you be willing to put it where the inline skating park is because staff believes that would be the most logical place. How and who makes that decision and they have to look at how much the inline skating park is used. Get them that opportunity, or Chairman York mentioned possibly the finance committee would take a look at this on the county side. So, I think we have to be realistic that they have to go through some sort of follow-up and our staff needs to talk with each other and scope things out a little more with greater clarity in terms of realistically where it could go at Douglass and if not, what and how a partnership could be constructed on the Catoctin site given that we

know we have certainly a desire for the Fire and Rescue to expand and the county could be a great partner in making that happen, hopefully with some funding that could be part of this partnership. Bottom line is we reiterated that we know this is a regional amenity based on what we know about skate parks – so there is a great opportunity to work together and I feel optimistic that we should keep trying to do that. So, again, it was hard to get everything done in 30 minutes, but we certainly, I think, kicked off the discussion but we have some follow-up to do.

- Fox: So, there were three of us and of course there is going to be three different opinions. If you'll indulge me, I have a lot of feelings about this, so I wrote them down. First of all, I was grateful that they were very – thank you to the both of you for being there and for doing that presentation. That was helpful to them. I did get that feedback, although, I believe this was probably a lost opportunity, even though there was a staff presentation, we did have one council member basically take charge of most of the comments and happened to be the one who was most opposed to the location to begin with, so it perplexed me a little a bit. I thought we were leaving out some good stuff there. What was focused on was the burden that the relocation would place on both the schools and the county, while insisting that the project be completed immediately, so as to rule out time for proper deliberation and vetting. So, I'm not saying we don't – everybody has the right to either oppose or like the relocation; however, I just feel like we had the opposing view point trying to make the case for the relocation, which I found kind of odd. In addition, several individuals from both Council, the county and the school board seemed to imply that the school board would have to cease operations at the Douglass facility in order for the relocation to occur. I think this was a misunderstanding and it made it difficult to discuss the issue. It is clear that the skate park could be co-located with other recreational facilities at the Douglass School while LCPS operations do continue there. A case could be made that we essentially told the School Board that we really don't want to do this, which had some members scratching their heads that evening, going, well do they want to do this or do they not want to do this. It seems like, hey, we want to do this, but we've got this timeline so we really don't want to do this – that's what it seemed like to me anyway. Then, there were a couple of other issues that came into play that I wanted to address. We do have a couple of neighbors to the park – one is Dulles Motor Cars, the other is the Rescue Squad. When we initially took the issue up, of course I think we probably all assumed that the keeping of the skate park in its current location had been properly vetted including cooperative discussions with the skate park's two neighbors, the Rescue Squad and Dulles Motor Cars; however, I don't think it has been fully considered and I don't think the impact of keeping the skate park in place has been considered with

these two adjacent properties. We all did get an email, Mr. Saghafi was present. He is the owner of Dulles Motor Cars. He did indicate to me at that meeting – we kind of talked afterwards and he indicated to me that he had not been consulted in any way. He also brought up some issues that place a considerable burden on his operations. You know, we talked a little bit about liability issues – they were asking us why we wanted to do this so quickly, why is there such a timeline to do this so quickly and the Vice Mayor basically said we face some liability issues. So, he kindly explained to me he had some liability issues as well and I don't think we've thought those through either. I do believe that this Council, on many occasions, has presented ourselves as a business-friendly Council and that Leesburg is a pro-business town, but we haven't done anything to bring this man and his business into discussions even though we are his neighbor there. Rescue Squad location – there has been some developments on that as of late. It has come to my attention and I think I've forwarded you all a memorandum that I received from the County about keeping the skate park in its current location – how it might jeopardize the ability for heavy rescue in Leesburg's future, so we might be dealing with some sort of public safety problem of no heavy rescue in Leesburg in the future, and I think that might be something we want to take a look at, too, as we go along. I believe, and I this is just my personal opinion, that the most reasonable path forward could be to relocate the skate park, divide the property, grant a portion of it to the Rescue Squad, maybe in lieu of yearly donations we make – you know, the yearly stipends we make, so that they can make that appropriate expansion and then maybe we can sell the remainder of the property to the highest bidder to finance in full the relocation and construction of the skate park. At this point, given how important this outcome is to the town in light of the new rescue squad information, we probably should have worked much harder to make a compelling and attractive proposal to the school board to relocate that skate park. I don't believe that was done. I really think we need to take into account the way we vet things and take into consideration ramifications and alternate options as we go forward. Initially, when this was all brought up during the budget session, there were two reasons that I even took a look at the skate park during budget season. One of them, was to improve the relationship with the county, which I perceive as strained. And the other is because it seems to me a good opportunity to use taxpayer dollars more effectively, and I think it is good and necessary to look at some of our wants with some outside the box thinking.

- Rescue Squad: I would first like to ask a few questions – where was the memo – who was it from?
- Fox: Loudoun County, Virginia, Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management – from W. T. Brower

- Rescue Squad: Because today, there was multiple emails – we have not entertained – the Rescue Squad is a wholly owned business in itself – it is a 501(c)3. It owns that building along with the part of the town. If you don't understand the situation. We have an agreement with this town – that property. So, if we leave that property, it becomes this town's property again. We paid a \$1. Mr. Brower was never requested to ask anything for it because that is the process that Mr. Reid has put forth with us. We came here, your Town Council, and discussed this with the Mayor and staff and various other people to do some work with them with the town. Mr. Brower has taken it from Mr. Reid to do this. We have not been brought into that picture until the last couple of days. Email shuffled today and throughout the weekend have been actually shared with the rest of the people – some of the other people here, and basically provided information that we did not. We told Mr. Brower that we did not request that and did not have any conversations at Fire and Rescue. We are not being moved down to Evergreen Road, which is what they are saying. Mr. Reid brought that out in the conversation and email also. They are planning to build something at the lower part of Evergreen. They were going to put one engine company and one ambulance there. That was the plan and we are involved in that also. The other plan was, is for us, to stay where we are. That is the middle of our response area – that location. The thing is, we are asking is, and I hear this come up – we have done the research at our facility. There are plans based on what some of the Fire Rescue people want to do. Not exactly what the Rescue Squad wants to do. They want to add on to it. They've asked and we have given alternatives to the staff and some of the people – we will make our ways around to each Council member here. We will be getting to you and everybody else also before the 22nd of the month to discuss it with you and the alternatives such as getting a part of it and moving out onto that property or even moving the skate park over towards the Dulles auto area. We have not entertained discussing and making conflict for the constituents that you people have, which is your skate park people. We don't want to become part of that political conflict either. Because, we actually asked for the purpose of the Mayor and various other members of this Council to discuss it with you people to go ahead and do that so that we can make a proposal to you to either get that or build another building on the other side of the skate park that is there now and then have the parking and the building. We have already discussed that. Mr. Reid was not involved in it until late stages, but he came to us and has fired multiple emails at it, which we have copies of, and he was never requested to do it. Mr. Brower actually responded back and said I never did that and that was sent to Mr. Reid, Mr. Hemstreet, and that has come out of it and shown that we have told him from our President and the Board members, which I am one of them and there are four of us that make for <extension> that we did not request that of the

county. I explained to some people tonight that the funding comes to us through our budgetary process. Our building is a whole part that we put together with you, this Town Council, back in the 70s, the agreement, and Mr. Clem was the Mayor. But they were really sure with that and basically showed us – that we bought it for \$1. The whole agreement says, and it is five or six pages, we will stay on that property as long as we are not there anymore. We paid for that improvement. That was our mortgage. Our mortgage has been paid off for the last ten years or so. So, we did our mortgage. We've paid it off. We have been working our operation. There is an issue with the county, with us, where they produced an agreement for staffing of that heavy rescue squad. Every rescue squad agreement has nothing to do with our expansion process. There is a problem with space overall, but this is another thing that we are very upset and concerned about because they came to us for this thing for training, as a group, and they put an agreement in front of us that is totally unacceptable. Our attorneys took it and tore it apart. This is what they gave us and this is what the attorneys sent back – you can see it is all red. They red lined it. We were going to discuss this with them tomorrow in their finance committee meeting. All the emails came back and shows from these people involved in this and really, to me, is a political mess. There are some people doing some political things that we don't want – we came to this Council because we work with you and this town – we are in a building that is part of this town and our specific area is the Town of Leesburg. We are on that property and we want to work with this town for that property. We understand that there are other underlying things that are going on, but we don't wish to have certain people – I don't care who they are – politicians, whatever, play the fact that we need to go over there to move the skate park. Because, like I said to the Mayor and Mr. Martinez and to Kaj Dentler, your constituents are the people in the skate park. I sat there for five meetings and watched skate park people talk. There are 200-300 people that walk around that talk about this. I've heard the history of it from Mr. Clem and from Mr. Elgin. They are both relatives of my wife. He is my father-in-law. Mr. Clem and Mr. Elgin is the uncle through marriage. I know the history. They are the ones that set it up with Mr. Dentler, to have that skate park for the kids. They paid for it, so to pull it away from them, it is going to be a blot on some of us too, because they are going to blame us. We don't want that on our squad either. I wouldn't think that a politician would want that on them either because they are your constituents and there is more people that are coming there. What got me the best was that they got a \$20,000 loan from this town and they paid it back in three months, those kids that built that. They paid it back. They built the skate park. We put some maintenance into it over time, but it has brought the kids there and they've done it and they are still there. Now you are going to do something that is really worthwhile to make it

bigger. That's great. We don't disagree with that. We would like to have something of it. I don't agree, as a taxpayer who lives here in this town and a taxpayer in this county, to sell that piece of property to Dulles Motorcars or anybody, because it is a town piece of property. Us, as emergency services, we are for the town, we are here to serve the town. We would like to take part of it, not all of it. We would like to see the skate park still next door – move it over or something like that. That's what we discussed – multiple alternatives with the people and that's what we are discussing with everybody. I think there is some issues with it. I think we have some political issues going on between the county and this group and for the people in this community, our society – civil society in our community, we need to work with them to see what they really want, because I see it in this room as well as other places. That's what they want – they want to see it taken care of. I don't like to play the politics with it, but I will sit here and tell you exactly what is going on because I will be very truthful.

- Butler: Rich, do you happen to have a layout of what the new skate park will look like?

Staff answer: The drawing that is depicted here – this is taking into account should the skate park be rebuilt in its existing location. To the left is the Fire and Rescue Squad. Coming down the front is Catoctin Circle. Dulles Motor Cars is on the other side of the treeline. The additional parking and additional greenspace adjacent to Dulles Motor Cars is the existing gravel lot. Obviously, the park itself, the amenities shown there are just for example. Those are not amenities that might specifically be in the park, but they just kind of show how it can lay out.

- Butler: So in discussions with Fire and Rescue about moving the parking lot to the other side of the skate park or anything like that?

Staff answer: Staff, no. I know there has been some discussion at the Council level with the Rescue Squad regarding that. Could we move the skate park over on the gravel area and provide a portion of the existing skate park lot, yes, we could do that. I do not have a drawing as to what that would depict itself like, but I know from a square footage standpoint, it could be done; however, there would be an increase in cost in doing so, but physically it could be done.

- Butler: And the increase in cost would be why?

Staff answer: Based on our estimate, it would probably be similar to if it were to be relocated to a new site, because we are adding impervious surface to the area, so you would have to deal with all the stormwater management, all the engineering work and everything, so you are probably looking at an additional \$200,000 once you take all those components and put them into play.

- Butler: So a parking lot that is shown there with the two cars, that would continue to be gravel?

Staff answer: The parking lot that has the two cars, that could be gravel or that area is actually small enough where you could pave over that

parking area and it not count towards your stormwater issues. The small 12 spaces there. It really does not look to scale. There is much more green space that is created in the background – up near the top where the four trees are. Proportionally, that two car parking lot looks very...

- Butler: Okay, I got to be honest with you. If you flip that 180 degrees, I'm not seeing where there is going to be a whole lot more impervious surface.

Staff answer: No, there would be a whole lot more impervious surface because the 12000 square feet of skate park itself goes over onto the gravel lot and that becomes the impervious surface.

- Butler: Yeah, but you just told me that the 12000 square feet in the parking lot is a small enough area that it wouldn't matter.

Staff answer: The parking area is only about this size. This is the parking area that was depicted in that drawing. This 12000 square feet of skate park is really going to fill in that type of area there. It is significantly larger.

- Butler: Who's cars are there right now?

Staff answer: Currently, those are vehicles that are part of Dulles Motor Cars employees that are parking on that space. We have designated that area as skate park parking only and they will be towed; however, this area is still getting parked by first come, first served. Typically it is mostly Dulles Motor Car employees.

- Butler: In the new plan, all that goes away – it is turned into trees.

Staff answer: Correct. Should the park be built on its existing site or if it is relocated over onto the gravel lot, it would become the skate park and the skate park designated parking.

- Butler: Okay, I don't have any more questions other than it is not at all clear that we have an optimal design at this point. But, that's alright. I won't push it anymore here.

- Martinez: Thank you for your comments. I appreciate it. I know that we are going to be working together and I want to do what we can to accommodate the Fire and Rescue to make sure that they stay where they are at and they also get the growth because I think they are a great value for the town.

- Burk: Just, if I understand it, you are saying that we can locate – that the Rescue Squad is interested in taking part of the property, but is willing to share it with the skate park – that you are not looking for the skate park to be relocated.

Rescue Squad answer: Relocated off of that property, somewhere else like the Douglass public school – we are not interested in that. That is up to you to plan that. That is something that came out of this group or the other group. We looked at it and initially the two alternatives we talked about with some of the council and staff was to move it over, like we just showed you, or leave it there and build another building on the other side and use the other as all parking – working with you to park

around it. We are thinking if you moved it over, as he has shown here, that parking area can drive through bay, you can take a look down around that <animal> station, that's about the parking we've got in the back part. We get about 15 cars. That's our staff during the day. At night time, it goes up to 25 and some of our cars are over in that parking lot now in the dirt lot. They are scared to get towed. We said if they get towed, we would call the Mayor or call one of you. But, they are there overnight because we go up to about 20 cars at night. We don't have any space. If we have a meeting or a training that goes on there, it fills our lot and a lot of times all the other cars are there, so we pack it in. There is no parking. It is kind of landlocked. Our two alternatives, that we asked – when we were asked to see, is that one if you keep it there, we put another building on the other side because we do have space issues inside, but also work with parking so that we can use the parking with the skate park that is there. We have to go to the skate park a couple of a month because people fall. They do come knocking on our door. It happens, or move the skate park over. We did discuss with our members and we put it in front of them. We discussed if it moved over, we talked about the delta between the regular parking pad and moving it over to there, when we were discussing that. But, Mr. Colvin and I and the committees talked about with that, we would initially work with you and get it moved because we want you to have the skate park and the constituents to have a skate park. That is the biggest thing, I think here. The other part would be our primary thing right away is parking until we get our mortgages in place and our complete architectural stuff to put out – it wouldn't go any further – it would be in the front part of the building that we would come out and then have the ride through bays because they are unsafe right now having to back in all the time. You would still have a large area of parking. We would not be completely moving that whole building off over to the side bigger. We would put the front part probably out to the start of the front parking lot in that area.

- Burk: And would, by doing one of those two alternatives, would that impact the company that it could not service the town? Some of the emails are going around saying that leaving the skate park there will impact the company and you won't be able to have heavy vehicles and you won't be able to service the town.

Rescue Squad answer: The comment on the heavy vehicles was because we were not going to sign their agreement. The training part and their agreement to staff it there and we asked them to move it out because we don't have enough space in this station to bunk people at night for the living space. That is why we are looking at the addition. The other part is the safety factor running through our bays – we don't have run through bays, we have just front bays that we have to back into. Plus, the parking. Those are the three things. In addition, being up in the front would add more office, more training and more bunking

space – living space. Bunking space right now is limited where at night we have – and this is based on our call volume – our call volumes are going up 10-15 percent per year. We are over, like you said, on our actual thing we came in to talk to you about – we are over 4500 calls out of that station right now. That station was made back in the day when there were 800 calls, in the 80s. It was started at 800 calls – we are up to 4500, so we are up 10-15 percent per year. We have five ambulances there. We have two boats, a command vehicle, a utility vehicle, and another ALS response vehicle and a <canteen>. It is all cramped in there. So, we need to have proper bays which would be fixed, but we need the space for the offices, the bunking and capabilities to hold more people in the building to provide more response. Because we are pulling in people from outside the area to help us. The other day in the fire here, a big incident like that, we had two of our vehicles volunteer, and one paid vehicle that's there out of our station and then the rescue was there. That was just out of our place and there were still five other ambulances. We are trying to keep up with the other stuff and the expansion in our call volume is what making this go. I think – and I know this for a fact is that in future 2018, we are going to put something down on Evergreen Road, which I think is Leesburg South, is what they call it. We are supposed to put one ambulance, which is what they are calling for, and then the fire department engine down there. That would have one out of here, but in the meantime, we don't have any space to do anything. We can't even house those people in that space. We need space. You are talking out the front, the front part of it coming across, and then the back part not having any.

- Burk: But having the skate park stay there does not negatively impact your expansion?

Rescue Squad: The thing that would happen negatively, we don't think so if we put another building on the other side. We could still do it. We have discussed this with the Mayor and Marty and a couple of others. It doesn't have to be there, we could use another spot for offices and more training area. It does separate your operations to a point, but it still does the thing. We don't have to have ride through bays and still be able to have it safe. We can put extra vehicles over there. We can put the training and the offices over there and still have operationally in the main building where they can put more bunking where the offices used to be. In fact, we could do that and another building would house the ambulances on the other side. That was the second alternative that we were talking about. We did come to the alternative and we also understand the third spot, which was to move was there. We said that's fine too. It wouldn't affect us as much, asking them for land. We would ask that the land be with our own building – an agreement if we leave that property, it goes back to the town.

- Burk: I just wanted to say, at our meeting – I'm sorry, Suzanne, that you came up with such an impression, but everybody had the

opportunity to speak, but you chose not to speak. Katie spoke and I did and that's fine. But, I tried to stay as neutral as possible and present the information as best I could.

- Martinez: If we move the park to the left, brought it down a little bit, we have the skate park, you have the ability to expand and have drive through bays and parking for everybody. That would probably be a win/win because you'd have plenty of parking at night because we don't plan on having the skate park open after 10 o'clock or 9 o'clock or whatever it is. Parking would then be resolved. So, that would be a win/win. The additional cost is \$200,000. The question is where do we come up with the difference.

Rescue Squad: I'd have to go back to the membership and explain that to them – like we said, we'd like to be able to start out – once we get our mortgage in place, and our architect and parking piece to work with everybody. I don't think that would be a problem with us. We'd just have to discuss – initially we talked that we could go up to \$500,000, and that could be a problem that we have to look at.

- Martinez: You said it was an additional \$200,000. How hard would it be to come up with a rough draft plan of what that could look like? Is it going to cost another month?

Staff answer: Those were rough preliminary numbers – I worked with Capital Projects. We could sit down and hash through them again and try to get a closer thing. I guess the challenge would be if we went further along and went into some sort of formal engineering process, then we would be expending funds in order to get that number.

- Martinez: The thing is, the current skate park is surface layer – if we are going to do it anyway, we are going to have escalate and dig and just shifting it over a few feet –we would be digging anyway. So, I guess I'm just - \$200,000 to me seems like something we can work with. You have options you can present us on how we can do this. I would like to see a drawing, if Council is okay with that, of what it could be.
- Butler: If it costs an extra \$200,000 to move that over, then you guys have real problems. There is no chance it is an extra \$200,000 and I will give you an example why. What is the surface of the current skate park?

Staff answer: The skate park is 12,000 square feet.

- Butler: Instead of spending \$200,000 for all this stormwater management, which seems to explode the cost of every project that we have, what would be the cost if we just bust up the asphalt? It probably would be a lot less than \$200,000, I would imagine, right?

Staff answer: I would assume so, yes.

- Butler: Those are the kinds of options I would prefer from staff rather than just saying it is going to cost an extra \$200,000 for stormwater management. We are going have the same discussion tomorrow night that as far as I can tell, we are spending \$800,000 on stormwater management and I have no idea why. So, I would like to build on what

Marty said and I would like to have a work session on the skate park design to try to accommodate the rescue mission.

- Katie: There may be four members that have already made that decision, but just in the interest of our work session discussion, if I could just explore a couple of other ideas. First thing that I heard from Mr. Saghafi was today when he sent an email, so if I may just take a minute – I did appreciate Mr. Skinner being able to speak to us at the work session tonight just so that I can mention a couple of things as we are vetting this is the best place, given the different things we are thinking about here. “Let me tell you what it has been like to be a neighbor to the town’s skate park. On a daily basis during peak skating weather, countless skaters and bicyclists cut through my property to get to the park. Many young kids come from the neighborhood behind my car lot. In the process, many of my cars have been scratched. This is a liability I deal with every day being open seven days a week. Another liability issue for me – what would happen if a child was to be struck by a vehicle driven either a customer or one of my employees. Of course, I can post proper signage to not trespass, but I guarantee the first day I will have to call authorities and possibly have a young child arrested. So, you can see the dilemma. I have instructed my staff to allow these kids to pass and not report them, but not because I don’t want to, but because I’m not sure I could forgive myself if any one of those kids were hurt on a very busy Catoctin Circle. I have dealt with this for the past 10 years, so it seems like this is the opportunity to say something. The current skate park is awkwardly placed on the parcel between a private business, a busy car wash, and an emergency center. No other park space is adjacent. The skate park belongs in an area that serves families like the one at Lake Fairfax. I personally have taken my children to the skate park and my daughter was bored stiff, while my son enjoyed his skate boarding. I believe that many families would appreciate the opportunity to visit a facility where amenities are available for all ages. I also would be more likely to stay at the park if it accommodated children of different age groups. Currently there are children being dropped off directly on a very busy road, or children are coming through my business property at a busy time of day causing damage to my inventory. I would appreciate your taking my business concerns, as well as access and safety concerns into account before you decide to begin work on a skate park. I am a neighbor to the skate park, I live this every single day.” I bring that up because that is actually something that was brought up in terms of the joint meeting, which is if we are able to get some feedback from the school board in terms of their willingness, you know, staff’s recommendations, say to put it in a specific place, like the inline skating park, there are other things to do at that park for children of all ages and arguably some of these concerns could be eliminated. I pause there, because an action there, to me, if we could get a majority of Council to support at least

getting an answer, is sending a letter to the school board to get an answer. I think we simply don't know or have that feedback from them as to whether they would explore putting the skate park on the current Douglass site and if so, where and under what circumstances. I would personally would appreciate that answer via a letter or appropriate communication to get that answer. A related question though, that I don't think we've fully vetted, is if we do move it, it will cost more, similar to what we are talking about here – it costs more to even move the skate park on the existing site, so where is that money going to come from? So, at least my initial motivation for even considering another spot, is the land value is \$2,905,500. The assessment has been close to \$3 million. I know that we don't have kind of the majority support that we would even consider selling town property. A basic question that I had before I would even consider that is, this is located in the Crescent District, so by definition, if we were even to entertain selling it to be able to get the money to free up some funds, not only for additional other projects but just the cost associated with the additional construction costs, would we have to sell to the highest bidder, even if that bidder didn't conform to the Crescent District Master Plan – like for instance, let's face it – expanding parking spaces is not what our vision is for that property.

Staff answer: Thank you for asking that, Ms. Hammler, because I wanted to correct a statement from a couple minutes ago. When the town sells public property, you do not have to bid it out to the highest bidder. That is only for leasing. So, if the town wants – if this town council wants to sell any public land, you can sell it to whomever you want through a purchase and sale and deed. You just have to have a public hearing and it has to be a super majority for most public places such as parks.

- Hammler: That's very helpful. The other aspect of this is clearly coming to terms with the scope of a partnership with the county, period, particularly because I believe they should be a partner with the future of, you know, how we construct, you know, helping the rescue squad and what their needs are on this land. Just, as a footnote, we know that we are having a separate discussion with them relative to, you know, some of the financials, their needs. I don't think we can assume that we would just, you know, for a \$1 give this land away particularly in light of the emergency reimbursement fund coming into the rescue squad and trying to see how that pans out this year and that we are the only municipality that is not getting reimbursed. There are a lot of moving parts when it comes to, you know, helping and figuring out how best to work that out, but no matter what, I think the county needs to be part of that as well as what is a regional park amenity. We haven't even discussed whether we would even charge fees to non-town residents, if we decide this is going to be our own. But, certainly I would rather approach them that this could be open to all county and

town kids, because I do think it would be a benefit to them. So, I would appreciate sending a letter from the Council to get an answer so that we are clear and we are not hypothesizing based on a very, kind of quickly run meeting, that we know what their intentions are – if they need more information to make a proper decision and then we can look at the benefits of, you know, supporting the other competing interests on this property and find the best place for the skate park.

- Fox: Just a couple of things. I just want to be clear – Mr. Skinner, there is no way you'll leave that place. We don't want you to, so I want to be clear that is what you are saying to us.
Skinner: I agree.
- Fox: I'm sorry, you intent to stay in that location in Leesburg. We would prefer that. I want to be 100% clear.
Skinner: That is our preference.
- Fox: Because that's not the impression I got, so I wanted to be sure.
Skinner: There was an email, that I want to be clear to you – on those emails that are going around – that come from specific people, <inaudible> that said is already the understanding – and I am sure they are misunderstood – because they thought that we would be moving a lot of our stuff down to Evergreen Road. We are not. We are putting one vehicle down there. <inaudible> because when we did the study – we did studies on it, we studied that it is right in the middle of the call area.
- Fox: Which is where we would prefer it. Okay, that was one question – a clarifying question that I had. One observation that I had as I sat and listened to some of the comments from the skaters that did come into chambers and talk to us – correct me if I'm wrong, but I got the impression that they wanted a skate park, but that they wanted a skate park. They were okay with it wherever. That's where I kind of went somewhere else with it. I don't see why it needs to stay in the same place, but that's just my impression, so I wanted to put that out there. And thirdly, I just wanted to address the fact that yeah, the school board would love to have some more information, would love to have some more time to vet that information. I'm not sure that is what Council wants, but that is what I took away from it as well. Just to address Kelly's quick comment. I did have some opportunity to speak, even though I refrained from speaking at that meeting, because there were a lot of things going on in my head and I think I refrained because the discussion we needed to have was between us and not between them and us. That's why I kind of held back there.
- Mayor: So, what I'm taking out of this, is the following: The Rescue Squad is willing to work with the town, but you definitely need to expand and you are willing to either expand into the current skate park site which would require the town to move the skate park either farther west on the current property or move it off the property entirely. The Rescue Squad is also willing to work with the town and instead of

expanding in to the current skate park site, build a second building on the west side of the skate park to accommodate your expansion needs. So, you guys are trying to be very flexible in how you are working with the town. I think a letter to the school board is a very good idea. The impression I have right now is the school board is on an entirely different and much longer term time line than the town is. The council would need to decide whether the council wants to delay this project because unless the council takes an affirmative act to delay it before July 1, the project does go forward to refurbish the skate park on its current site. I don't yet know whether there is a majority of council that wants to delay, but I have the impression that the delay we are looking at with the school board is a ten year delay, not a few months, not even one or two years, but a ten year delay. If that is a wrong impression, the sooner we get that clarified by the school board, the better. So, I think a letter asking for clarification is a very good idea. There are three competing interests in this area. One is the Rescue Squad, which I think has the most important interest because it is a public safety operation and it is beneficial to every citizen in the town. The second interest, of course, is the people who want to use a good skate park and the third is Mr. Saghafi, who is very tightly packed on his current site and would like additional parking, which he currently now has, even that being provided on the gravel lot is probably insufficient. I have spoken with Mr. Saghafi in the past about whether he would be able to, speaking of parking structures, put a parking structure on his lot – that would be expensive and might have the additional difficulty since that whole area, I believe, is old town landfill, of being more expensive than it would be in other parts of town. So, there are three competing interests for that site. All of them are extremely important. I would say the Rescue Squad has to be given precedence because it has the critical public safety interest in this mix, but the other two interests cannot be ignored. I personally am not wild about delaying the refurbishment of the skate park. The Rescue Squad has discussed the possibility of having the town – I'm not saying they are wild about it – about having the town decrease the town's annual allocation to Rescue to cover the additional costs of moving the skate park in order to accommodate the Rescue Squad. The advantage of building a second building is the expansion probably wouldn't cost the Rescue Squad more money than just building out from the current building, but it also would enable us to just refurbish and save the \$200,000+. The cheapest option for the Rescue Squad and for the town is just to allow Rescue to build a second building. The other option would be Rescue expands their current building into the skate park, we have to move the skate park, which drives the cost up, according to staff estimates, by \$200,000 – we annually give Rescue about \$200,000 so would we ask Rescue to forgive us for not donating \$200,000 to them one year. That is what we are looking at.

- Hammler: Remember the value of the land – has intrinsic value as well over a significant amount of time. All of that needs to be taken into account.
- Mayor: Sure. I don't personally have a problem with us continuing to own the land and allowing Rescue to build on it, the same way that it was done before and not charging them a sales price. I am perfectly content. It is a public function enabling them to expand without charging them the sales price that we might otherwise get.
- Hammler: My only point is it is an opportunity for the partnership with the county. They are a partner in that base and I think we need to bring them to the fold. I would appreciate your encouragement on sending a letter and focusing in on being as specific as possible to staff recommendations to try to get answers. Would you be willing to put where the inline skating park is – perhaps give them one or two concrete recommendations and what their timeline would need to be so that we could hopefully get an answer back and know whether the time line is suitable or not.
- Mayor: I know that both school staff and county staff, I think, have been talking to our staff and all we've gotten on timeline is they have a long timeline. It is a ten year timeline. It is not a one month timeline. If there is any way they would be interested in accelerating to meet our timeline, that would be great. I'm not optimistic, but I agree it is worth a letter specifically requesting that.
- Martinez: We keep talking about the value of the land. I'm looking at the value of the people the Rescue Squad serves. My feeling is whatever value the land is, is nowhere near the value of them being there, saving our residents. Anybody who had to use them in the past, would probably say the same thing. Dollars have no value when it comes to saving lives and having them here serving our people. As far as I'm concerned, you can keep talking about dollars. I'm not. I'm talking about people.
- Burk: I was going to, under new business tomorrow, I was going to ask if we could write a letter to the school board and to the county and thank them for meeting with us – taking the time to meet with us. So, perhaps you could include that in the other letter.
- Butler: When we get to additions to future council meetings, we can discuss the specific recommendations we are going to make out of this, or are we discussing them now?
- Mayor: This would be timely, if you want to discuss them now.
- Butler: So, A, you want to send a letter to the school board asking if their time could be accelerated?
- Mayor: Finding out exactly what timing they anticipate.
- Butler: Okay, so do we have four votes for that? Is that something that staff could craft for tomorrow so we could vote on it?
Staff answer: Yes.

- Butler: The second one is I would like to have a work session on skate park design for two reasons. One, it looks like on our current design, we are going from about 40 parking spaces down to like 12 and I don't think that is going to serve anybody's needs particularly. Although I like the trees and everything else, I think we need a lot of parking spaces here. I would like to discuss that. And the second thing is it shouldn't cost anywhere near \$200,000 to move the skate park to the other side. I think there are other creative solutions that staff should and could come up with that would make the difference – the delta in cost much, much smaller to the point that it is trivial. So, I think that would be an important discussion to have. It is appropriate for the Rescue Squad and would give the Rescue Squad more options and would benefit us – we'd have the same benefit either way.
- Hammler: That's the work session idea, but if I could follow-up on if we, as a council, decide that it is going to stay where it is, it would be helpful to get, whether it is a letter, an answer from the county, in terms of specifics supporting expansion of the squad building and contributions to the land. I think that's an opportunity for the council to be able to get guidance from them about how they would contribute to the skate park as well as the expansion of what is arguably also a significant county responsibility and it would help us given that we are providing a regional resource and obviously we are supporting as best we can, the Rescue Squad. Whether we think that is a letter sooner, rather than later, I would support getting an answer on that – being very specific that we are considering expanding – excuse me, moving the skate park around to accommodate the needs of the squad and then determine what the land value is and the costs associated with it so that we can get some feedback from the county. I should add, you know, that it is not unprecedented. The county has provided a \$1 million for the Ashburn Volunteer Fire Station as well. They definitely make significant contributions and I think we should be doing our fiduciary responsibility to be getting that as well from the county.
- Mayor: So that would be to explore the possibility of having the county pay us the market value for the land on to which the Rescue Squad would expand. Is that what you are thinking, Katie?
- Hammler: I am just brainstorming. I have been saying from the beginning that this is an opportunity for a partnership for the skate park as well as supporting what we are trying to do to do our best to support the Rescue Squad.
- Mayor: Is that what you are looking for? Okay.
- Hammler: It's an idea. The land value and they may want to help pay for the building, or whatever it is that they can contribute. If we get paid for the land, that offsets the construction cost of moving the park.
- Martinez: I was just going to say – I mean it doesn't hurt to ask the County to kick in a little bit, if they can.

- Burk: But, that's different than asking – maybe I misunderstand you – but are you asking them if the company needs to expand?
- Hammler: No, I'm not. I am, at every step of the way, trying to figure out a tactical action item to get better engaged with the county on what I heard loud and clear, that they really need to explore a partnership with us. So, we have got a lot of moving parts, if we stay on the existing site. There certainly would be opportunities to explore that – we don't even know yet if it is even possible to move to Douglass until we get an answer from the school board. So, I support isolating the possibility given we are having a work session about moving the skate park on the existing site, that they would anticipate how they could contribute if it stays there, supporting us, making that happen.
- Mayor: What I'm taking from it is, I think Katie wants in the letter – this would go to the county more likely than the school board, a request that they let us know whether they are willing to pay us the market value of the additional square footage that the Rescue Squad needs to put on town land. That's what I'm taking out of what Katie said.
- Hammler: I'm open to better suggestions, but determining a proper end goal for a partnership with the county to help achieve what we are trying to do on that land.

Rescue Squad: I need you to look at something first – it now becomes county property, not town property. You can't go back. Every other fire company has been a private entity like us, a private, incorporated entity, a 501(c)3, has made them sign agreements and they become part of the county. They give us, like I explained to you and some other people, we go into budget with them, <inaudible> they will take a look at your mortgage and they will pay for that, but you are going to lose that in this case.

- Hammler: It sounds like we have to have the work session to begin with to look at the cost differentials and then explore – maybe while we are getting answer from the county and we are doing this concurrent work session, we can be exploring ways that we can, in fact, get the county involved in a partnership, whether they might make a contribution to the skate park for the difference in price and we don't charge regional users or something, but I want to keep that open in our discussions, if we may.

Staff answer: May I suggest that we move forward with the letter that you approved tomorrow night to the school board to clarify if Douglass is in play. If we determine that Douglass is not in play over the next couple of weeks, then we know where we stand. Then, we can continue with the work session discussion, flesh out some details of what is a win/win, what are some potential costs. I know Mr. Williams has given you a number, but he is not the engineer who is going to develop the number. Once we know those details, whether we are going to Douglass, or staying at Catoctin in some fashion, then we can pursue discussing with the county for potential funding, but I

would suggest one step at a time. If we go too scattered, we will come back with nothing.

There was consensus to direct staff to draft a letter to the school board for a vote on Tuesday evening.

2. Additions to Future Council Meetings

Council Member Dunn: “There was a memo item in here about the H-2 and it was – I think it needs to be elevated to a work session at this point because the priority was set for that back in 2012-13 and now we are looking at it going on to somewhere in 2016, according to the memo. Somehow I just can’t imagine priorities set by Council are taking four years to even get addressed. I would like to see if we can get this at a work session that we can come to some clearer, faster direction to staff on what to do with the H-2 and just discuss some of those options because I think the path that staff is heading down based on this memo is I just see it continuing to be extended and extended and I don’t think that is the direction Council had selected years ago”.

There was Council consensus to have a work session.

Council Member Dunn “I don’t know if I’m ready for a work session yet. I’d like to work with staff a little bit, if it is okay, Kaj, on the drive through. If you look at the memo on it, again, I think that some of the direction on – I think that the way we are reviewing drive throughs is almost prohibitive of even having them at all. Again, I think that there might be some areas that we could find some middle ground that can be more business friendly and still look out for the interests of the citizens. But, I will get with staff on that, if it is okay, Kaj on that and maybe we can see where we need to go from there on it.

Vice Mayor Burk: “I was wondering and it doesn’t have to be any time soon, but I had a couple of residents contact me about neighbors that have those temporary pods in their driveway and when I asked about it, I was told that there is no requirement. They can be there forever. So, I was wondering if we could get some sort of memo explaining what are the possibilities to make them not be permanent. If they are supposed to be temporary structures. One person in their neighborhood, it has been up there for six years. It doesn’t have to be tomorrow. I don’t know if you have to vote on it.”

There was consensus to have this item on a future work session.

Council Member Hammler “I will disclose tomorrow night that I had a great meeting today with folks who have long been involved in bringing a performing arts centers to downtown or the town. One of the great ideas that Stilson brought up this morning, that I know Kate Trask was also involved in is given that a truck flew off the second floor of the garage and landed on the benches right on the town green, turning lemons into lemonade, it is a great opportunity instead of just reconstructing the

benches, create a permanent stage. I know staff spends a lot labor hours for Acoustics on the Green and our many events and it could be beautifully landscaped and integrated with the benches to be able to bring that to the town green. I would appreciate having brought this up with Kaj and I even thought about it there is even some initial designs that Bill Ference did. So, whatever Kaj deems is the next necessary action just to bring it to a work session or a memo, but I would appreciate Council considering that and looking at the costs to make that happen. Hopefully, the insurance covers it.”

There was consensus to support a work session discussion for this.

3. Adjournment

On a motion by Council Member Martinez, seconded by Council Member Butler, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Clerk of Council

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Council Chambers, 25 West Market Street, 7:30 p.m. Mayor Umstattd presiding.

Council Members Present: Kelly Burk, David Butler, Thomas Dunn, Suzanne Fox, Katie Sheldon Hammler, Marty Martinez and Mayor Umstattd.

Council Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Town Manager Kaj Dentler, Deputy Town Manager Keith Markel, Town Attorney Barbara Notar, Assistant Town Manager Scott Parker, Director of Economic Development Marantha Edwards, Director of Public Works Tom Mason, Director of Capital Projects Renee Lafollette, Deputy Director of Capital Projects Tom Brandon, Acting Information Technology Manager John Callahan, Director of Finance and Administrative Services Clark Case, Senior Management Analyst Lisa Haley, Senior Management Analyst Jason Cournoyer and Clerk of Council Lee Ann Green

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **INVOCATION:** Mayor Umstattd

3. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG:** Council Member Fox

4. **ROLL CALL:** Showing all present.

5. **MINUTES**

a. Regular Session Minutes of May 12, 2015

On a motion by Council Member Martinez, seconded by Council Member Butler, the regular session minutes of May 12, 2015 were approved by a vote of 7-0.

b. Regular Session Minutes of May 26, 2015

On a motion by Council Member Hammler, seconded by Vice Mayor Burk, the regular session minutes of May 26, 2015 were approved by a vote of 7-0.

6. **ADOPTING THE MEETING AGENDA**

On the motion of Council Member Hammler, seconded by Council Member Butler, the meeting agenda was approved after removing Items 15a and 15b, by the following vote:

Aye: Burk, Butler, Dunn, Fox, Hammler, Martinez and Mayor Umstattd

Nay: None

Vote: 7-0

7. **PRESENTATIONS**

a. Certificate of Recognition – Pam Butler, Supporter of Public Arts in Leesburg

On a motion by Council Member Butler, seconded by Vice Mayor Burk, a Certificate of Appreciation was approved for Pamela Butler for her valuable contributions to the development of public arts in Leesburg as a member of the Commission on Public Arts as well as the co-founder of the Friends of Leesburg Public Arts (FOLPA) and the Loudoun Lyric Opera.

b. Presentation – Technology and Communication Commission – Proposed Transparency Initiative

Eric Byrd, member of the Technology and Communication Commission, and John Binkley, Chair (Technology and Communication Commission) gave a brief presentation regarding the Commission’s proposal for a Transparency Initiative.

Key Points:

- Information is being saved in digital form.
- Openness is important for democracy; making data available to the public is an important part of good governance in the 21st century.
- The Town should adopt a policy to release as much legally available data as possible to the public in a way that citizens have access in an open format.
- Challenges include:
 - Make sure to keep legally protected data private.
 - Protect information related to the privacy of citizens and employees.
 - Staff hours to ensure that legally protected and sensitive data remains private.
 - Successful implementation requires a policy that creates minimal impact to staff.
- Recommendation that Council approve the proposed policy.
- Technology and Communication Commission can then develop an action plan for Council to discuss.
- Action plan would provide realistic goals that recognize budget limitations while seeking incremental long-term progress.
- Policy would foster open, accountable, and transparent government which would enhance legislative decision making by allowing staff, Council, and residents to review and analyze trends in the data that they have access to.
- Making data available fosters citizen engagement and increases public trust in how the town operates.
- To be taken seriously as a home for technology business, the town needs to show leadership – data transparency is a growing trend across the country.

Council consensus was to hold a work session to get more information and discuss this initiative further.

8. **PETITIONERS**

The Petitioner’s Section was opened at 7:56 p.m.

Andrew Borgquist, “So, I am here continuing to speak on the issue that I have been bringing up on numerous, numerous, numerous occasions before the Council and for the record, I did ask Mr. Dentler if I could have a meeting with him and he said he is not willing to discuss this issue with me. That is his choice. So, anyways, I found this presentation that you had before coming to speak very interesting because – but I am going to change up what I was going to say a little bit, because I believe that, you know, obviously what I am talking about relates to it somewhat directly in terms of openness and transparency and accountability and in this particular instance, we already have a policy in

place, we are just not using it. So, basically what it comes down to is, you know, I encountered a situation, you know, information was, I would say intentionally and deliberately withheld in a manner that resembled or would be inappropriate – a lack of propriety. This situation then ended up having rather large repercussions for me and the decision that was made – and I would say that on a scale of 1-10 for openness and transparency, you guys scored below a 5. It was pretty bad. Of course, let me go to accountability which is what happens when something like this happens, like how is that person held accountable – how is there a direction that can change or where we can implement some, you know, basically enforce the policy and to me it seems like the only thing that can be done really is that people just need to take a serious stance so the situation basically is that there is a policy in place and it is there for a reason, but it can be carte blanche disregarded. So it doesn't relate to employment, it relates to the fact that, you know, I think that to be a merit based employer, it means that you go appropriate reasoning and justification for employment actions within the town of Leesburg, but unfortunately Virginia is an employment at will state, so adverse actions can be taken against employees for as has been told to me many times by Town of Leesburg for no reason including no reason at all. Of course, this isn't true because there are federal protections that extend to protected classes. In addition, there are also other considerations for a public employer that relate to free speech and so forth, so that part by example the statement actually isn't true, but if a person within the Town of Leesburg wanted to do something that either lacked the legality or simply was inappropriate because all of that other stuff aside, that obviously isn't the policy of the Town of Leesburg, a merit based employer, which means that it shouldn't be arbitrary, it shouldn't be capricious. It shouldn't be retaliatory in nature. There is a whole other host of things that really need to be respected and observed, but like I said, if someone can carte blanche throw those away because there is no legality to them or there is no contractual obligation and just say, hey, you know what? At the end of the day, we can fire you for no reason including no reason at all. I'm going to paraphrase – you can go pound sand. Then of course, that would also mean, that by using that kind of logic things can occur which shouldn't occur. So, those are controls that are place for the protection, so it is merit based employment and if we don't use them then you really can't say that you are a merit based employer and obviously, that's not the best for the citizens. That's not the best for services. These are just not things that should occur within the Town of Leesburg and there is subjectively an argument being made that what happened was extremely inappropriate and yet nothing has been done. Mr. Dentler won't meet with me. I keep coming back. It's okay. But, please do something”.

Kimberly Hise, Walsh Colucci on behalf of Mobile Hope, “I am working with them on the land use and zoning issues. This evening Donna Fortier, who would absolutely love to be here – had some minor surgery today and so she could not be here. I wanted to speak on her behalf and ask the Council to support the amendment moving forward for the zoning ordinance text amendment. This serves a very strong need in our community and Mobile Hope is doing some great things and hopes to do more. Thank you so much.”

Christine Gleckner, Walsh Colucci, “I'm speaking with regard to the initiation of the zoning ordinance amendment for the Crescent Design District for Davis Avenue. I know that Council Member Butler has explained this to you all and I want to reinforce that the action to initiate the zoning ordinance amendment is not a statement of support or non-

support for such an amendment. What it does, is allow the amendment to be considered and that is what we are asking – if you would initiate this, then the amendment could be considered along with the other Crescent Place applications. It would be <not audible> at the time that those applications all come forward to you to demonstrate the merits of it and you can make your judgements at that time, whether or not you want to actually amend the zoning ordinance, but tonight's action that is being requested is merely to initiate the amendment to allow it to be considered and we would appreciate that very much. Thank you”.

Hobie Mitchel, “I’m here to reiterate what the previous speakers talked about. What we would like you to support the text amendment – zoning amendment for Mobile Hope. I have spoken several times – it is a great cause and we would like to see you move that forward so that we can proceed with the project, hopefully. Second is the text amendment for the Crescent District on Davis Drive. I would ask that you move that forward and have it considered, as Chris Gleckner mentioned. There is no guarantee of any outcome up or down, but at least it should be discussed. I would like you to support that for that discussion. Thank you very much”.

Sola Palotta, “I own a small business in downtown Leesburg called the Very Virginia Shop. It is at 16 South King Street, downtown. Okay, so I came to speak about the downtown improvements. I’m just asking that you guys please continue and stay the course. I sent an email – this really is a surprise at 4:30-5 o’clock I got an email from the Leesburg Today saying that this whole vote may come up again, it may be cancelled, it may be changed. It is really surprising after like eight years we are still trying to get this done. We desperately need this. So, I’m trying to come up with things I’ve been working on to try to get business people to come down to support small local business. This just now started – just started last week – a downtown walking tour. It starts at the Very Virginia Shop – it’s a 35 minute walking tour that tells people the history and takes them past sites and buildings and all that kind of stuff. This is going into the hotels – downstairs in the town hall. It is going to the Visitor’s Center. I’m trying to get the word out – if you could help spread the word. I put a <inaudible> . We usually walk around downtown <inaudible>. Visits locally owned small shops, dress boutiques, antique stores, art galleries and unique restaurants, so it is on Saturdays and Sundays at 11 and 2 o’clock. So, that’s something and then another thing I’m working on is this magazine goes into 15,000 hotel rooms for visitors. So people visiting from Boston, Ohio or wherever, they don’t know downtown Leesburg. Because it’s not in this book. If you live here, you know to go to Reston, you know to go to downtown Leesburg, you know to go to Tysons Corner and those places. The people who are staying here from out of the area, don’t know that. So, I worked with this magazine and I got a whole section listed – it says best shopping. We are now listed in the best shopping area – it says Historic Downtown Leesburg – stroll the beautiful sidewalks of historic downtown, browse unique boutiques, grab a quick bite to eat – it’s really adjective driven and very descriptive. I spent a lot of time running around to all the different businesses encouraging them. I’ve got three pages, 30 different businesses all grouped together to try to bring business downtown – this magazine mostly goes to tourists and out of state people – people who are staying in hotels. So, there are 30 businesses on these group pages. Other people did a little bit bigger ads, like Lightfoot and Taipan, Very Virginia Shop, the Brew Kitchen, Windy City Red Hots – the businesses are really doing a

lot to try bring people downtown and we are asking that you guys please stay the course and approve this plan as it has already been approved three times. Okay? Thank you very much”.

The Petitioner’s Section was closed at 8:10 p.m.

9. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Council Member Butler, seconded by Council Member Hammler, the following items were moved for approval as the Consent Agenda:

- a. *Performance Guarantee and Water Extension Permit for Jerry’s Ford of Leesburg (TLPF-2014-0018)*

RESOLUTION 2015-064

Approving a Performance Guarantee and Water Extension Permit for Jerry’s Ford of Leesburg (TLPF 2014-0018)

- b. *Initiating a Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Mobile Hope Life Skills Center*

RESOLUTION 2015-066

Initiating Text Amendment(s) to the Town of Leesburg Zoning Ordinance Related to Shelters for Young Adults

- c. *Initiating an Expansion of the Arts and Cultural District*

RESOLUTION 2015-067

Initiating an Amendment to the Town Code to Expand the Boundary of the Arts and Cultural District to include the West Side of Liberty Street between Loudoun Street and the Liberty Street parking lot.

Aye: Burk, Butler, Fox, Dunn, Hammler, Martinez, and Mayor Umstatted

Nay: None

Vote: 7-0

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. *None.*

11. RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS

- a. *Initiating a Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Crescent Design District for Davis Avenue*

On a motion by Council Member Butler, seconded by Council Member Hammler, the following was proposed:

RESOLUTION 2015-065

Initiating an Amendment to the Town of Leesburg Zoning Ordinance Related to the Extension of Davis Avenue in the Crescent Design District

Council Comments:

- Butler: Regardless of what happens with Crescent Parke, this is, I think a good amendment to initiate because right now – and staff can correct me if I’m wrong, but right now in the zoning ordinance, Davis Avenue is required to be a four lane road pretty much between its initiation at King Street and Gateway Drive. Gateway Drive is a two lane road so I think even the residents of Gateway Drive might have opinions as to whether it should be four lanes all the way up to Gateway Drive. So, by initiating the amendment and if we pass the amendment, all it would do is take language out of the zoning ordinance that requires Davis Ave. to be four lanes. It could still be four lanes, but it could be two lanes, if we take those words out. So, at any rate, all this does is just initiate it to let it be vetted at the planning commission and talk about it, have public hearings to allow the people from Gateway Drive to come up and express their opinion. So, I think it is a good idea for Council to pass the initiation.
- Hammler: I also support initiating this zoning ordinance amendment. As staff has stated, it will not take them additional time. In fact, it will save time and effort for all. They have already mentioned it is important relative to the process and transparency for the Planning Commission, Council and public. Most importantly, it will ease the understanding of the proposal.
- Burk: Well, I was the one that asked for it to be taken off because to me it seems that this is unneeded because the Crescent Design District calls for business/commercial development in this location, which would be appropriate to have a four lane boulevard. Accepting a smaller road only happens if we are willing to change the Crescent District Design Plan, a plan that took almost 10 years, was lauded by the business community, took a great deal of work and vision and the very first application to this district, we are now asking to change the Crescent Design District moving it from commercial to a residential idea. The planning commission recommendation to deny the plan amendment at their last meeting should give us pause to think about this. If we have confidence in our appointees to the commission, we must take that decision into consideration. In the DCSM, the functional roadway classification section, 7-3001D Street Design Requirements says “In no instance shall a reduction in the right of way be granted for properties located in the Crescent Design District.” So, is there a reason to change the zoning? In my opinion, only if we are willing to give into the desire to move from commercial to residential. To change this area, that could have been a great commercial development, I think would be a shame and not what we should be doing. We have a plan in place. We should follow the plan. If this Council’s vision is to make Leesburg increasingly residential – residential which burdens the local taxpayer, then I guess this would make sense to change it to a two lane road. I don’t think that Leesburg should become the center for higher taxes and even more congestion, which is the result of poor planning and continued residential development. So, for those reasons, I will not be voting for this amendment tonight.
- Dunn: I am always open to the public process and should the Planning Commission not be desirous of this, then they can deny it and it can come to

Council and we can approve or deny it based on what we have been charged with by the public to look out in their best interest. I am open to listen to ideas and I don't think this is any ways definitely saying we are heading in one direction or another.

- Mayor: I appreciate Vice Mayor Burk's comments and concerns and certainly share some of them; however, I will be supporting this tonight in part because I think there is potentially less impact on the existing residents along Gateway Drive from a two lane road coming out of Crescent Parke than we would see with a four lane road and I am concerned about too much traffic moving too fast through a residential community. So, I will support it at this time to initiate it and we will see what the analysis shows.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Aye: Butler, Dunn, Fox, Hammler, Martinez and Mayor Umstatt

Nay: Burk

Vote: 6-1

b. Initiating Amendments to the Town Code from 2015 General Assembly Actions and Batch Code Amendments

On a motion by Council Member Butler, seconded by Vice Mayor Burk, the following was proposed:

RESOLUTION 2015-068

Initiating Amendments to the Town Code to Address Amendments to the Code of Virginia Enacted During the 2015 General Assembly Session; and Batch Amendments to the Town Code

Barbara Notar gave a brief presentation regarding the proposed Town Code Amendments:

- Some items should be done; others must be done.
- Electronic summons system – cost will be assessed by the courts on each case. Clerk's office is not quite ready to implement, but should be approved so it can be implemented as soon as practical.
- Real property tax exemption for surviving spouses of members of the Armed Forces killed in action – mandated by the General Assembly – takes effect January 1.
- EDC has discussed at length that they would like to change their duties – this cleans them up.
- Technology Commission has requested a change to the Code to eliminate policing the franchise agreements.
- Parks and Recreation department would like to add radio controlled aircraft to the things that can be done in town parks with a permit. Administrative rules will control where this activity can occur. They would also like to allow petting zoos with a permit.

Council Comments:

- Dunn: Last night we added to a future work session of Council a discussion of the H-2. Is that in the Town Code?
Staff answer: It is not. It is in the Zoning Ordinance.
- Dunn: So, guidelines for the H-2, who reviews projects within the H-2 – none of that is in the Town Code. None at all?
Staff answer: That is in the Zoning Ordinance. That would have to go through the Planning Commission and standard procedure.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Aye: Burk, Butler, Fox, Dunn, Hammler, Martinez, and Mayor Umstatt

Nay: None

Vote: 7-0

Barbara Notar gave a brief presentation on the General Assembly changes to the Conflicts of Interests Act.

- Current law is unchanged that you may not accept graft or bribes.
- There is considerable confusion even amongst municipal attorneys.
- These changes are effective January 1, 2016.
- The definition of gift is anything worth more than \$100 within a calendar year given to yourself or anyone in your immediate family from anyone who is a lobbyist or people who have contracts with the town or want to have a contract with the town.
- Exception is a widely attended event (more than 25 persons) open to individuals who share a common interest who are members of a public civil, charitable, or profession organization who are from a particular industry or profession or who represent persons interested in a particular issue.
- Travel paid by the town is not a gift, unless it is outside the state. You may accept paid travel by lobbyists if it is disclosed.
- Forms are due twice yearly and filed with the locality's clerk.
- Failure to file or making false statements could be fined.
- Advisory opinions can be provided by both the Town Attorney and the Commonwealth's Attorney.

c. Downtown Improvements – King Street Construction Contract Award

On a motion by Council Member Butler, seconded by Vice Mayor Burk, the following was proposed:

RESOLUTION 2015-069

Awarding the Construction Contract for the Downtown Improvements Project for King Street to Madigan Construction, Inc. in the Amount of \$603,099.94

Council Comments:

- Butler: For some of the folks, the reason that we are taking another vote tonight – it would have come up anyway because we have to make a motion to let the contract for construction projects. Normally, this is on the consent agenda and so they are barely noticed – they just kind of run through. This,

under normal circumstances, may have been on a consent agenda as well, but we did find out that there are a variety of reasons, that I won't go into tonight – there is not enough money to do the entire project so this resolution is to widen the sidewalks and do all the improvements between Market Street and Loudoun Street only and the rest of the project will be on hold and be bid at another date.

- Burk: This process has been going on for quite a while. We have put people through a great deal of distress and concern over this whole thing – going through all these different votes on it. We made a promise – we were going to do it and it is important that we get it started and begin the process. That is why I am very much in support of this.
- Hammler: I will also be supporting this resolution just to clarify because anyone in the public who may have read the staff report may have had as many questions as the Council did and I know we have gotten quite a number of emails. This resolution that we are approving, which is a million dollars less than the other resolution that staff brought forward allows Council to award the construction contract for all the improvements we have already approved between Loudoun and Market on King including the widened sidewalks, the street trees, everything we have fully vetted as a Council. So, that needs to be clarified. There certainly are some important things that we as a council will continue to delve into. There were clearly cost overruns throughout different sections of implementing the construction projects in the downtown and we need to understand why we weren't alerted when those were over budget and quite frankly why we didn't do a better job on a number of issues dealing with what has been brought forward tonight, but I am comfortable that we are going to focus on this priority. In hindsight, we probably should have done this sooner just to get it done before even other elements of the project and you have our full faith that we will move forward and follow back up with staff so we kind of do a recap and make sure that this doesn't happen again.
- Fox: I was not on the initial conversation with this entire project and about a month ago I had brought up some concerns that I had safety wise. In light of what happened along King Street between Market and Loudoun Street just this past week, I still have some safety concerns, so I don't think I could support this.
- Dunn: Just a couple of things. Is this part of the original contract?
Staff answer: No, this is separate.
- Dunn: So, it's new. I ask because it was part of the original contract, I didn't want it to be confused that we are voting on something that really was already in effect. This wasn't an effort to try and get additional funding. I think it is important that we have made a decision to move forward with the improvements downtown. We voted on an amount for those improvements. We went back and forth for many years about what it would cost. We were willing to spend...it is not funds that should be taken lightly and I don't think adding an additional million dollars to taxpayers for improvements. The only question I would have is the – what other options could there have been that we could have used the remaining funds for as far as other improvements –

what could they gone to or is this the portion of the contract that was going to come next?

Staff answer: King Street was the next and final section that Council has approved.

- Dunn: I'm fine with voting for this and going forward I would be very, very hesitant to want to throw another million dollars at this project. I would have to see some real justification for doing that. But, I'm fine moving forward the amount we originally agreed upon.
- Mayor: I will be voting against this. I have consistently opposed the removal of parking off of King Street, because I think that will do significant damage to the businesses along King Street. I also do not expect the widening to accommodate anything more than perhaps a very small café table for one or two people. I don't think it is going to be a transformational change in the downtown and for the same reasons I have always opposed this, I will continue to do so.
- Butler: I would just like to echo the Vice Mayor's comments that we have been working on this for about eight years. It would be really good to see it come to fruition.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Aye: Burk, Butler, Dunn, Hammler, and Martinez,

Nay: Fox and Mayor Umstatt

Vote: 5-2

12. ORDINANCES

- a. None.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. None.

14. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Letter to the Loudoun County School Board regarding a Possible Skate Park Partnership

On a motion by Vice Mayor Burk, seconded by Council Member Hammler, the following was proposed:

MOTION 2015-007

I move to approve the letter to the Loudoun County School Board regarding a possible partnership for the Skate Park

Council Comments:

- Burk: This letter has two components to it – one to thank them, the School Board, for meeting with us, but more important to get some specific answers that in the 30 minute meeting we were not able to get direct, specific answers. It is just a clarification and it is going to make it clearer as to where the School Board stands on relocating the Skate Park.

- Hammler: I did send an email as soon as we received the draft this afternoon at 4:30 with my proposed changes to the letter. I don't know if anyone got a chance to re-write the letter. So, if I may be brief – in the letter there are four itemized questions. I would suggest we strike 3 and 4, specifically, because they go into this question that quite frankly derailed part of the discussion while we were in the meeting talking about what is happening to Douglass in ten years. We need to know if they are willing to have the Skate Park in the short term and that needs to be the purpose and sole purpose of this letter. I would also suggest we strike the rest of the sentence that says “with the expectation that this facility be completed no later than June 2016”. We will be able to assess that ourselves, but I think that is going to basically derail them even looking at the letter if we are saying either you accommodate our time line or don't even look at this letter. So, just in the interest of asking the open ended questions, I would strike that. I would also ask that we request that the power point that we presented at the meeting be available when we send this. I had asked the question, and hopefully Rich already has the answer – we don't have to ask it, but at some point we need to understand if they have it on the park, the related question is if so, where. That is something that staff can figure out, in terms of if it is the inline skating park – who makes that decision and what the process is. I think just those edits that I just mentioned, will get an answer from the school board. But in the meantime, if we can be vetting that, that would be very helpful.

Striking #3 and #4 were accepted as a friendly amendment as well as adding the power point as an attachment.

Council Member Hammler made a motion to delete the last part of the sentence “with the expectation that this facility be completed no later than June 2016”. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dunn and approved by the following vote:

Aye: Butler, Fox, Dunn, Hammler, Martinez, and Mayor Umstatt

Nay: Burk

Vote: 6-1

Council Comments:

- Dunn: I don't know if it is needed now, but I am just a little concerned that we are not talking about the financing of the park. I know this is going to the school board, so they would really not be involved with the funding aspect of it. It would come – unless of course the board were funding it through school funds and then the school board would have the right to dictate where the funds were going but ultimately it would be the board of supervisors who are deciding that those funds are allocated. I would like it to be known that we are seeking county funds for this. I don't know if it is necessary at this point, but at some point that is a make it or break it for me. Because I, in no way, am going to have town taxpayers put a skate park on county property and then flip the whole bill for it. In fact, I don't think they should pay anything for it. It is a regional facility and it is on County property and the county

should be paying for it. So, if we don't put it in here now, it needs to go in there as soon as the school board decides they are going to work with us.

The amended letter was approved by the following vote:

Aye: Burk, Butler, Fox, Dunn, Hammler, Martinez, and Mayor Umstatted

Nay: None.

Vote: 7-0

15. CLOSED SESSION

On a motion by Mayor Umstatted, seconded by Council Member Butler, the following was proposed:

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) (7) of the Code of Virginia, I move that the Leesburg Town Council convene in a closed meeting for the purpose of discussion and receiving information regarding:

a. Litigation - Kim Del Rance vs. TOL et al.

The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Burk, Butler, Fox, Hammler, Martinez and Mayor Umstatted

Nay: None.

Vote: 6-0-1 (Dunn abstaining)

Council moved into closed session at 8:52 p.m.

Council reconvened in open session at 9:21 p.m.

On a motion by Mayor Umstatted, seconded by Council Member Butler, the following was proposed:

In accordance with Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia, I move that Council certify that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by Council.

The motion was approved by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Burk, Butler, Dunn, Fox, Hammler, Martinez and Mayor Umstatted

Nay: None.

Vote: 7-0

16. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS:

Council Member Butler: Just a couple of disclosures. I met with Sung Hee Kim regarding the changes to the Arts and Cultural District boundaries. I also talked with folks about the Friedman property and a potential rezoning. The Service Awards was fantastic. I loved seeing everyone get their five and ten year and all that. We have a lot of people that have been here for a very long time, which says great things about the town. So, it's just a lot of fun to be there. And First Friday – we had a ton of people down there. It was like, I

think everybody was, you know, stuck in their houses for the rain the rest of the week and then the rain stopped and everybody was like “woohoo”. So, they all went out on First Friday.

Vice Mayor Burk: On the public service awards, I just wanted to comment that Kristen, you did a great job making all the departments and all the people feel very welcome and very important to the town. On that same day, I attended the seminar that was held by <inaudible> an energy advocate and it was on sports facilities leading the way in energy efficiency. It was fascinating. The things that the sports facilities are doing now to save money using solar and other things – it might be something we would like to hear, but it was a very good presentation and the innovation that is going on at the sports level – I was just shocked. But there are some things that as a town we could take up too. On the 28th, I attended a health fair at the homeless shelter. It is a great opportunity to see all the different services that are available through the homeless shelter and it just struck me how lucky we are to have such dedicated individuals who work there. They are so in love with their clients and they work so hard – it was really impressive. June 4, I met with the School Board and the County about partnering with the town on the Skate Park. I presented the history of the Skate Park and answered questions with facts, not opinions or emotions. I asked for information back from members. It was a good meeting that might open doors for future partnerships. On June 5, congratulations to Strategy Solutions, because we did their ribbon cutting for their opening of their consulting center. Congratulations to Todd Wright on opening the 13 ½ and for Cerphe on opening his business. They are great additions to the downtown. I was fortunate enough to be asked to read a proclamation from the town for the Relay for Life. Having lost a family member last year to cancer and having a new family member diagnosed with cancer this year, it was very touching to see so many people there to raise money to find a cure. We can only hope that comes soon enough. Congratulations to Swetness Fitness, that’s a new fitness studio on Catoctin Circle. Thanks to Parking Commission for the walking tour. It was a very good view of our streets and side street scapes. As much as I walk the town, I was very surprised at some of the things that they showed us. I met with Nasir Consulting today about the site of the Leesburg – where the cars are crushed - the scrap place. I want to thank all the responders to the fire on Saturday night. It was great to have that car show here – every year it gets bigger and bigger and it is really cool, but the cars being there – all of them parked the way they were parked made it so that there was only one lane of traffic going through the town so it made it a little difficult, but boy they got out of there pretty quickly, so that was really good. I want to acknowledge Mary Harper, because Dale Goodson and Mary Harper operate Leesburg Dogs. And when they learned that a dog and two cats perished in the downtown fire on Saturday night, they decided it was the right thing to do to return their pets to their broken hearted owners. The owners truly were broken hearted. With the help of Mark Stacks, Animal Control Officer from Loudoun County Animal Services and the Colonial Funeral Home, Leesburg Dogs paid for and made arrangements to have the animals cremated. We just everyone to know that Leesburg is a town that pitches in even with bad things happen to good people and we care about all of our citizens, even our four legged ones, said Mary Harper. So, I appreciate her for doing that and it really did – the gentleman was very, very touched that somebody would do that, so appreciate that.

Council Member Martinez: That's very kind of Mary and Dale. I was at the Car Show, unfortunately my car couldn't get in there because I couldn't fix the short in the electrical system, but it was absolutely wonderful – a lot of neat cars. I apologize for missing the service awards – that's one of my favorite things to go to see all the people who have been around for a while and I did have some disclosures. I talked with Hobie Mitchel and Christine Gleckner in two separate phone calls talking about the text amendment. I talked with Bob Sevila about a discussion on the O'Connor property. I went with the Mayor – we talked with the Rescue Squad. Other than that, you all have a nice evening and we will see you in two weeks.

Council Member Hammler: I, too, am sorry I couldn't make it to the Service Awards. I had another conflict. I absolutely had it on my schedule – it is always a wonderful event and I know, in particular that Adam was given his pin, wasn't he, because he told me he was looking forward to that. I was very, very sorry I missed it. I, too, have several quick disclosures. I had a meeting on the Friedman property, which is the junk yard, if you will. I also had a meeting – an actual meeting with Suzanne and Mr. Sevila about the O'Connor property on June 3 and I had several phone calls on the 8th and 9th with Hobie Mitchel also dealing with the initiation and Crescent Parke. I participated in a new sub-committee with the Loudoun County Economic Development Advisory Committee. They asked me to be part of the Nightlife Committee, because really Leesburg has taken the lead on so many elements of that. As part of that, I did have a follow-up initial meeting about reviving the performing arts center idea and bringing that hopefully to Leesburg. Kelly wasn't able to make it. Suzanne was able to stay because she and I were at a meeting prior to that. We are looking forward – Bruce Gemmill has a strong relationship with Peter Levine and Del Reeder of the Levine School downtown in DC and George Mason, respectively. We are looking forward to another follow-up discussion that hopefully that will tie into, you know, what we need for an anchor – even structured parking. There is another meeting on the last Monday of this month, that I was going to hopefully put on Kelly's calendar as our EDC liaison and I will have more information about that, but I wanted to mention that our initial meeting was with Ara, Stilson, and with Bruce. I attended, with Marty and the Mayor and with Officer Bill, the Exeter Homeowner's Association Annual Meeting. Obviously, Marty and I were there, so we had another reason for being there and representing – our Town Manager was also there. I just appreciate also Senator Wexton being there for the community, giving kind of public service announcements, legislative updates and our support for our shared frustration with unfunded mandates and our partnership moving forward on seeking grants and so forth. With the Three K's (Kelly, Kristen and Katie) we were at a number of awesome ribbon cuttings to include the ones that Kelly already mentioned. I was just tickled to see all the passion of all the employees and the CEO, Daniel Rankin, at Strategy Revolution right here on King Street. Just wonderful to see that kind of passion and entrepreneurial energy. They are a marketing company. Absolutely was inspired by the Todd Wright and Music Planet ribbon cutting last Friday. It is incredible what is happening in terms of being nationally/internationally known songwriters, musicians to our downtown and I know Stilson, for one among others is just convinced that this is just the beginning of so many other private sector important things that are happening downtown. That being said, I was so sorry to hear that they already suffered smoke damage because of what happened in the fire. I was very proud to hear that those of us on Council that we better stay away because

there is too much going on downtown with police who are our first responders and obviously Fire and Rescue, but our own Mayor and Vice Mayor were trying to move music equipment and helping which ended up in the Town Manager's office. Thank you for representing our town and helping in all sorts of ways. With that, like all of us, I am just so very sorry for Mike O'Connor, Stanley, everybody who has been just directly impacted because of that fire – I know Marantha just updated us and in fact, Stanley has to close Caulkin's Jewelers due to the fact that the fire did cause significant ceiling damage and so we are going to hopefully help him get a temporary space. He has been in every physical and in spirit way that we can, but that's kind of community we have. We are all here for him and everybody impacted. Mike has been doing everything getting generators, getting Leesburg Diner back open, so just really appreciate everybody's help on that. And then finally, there is a national maker faire in DC this Thursday. I know that Pat Scannell will be down there and obviously he is making great progress with his maker organization in Leesburg. I wanted to mention that because now VML is very interested in profiling that as a great leadership element so that the whole state can know about how important that movement is and the leadership that Leesburg took with zoning amendments to support that great trend.

Council Member Fox: Just a few disclosures I have. On the 2nd, I was invited by a <inaudible> about the Friedman property and Commissioner Harper and Babbin were there as well. That is about, I suppose the junkyard off Depot Court there. On the 8th, which was just yesterday, had a meeting along with Katie with Bob Sevila and another meeting I was invited to because I was already there – it was kind of a half meeting with Bruce Gemmill and Stilson as well for the performing arts center. I did attend the Public Service Awards. It was my first one. It was a really special thing. I enjoyed that. It was heartwarming and it was really neat to see Adam get his pin. He was quite proud of that. I also attended the Skate Park meeting on the 4th with Katie and with Kelly and we all know where that is going with the letter. I agree with that course of action, so I am really happy about that. I just wanted to also mention, you know, that I wasn't able to be in town on Saturday night. I was actually at a wedding on Saturday night. Came into town, smelled some smoke, was wondering what was going on. Found out quickly what was going on, but I heard our first responders were amazing and just the thought that it could have been so much worse than what it was, is a testament to that. So, I'm really happy that we have the resources here in town that are needed for this kind of occurrence and I am really happy to see that Stanley and Mike and those who were affected by this had the support from the community that they needed as well.

17. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Well, Kaj will probably mention that we've got another best place to live. Leesburg has been listed as the Fifth Best place for Young Couples to Move to, according to MoveTo.com. Congratulations, Leesburg. That's because Marty is here. Everybody wants to be wherever Marty is. I want to congratulate the organizers of this year's car show because they raised a record amount of money for Monroe Technology Center. This year, they raised over \$10,000. That's more than they've raised in past years. We had superb turn out for the show and then superb responses, every body has mentioned, by our first responders to the fire. Ted Garber, who will be playing at Acoustic on the Green, July 11 posted on my Facebook page that it takes a village and Leesburg is an awesome village and

that was in response to what Katie pointed to – the community support for those that had been struck by the fire. Todd Wright will be playing, I think it is June 27th. John Carroll is this Saturday night on the Town Green, 7-9. You can come down and see where the hole in the wall in the garage is because of the flying truck. We have a lot going on down here. We are hoping that everybody comes in to our Acoustic On the Green Concert Series that is all summer long every Saturday night 7-9, except for July 4 and that's when we will have our parade and fireworks.

Hammler: I thought we should mention where Svetness Fitness is because it was so hard to find for those of us who just had the address.

Mayor: Svetness Fitness is by Village Lanes Bowling Center on Catoctin Circle, right across Harrison Street from both Middleburg Bank and BB&T. And Svet, the owner, moved here from Bulgaria, speaking no English, having no money in his pocket whatsoever and has built a thriving personal fitness company up out of nothing. He was very much taken back in Bulgaria by the promise of the American Dream and he is living it. Congratulations to him.

Butler: You mentioned the truck crashing through. I just wanted to say I think the Town Staff came and cleaned that up quickly. I got a couple of messages and just the pictures changed really fast. It was just a great job by staff on that.

18. MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Very quickly, I just wanted to also say how proud I am of our first responders, even though Fire and Rescue is not the town. They did a tremendous job. There were three of us who were here for a long time that night. I was very proud of them. I am also extremely proud of our police department, who were the first ones to arrive on the scene. Of course, it helps that they were right here, but they did go into the structures to take care of that. I also want to recognize Chief Price specifically. The Mayor and I attended a Town Association meeting last week and it is very comforting to see our leaders, how they operate and function in the region, and how well respected. Of course, we are the largest town in the Commonwealth, so you would expect our personnel to perform at the highest level, but watching him and communicate to the various mayors in attendance at this meeting and the other police chiefs, is quite impressive to see the stature and the knowledge and respect he has with his peers. I think – although you weren't there outside of the Mayor, you are very well represented and taken care of under the leadership of Chief Price. With that being said, Mr. Markel and I will be leaving town for a conference for City and Town Managers. We will be out of town for the next three days. Mr. Parker will be here and he will be fully supported by Chief Price. The very last thing, I was asking if you were available on for a session on June 29. I decided to cancel that because Council Member Fox cannot make it. Since you have not had a similar session, it would be very important for you to be there. I would not want you to miss that. I will find another date to do such a session and provide you information.

19. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Vice Mayor Burk, seconded by Council Member Martinez, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Kristen C. Umstattd, Mayor
Town of Leesburg

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council
2015_tmin0609