



VIRGINIA: A SPECIAL WORK SESSION OF THE SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD AT LUCA ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 641 COURTHOUSE ROAD, PRINCE GEORGE, VA, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2023, AT 5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR., CHAIR
SUPERVISOR JUDY LYTTLE, VICE-CHAIR
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM (TIM) CALHOUN
SUPERVISOR BRENTON BYRD
SUPERVISOR BREON PIERCE

ALSO

PRESENT:

MS. MELISSA ROLLINS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MR. DAVID HARRISON, DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MS. LOLA PERKLINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY
MS. RENEE CHAPLINE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Elliott.

READING OF THE CALL FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING

Chairman Elliott advised that the meeting was called by consensus of the Board of Supervisors for the purpose of a work session where they would discuss working together, visioning, and planning for economic growth. Per Chairman Elliot, this is an opportunity for the board to frame a narrative of the future of the County and to best ensure that the Board is working together to make positive things happen in the County in the coming year and to provide direction to staff in the execution of the Board's vision. He cited Parks and Recreation amenities, improved transportation access across the James River via bridge access) as primary initiatives and desired collective input from all members.

Economic Development Update

Mrs. Renee Chapline introduced the owner of the restaurant, Mr. Luis Pedraza who welcomed the Board to the restaurant. Mr. Pedraza spoke to the board on his plans for the Mexican restaurant to be opened in Surry County (the former Anna's on Rolfe Highway). He advised that the opening of the restaurant would be this Summer if construction could start soon.

Discussion amongst staff and Board members ensued on the following:

- The need for retail establishments in the County.
- The lack of housing stock in the County; barriers to housing development via actions taken to protect land through conservation easements.

- Plans for signage on the County's property (Grayland) located on Route #460 to market the property for development, having a sustainable suiter for the site and working with Dominion on this effort; site due diligence/natural gas line.
- Workforce Development Training Partnership with the County and Dominion
- Discussed Dominion's presence in the Commonwealth in that the nuclear facility supplies 14% of the energy generated in Virginia and North Carolina.
- Branding of the County – Be the Best Surry County We Can Be
- Broadband – market the County's digital platform with signage
- Agri Tourism -benefits
- Sport Tourism – benefits
- Utilization of proceeds for sell of property to fund recreational site improvements (pool, lights, amphitheater, gym, banquet facility, outdoor improvements, walking trail).
- Short Term Rentals and a Need for a Lodging Tax
- Local Market Update – plans are for a May 2023 finish date. Meetings are held every Thursday with applicable persons. HVAC is installed at the location.
- Road Widening of Route 10 and 31 in addition to proposed study for bridge access.
- Liter Control/County Cleanup
- Compensation/Constitutional Officers
- Meetings/Subcommittees

COUNTY ATTORNEY UPDATE

Ms. Perkins advised the Board that the close on the sale of the restaurant should occur by the end of the month. She provided a brief update on the Derelict Structure project. Eight of 10 property owners had applied for demolition permits. This is a complaint-based initiative. A long-standing easement request is under review and advisement to bring to the Board for further action. A request of public hearing will follow. She also advised that two county owned parcels will be going up for sale via a public hearing process.

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Ms. Rollins provided an overview of the facility space needs primary with the Registrar/Voting Offices and the need due to several challenges (handicapped accessibility, parking, security, training, state mandates, etc.) and a proposal to move the office to another county facility that would need to be purchased by the county. Staff advised that the proposed building for relocation would need to be appraised and is likely suitable with some improvements for office space, voting, equipment and other needs. This would follow other office relocations to accommodate staff needs and to best facilitate operations. An update was given on the status of the budget process. Mr. Harrison advised the Board of the process with VDOT for making recommendations on road improvements.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Calhoun to adjourn, and it was seconded by Mr. Pierce. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned to Monday, February 27th at 5:30 p.m.