

At a meeting of the South Boston Town Council held on February 8, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Ted Daniel Multipurpose Room in the Washington Coleman Community Center, 1917 Jeffress Blvd., South Boston, the following were present:

Mayor Edward Owens

Vice-Mayor R. B. "Bob" Hughes

Council Member W. R. "Bill" Snead, Jr.

Council Member Sharon M. Harris

Council Member Winston W. Harrell

Council Member J. B. "Joe" Chandler

Council Member T. S. "Tommy" Elliott

Staff Present: Town Manager Thomas S. Raab; Police Chief Bryan Young; Fire Chief Steve Phillips; Finance Director Mickey Wilkerson; Town Clerk Jane Jones

On motion of Mr. Chandler, seconded by Mr. Harrell, Council approved the minutes of the January 11 and 25, 2021 meetings as corrected.

**\*LT. RONNIE EDMONDS HONORED UPON HIS RETIREMENT**

On motion of Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Harrell, Council voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution honoring Lt. Ronnie Edmonds upon his retirement from the Police Department after 30-years' service.

**RESOLUTION HONORING LIEUTENANT RONNIE EDMONDS  
UPON HIS RETIREMENT**

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, Lt. Ronnie Edmonds retired after 30 years of law enforcement service with the South Boston Police Department, and

WHEREAS, Lt. Edmonds began his service to the Police Department on April 1, 1990, and through his professionalism and dedication, quickly became a role model and leader in the Department, ultimately rising to Lieutenant in November 2018, and

WHEREAS, Ronnie represented the South Boston Police Department in the most consummate professional manner, treating all with fairness and respect; and

WHEREAS, during his lengthy career Lt. Edmonds was involved with numerous incidents in the performance of his duties and is credited with directly saving multiple lives, and

WHEREAS, Lt. Edmonds has earned the respect of those he served with and those he was entrusted to serve and protect, contributing to the betterment of the police department and the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a grateful Town takes this opportunity to commend and thank Lt. Ronnie Edmonds for his tireless dedication to duty to the citizens of this community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council hereby extends its sincere gratitude to Lt. Ronnie Edmonds for his professional, dedicated service and wishes him long life and much happiness.

Chief Young praised and thanked Lt. Edmonds for outstanding service to the department and the positive impact he had made on his fellow officers.

Chief Young introduced the Department's newest member, Officer Joshua Rice. A native of Clarksville, Officer Rice graduated from the police academy in December 2021 and is working patrol.

**\*LAKE COUNTRY AREA AGENCY ON AGING ANNUAL REPORT**

Ms. Gwen Hinzman, Executive Director of the Lake Country Area Agency on Aging, updated Council on the many services offered to South Boston seniors. She also discussed the HART bus which provides public transportation within the corporate limits of the towns of South Boston and Halifax. The bus provides transportation to customers of any age, Monday – Friday for \$1.50/fare. The bus is funded 50% by federal and state funding, with a 50% local match, estimated at \$39,545 for FY21-22. Ms. Hinzman also requested an additional \$5,070 for FY21-22 for South Boston's share of a new vehicle.

Ms. Hinzman advised that due the CARES Act funding, LCCA would not request South Boston's FY20-21 appropriation of \$27,272. She also noted there was a vacancy on the LCCA Board representing Halifax County.

**\*SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA ASAP APPOINTMENT – CHIEF BRYAN YOUNG**

On motion of Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mr. Chandler, Council voted unanimously to appoint Police Chief Bryan Young to the Southside Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program board to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of former Chief Jim Binner. Chief Young's term will expire July 13, 2024.

**\*BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS – CHRIS ELLIOTT RECOMMENDED FOR REAPPOINTMENT**

On motion of Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Elliott, Council voted unanimously to recommend the Court reappoint T.Chris Elliott to a new five-year term on the South Boston Board of Zoning Appeals to run March 1, 2021 to February 28, 2026.

**\*HALIFAX COUNTY SERVICE AUTHORITY – HOPE HARRIS-GAYLES CONFIRMED**

On motion of Mr. Harrell, seconded by Mrs. Harris, Council voted unanimously to confirm the candidacy of Hope Harris-Gayles to the Halifax County Service Authority Board of Directors to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mark Thackston. If appointed her term will expire June 30, 2023.

**\*DERELICT PROPERTY UPDATE**

Mr. Raab advised that the Halifax County Board of Supervisors had approved the issuance of a demolition permit for the derelict structure on Fenton Street. It should be demolished within 30 days. He also stated that the building permit for the derelict structure on Meadows Drive was to expire in March. He was not aware of any repairs done by the owner on this structure.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

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Mayor Edward Owens

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jane P. Jones, Town Clerk, CMC

At a work session meeting of the South Boston Town Council held on February 22, 2021 at 5:45 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of Washington Coleman Community Center, the following were present:

Mayor Edward Owens, presiding

Finance Committee

Council Member Bill Snead, Chairman  
Council Member Winston Harrell  
Council Member Tommy Elliott

Current Issues Committee

Vice-Mayor Bob Hughes, Chairman  
Council Member Sharon Harris  
Council Member Joe Chandler

Staff Present: Town Manager Tom Raab, Assistant Town Manager Dennis Barker; Police Chief Bryan Young; Finance Director Mickey Wilkerson; Fire Chief Steve Phillips; and Town Clerk Jane Jones

Mayor Owens called the meeting to order and turned it over to the Finance Committee.

**\*FY19-20 Financial Report Presented** - Steven Gay of Harris, Harvey and Neal CPA's presented the FY2019-20 annual financial report. Mr. Gay reviewed highlights of the audit noting that staff had done a great job with the finances, as the Town had a strong balance sheet.

On motion of Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mr. Chandler, Council voted (later during the meeting) to unanimously to accept the FY19-20 Auditors report as presented.

**\*Halifax Dixie Baseball - Update and Funding Request** - Halifax County Dixie Inc., President David Ashwell and Director Steven Crutchfield thanked the Town for past support at the Day Complex. Mr. Ashwell noted that in even during a pandemic, 350 children had played baseball in 2020. The league had hosted 10 travel baseball tournaments and 3 fundraiser tournaments. Out-of-town participants and their families generate a great deal of tourism dollars to the local economy.

Mr. Ashwell said the league had the necessary funds for routine maintenance but asked for assistance with major project to the Complex's facility. Mr. Crutchfield listed the most pressing safety needs as: failing retaining walls, lighting, antiquated bathrooms, cracking walkways and potholes in the roads and parking lots. Replying to Mrs. Harris' question on what were the highest priorities, Mr. Crutchfield listed them as:

- 1- Lighting, \$15,000, which they could handle
- 2- Retaining walls estimated at \$28,000 for the worst four
- 3 – ADA upgrades and improvements to both bathrooms

Mr. Elliott voiced his support to assist the League with the larger safety issues. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Chandler agreed saying funding for youth baseball should compare with funding spent on the youth basketball program.

**\*Monthly Financial Report** – Mrs. Wilkerson reviewed the monthly financial report with the Committee.

There being no further business, the Finance Committee adjourned and the Current Issues Committee convened.

**\*Request to designate Westside Village Apartments a Revitalization Area** - Mr. Raab advised that Westside Village Renewal LLC was submitting an application to the Virginia Housing Development Authority for funding to renovate Westside Village Apartment Complex. A resolution designating Westside Village Apartments in a revitalization area would strengthen the application. Mr. Raab recommended approval and the Committee concurred.

**\*Consideration to Amend Town Code section 2-76 Requiring the Town Manager, Police Chief and Fire Chief to reside within town limits** – Mr. Raab asked the Committee to consider amending the Town Code to allow the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Town Manager to reside outside of town limits. Chief Young would like to build a new house approximately 7 miles outside town limits. Mr. Raab noted he would prefer to live in his home, rather than an apartment in town.

Mrs. Jones advised that Section 2-76 was originally adopted in 1990 and amended in 2000.

Mr. Raab reported that he had surveyed twenty-five Virginia localities, and found that eleven required the manager to reside in town and only three required the police chief to reside within town limits. He added that in 2021 with immediate contact available thru cell phones and facetime, the residency requirement was unduly restrictive.

Mr. Hughes suggested the residency requirement be either waived or left up to Town Council's discretion. Mr. Harrell favored requiring the manager and chiefs to live anywhere within Halifax County.

Mr. Elliott said he considered the residency requirement an antiquated law that it should be amended or eliminated. He stated that regardless of where the manager or chief lived, he could be in instant communication at all times. Mrs. Harris recommended looking at any positions living within Halifax County. Mayor Owens felt the residency requirement should be flexible and recommended the top three managers be moved to the "may" be required to reside in town limits, giving Council the flexibility to decide on a case-by-case basis.

The Current Issues Committee adjourned and Mayor Owens called a meeting of the South Boston Town Council. All members of Council were present.

On motion of Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mr. Elliott, Council voted to go into closed session to discuss a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

**\*CLOSED MEETING TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL - APPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

On motion of Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mr. Elliott, Council voted unanimously to go into a closed meeting to discuss personnel, specifically appointments to the South Boston Planning Commission, as allowed by the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711(A). Voting Aye: Harris, Elliott, Chandler, Harrell, Snead, and Hughes. Nays: none. Absent and not voting: none.

On motion of Mr. Snead, seconded by Mrs. Harris, Council voted unanimously to return to open session. Voting Aye: Harris, Elliott, Chandler, Harrell, Snead, and Hughes. Nays: none. Absent and not voting: none.

On motion of Mr. Harrell, seconded by Mr. Chandler, Council unanimously certified that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only 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 the town council. Voting Aye: Harris, Elliott, Chandler, Harrell, Snead, and Hughes. Nays: none. Absent and not voting: none.

Council took no action. There being further no business the meeting adjourned.

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Edward Owens, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jane P. Jones, Town Clerk, CMC

