



OCCOQUAN TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall – 314 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22125
Tuesday, March 16, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Earnie Porta; Vice Mayor Jenn Loges; Councilmembers Krys Bienia, Cindy Fithian (remotely), Laurie Holloway (remotely), and Eliot Perkins

Staff: Kirstyn Jovanovich, Town Manager/Interim Town Clerk; Julie Little, Events and Community Development Director (remotely); Martin Crim, Town Attorney (remotely)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Porta called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Due to illness Councilmember Fithian participated remotely from home and for personal reasons Councilmember Holloway participated remotely from Florida, both in accordance with Town ordinances. The Town Attorney participated remotely.

2. CONSENT AGENDA – March 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

There being a proposed change, the minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2021, were removed from the consent agenda.

Vice Mayor Loges moved approval of the minutes with a correction to move the heading “Boards and Commissions” down one paragraph. Councilmember Perkins seconded. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Porta called to order the Public Hearing and Invitation to Bid on a Franchise for 200 Mill Street (formerly the Tourism Information Center). Five people spoke at the public hearing: Pam Konwin, Valerie Jones, Dwight Riley, Robert Hickman, and Brenda Seefeldt. Bids were received from OBG, LLC, Madigan’s Waterfront, Inc., and Valerie Jones (VARD, LLC, pending).

Councilmember Perkins moved to close the public hearing. Vice Mayor Loges seconded. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. RECESS

Councilmember Fithian moved that the Council go into recess for 15 minutes, until 7:30 p.m. Krys Bienia seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote and the Council stood in recess.

5. REGULAR BUSINESS -- Request to Accept a Bid and Award a Franchise for the Use of 200 Mill Street (formerly the Tourism Information Center)

Mayor Porta called the meeting back to order at 7:30 p.m. and conducted a straw poll amongst Council members to determine if they wished to discuss all the bids immediately (without necessarily also making an award this evening), or defer discussion until another meeting in order to

provide additional time to review bids. It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with discussion immediately.

Mayor Porta and Council members thanked all the parties who had submitted bids and in response to some comments and questions made during the public hearing noted that whoever received an award would have to comply with all relevant Town regulations regarding parking, setbacks, etc.

Councilmembers posed questions to each of the bidders and provided each bidder with an opportunity to speak before the Town Council as an advocate for their bid and to clarify any aspects of their bid. During discussion Councilmembers noted the particularly unique characteristics of the unsolicited bid from OBG, LLC, who had reached an agreement with the adjoining property owner to use the adjacent undeveloped area as part of their food and dining establishment. This arrangement provided an opportunity for use and revenue generation that the Town building being leased could not support on its own. In the opinion of Councilmembers the OBG, LLC bid thus maximized the potential return on investment to the Town while also reopening for public use the restrooms in the former Tourism Information Center.

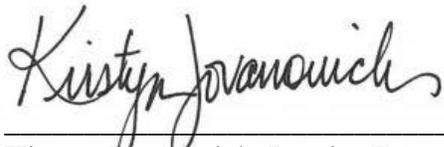
At the conclusion of discussion and after hearing from all the bidders, Vice Mayor Loges moved to accept the bid from OBC, LLC and to adopt the ordinance as advertised, inserting the name of the accepted bidder. Councilmember Perkins seconded.

Ayes: Vice Mayor Loges, Councilmember Bienia, Councilmember Fithian, Councilmember Holloway, and Councilmember Perkins, by roll call vote.

Nays: None.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.



Kirstyn Jovanovich, Interim Town Clerk