

Town Council Actions: January 2, 2019

The following items are extracts of recent Town Council actions and are not official meeting minutes. The most recent approved Town Council minutes and agendas are available online at www.occoquanva.gov. All votes are unanimous unless noted otherwise.

- Acknowledged receipt of the Events and Community Development Director Report
- Authorized the Town to enter into a lease purchase agreement with Virginia Local Government Finance Corporation for two 2019 Ford Police vehicles not to exceed \$87,998.
- Accepted the Revised FY2020 Budget Calendar
- Acknowledged receipt of the Planning Commission 2018 Annual Report

Town Hall Open House

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 4:30pm-6:30pm

Come meet the new Town Manager, Kathy Leidich and Town staff at Town Hall. Say hello and get answers to any questions you may have. Light refreshments will be served and following the Open House there will be a Town Council meeting. For more information contact Town Hall at (703) 491-1918.

OCCOQUAN NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME XXVI, ISSUE II

(703) 491-1918

February 2019

TOWN COUNCIL

Earnie Porta, Mayor
Patrick A. Sivigny, Vice Mayor
J. Matthew Dawson
Cindy Fithian
Laurie Holloway
Eliot Perkins



TOWN HALL STAFF

Kathleen Leidich, Town Manager
Adam Linn, Chief of Police
Chris Coon, Town Clerk
Carla Rodriguez, Town Treasurer
Julie Little, Events Director
Bucky Brill, Maintenance Supervisor
Pam Holbert, Administrative Asst.

Mayor's Letter

I would like to start off this month by thanking everyone for their patience as we worked through our first substantive snow event of the year. Some, we understand, were surprised by the implications of the snow emergency route designations, particularly along Mill Street, and in at least one case VDOT temporarily missed plowing a street. Staff took all your comments into consideration and acted upon them to the best of their ability. A special thank you to all of those who were able to promptly clear the areas in front of their homes and businesses in the business district - this is critical to enabling our businesses to get up and running promptly after weather events.

Mark your calendars this month for Saturday, February 9, when the Occoquan Merchants' Guild will again be sponsoring a Chocolate Walk from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Start the journey at Town Hall where you will receive your Chocolate Walk Passport and instructions. This event is free and open to the public. For more information check out the Town web site at www.occoquanva.gov. Additionally, beginning this month, residents, business owners, friends, and visitors to Occoquan can sign up to sponsor a banner honoring a U.S. military veteran. Last year's inaugural program, a partnership between the Town and VFW Post 7916, was a huge success. If you are interested in honoring your family member, ancestor, or friend for their military service visit the Town's web-site or www.VFWpost7916.org. You may also stop by Town Hall or VFW Post 7916.

The town has started working on our fiscal year 2020 budget and capital plan and welcomes public feedback during the process. We have identified a set of priorities, including, among others, improvements in the maintenance of public areas. With regard to the latter, I want to convey that we are taking seriously concerns expressed about the water and mud that has accumulated and periodically frozen at the western end of Mill Street. Town staff is attempting to work with the owners of the properties from which the water originates to solve the problem.

Once again, let me thank you for your continued support and encourage you to contact me at eporta@occoquanva.gov with any comments, questions or concerns.

Volunteer on a Town Board or Commission

The Town of Occoquan has three standing boards and commissions that are staffed by community volunteers and focus on specific community needs and issues. The Town relies on volunteers from the community to serve on these important boards. Currently, there are positions available on the Town's Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. To learn more about the roles of these boards, visit www.occoquanva.gov/boards-and-commissions.html.

If you're interested in being considered for appointment to one of the available positions please complete a short application and submit to Town Hall, M-F, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., 314 Mill Street. Applications are available at Town Hall or online at www.occoquanva.gov.

Business License Renewals and BPOL Due March 1

The 2019 Business and Professional Occupational License (BPOL) renewals are due no later than March 1, 2019. Renewal notices will be sent in February to businesses currently holding a license with the Town. A penalty of 10% may be added if your *application* is received after March 31, and/or a 10% penalty will be added if your *payment* is received after May 31, 2019.

The business license fee is based on gross receipts for calendar year 2018. Tax rates are listed on the application, with a minimum tax of \$30.

Businesses operating out of homes within Occoquan are also required to obtain a business license and pay BPOL to the Town. For questions, please contact the Town Clerk at (703) 491-1918 or visit www.occoquanva.gov for more information.

Bags to Benches

Beginning on February 1, 2019 until July 31, 2019, Patriot Scuba will be collecting clean, dry and free of food residue plastic waste items. Once 500 pounds has been collected Trex will make a bench for public use.

Items that can be recycled include: Grocery bags, Bread bags, Dry cleaning bags, Newspaper sleeves, Ziplock and other food storage bags, produce bags, and salt bags. For a full list or more information, please contact Patriot Scuba at (703) 490-1175 or Town Hall at (703) 491-1918.

February 2019

Town Meetings and Events

(All meetings are held at Town Hall, 314 Mill Street, unless otherwise noted.)

February 5: Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm, Regular Meeting

February 9: Chocolate Walk
11 am- 4pm, Historic District

February 19: Town Council Meeting
7:00 pm, Work Session Meeting

February 20: January 2019 Meals Tax and Transient occupancy Tax Due

February 26: Planning Commission
6:30 pm, Town Hall
Architectural Review Board
7:30 pm, Town Hall

Snow Removal - Emergency Snow Routes

While it has been a mild winter so far, snow continues to be a possibility over the next several weeks. As a reminder, the Town has established snow emergency routes throughout town (Chapter 62, Article VII, Sections 192-196). The streets include:

Commerce St.	Ellicott St.	Mill St.
Union St.	Washington St.	

When snow is expected, on-street parking will **not** be permitted on the identified roads. This will allow the town to remove snow from on-street parking. *Vehicles parked on the identified roads will receive a ticket and possibly be towed at the owners expense.* During inclement weather, if you normally park on-street, please consider parking under the Route 123 bridge. For more information, visit www.occoquanva.gov.

Reminder: Town Real Estate Taxes Due February 15

The 2018 Real Estate Taxes are due on February 15, 2019. If not paid by the due date, an 8% penalty will be assessed. Additionally, a 10% per annum interest charge begins to accrue on March 15, 2019. If you have questions regarding your taxes and pay out of escrow, please contact your mortgage company. If you do not utilize a mortgage company for escrow, please remit payment directly to the Town of Occoquan.