

MINUTES
Town of Grottoes – Augusta County
Public Hearing
Commission on Local Government
7:00 p.m., November 9, 2009
Grottoes Town Hall
601 Dogwood Avenue
Grottoes, Virginia

Members Present

Vola T. Lawson, Chairman
Harold H. Bannister, Jr.
Frances M. Parsons
Kathleen K. Seefeldt
Wanda C. Wingo

Members Absent

Staff Present

Susan Williams, Local Government Policy Manager
Steve Ziony, Principal Economist
Matthew Bolster, Senior Policy Analyst

Call to Order

Commission Chairman Vola T. Lawson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on November 9, 2009 at the Grottoes Town Hall in Grottoes, Virginia.

I. Public Hearing on Proposed Voluntary Settlement Agreement

A. Introductory Remarks by the Chairman

Chairman Vola T. Lawson welcomed those in attendance and recognized the members of the Grottoes Town Council, all of whom were present. Mrs. Lawson explained that the Commission scheduled the public hearing as part of its review of the proposed voluntary settlement agreement negotiated by the Town of Grottoes and Augusta County. She explained that the agreement would allow the town to annex about

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99 acres of territory known as Grand Caverns Park in Augusta County and would also establish a moratorium on further town-initiated annexation with the limits of the county for a period of ten years subsequent to the effective date of the annexation of the specified area.

Mrs. Lawson stated that the public hearing was advertised by notice published in the *Staunton News-Leader* and in the *Daily News Record* on Monday, October 26, 2009 and again on Monday, November 2, 2009. She further stated that notice of the public hearing was provided to the appropriate local government officials.

Next, Mrs. Lawson introduced the members of the Commission and the staff. She then described the authority for the Commission's review of the agreement and summarized the activities that have occurred in connection with the review to date. Mrs. Lawson stated that the Commission's record in this matter will remain open for the receipt of additional comment until November 24, 2009 and that the Commission will endeavor to issue its report no later than March 2010. She then opened the floor to receive comments from the public.

B. Public Hearing

The Commission heard testimony from Mr. Frank W. Nolen, representing Reynolds' Grottoes Plastics Plant. Mr. Nolen expressed support for the voluntary settlement agreement in general and the moratorium provision in particular.

No other person appeared to testify before the Commission during the public hearing.

C. Closing Statement by the Chairman

The Chairman expressed the Commission's appreciation to the speaker for the comments he provided. She then reminded those in attendance that the Commission will close its record in this matter on November 24, 2009.

Because the Town Council was scheduled to meet immediately after the public hearing, the Commission moved into the Council's conference room where members and staff briefly discussed the proposed agreement and submission. The members unanimously expressed their favorable impression of the proposed agreement based on the initial submission; responses to questions; oral presentations and public hearing and directed staff to prepare a draft report for their consideration at the January 11, 2010 regular Commission on Local Government meeting.

II. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was officially adjourned at 7:59 p.m.