

Town Council Meeting

April 12, 2022

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on April 12, 2022, in the Town Municipal building with the Honorable Allen D. Smith, Mayor, presiding: Councilmember's in attendance were Ronald Mattox, Johnnie Brame, James G. Elam, Jr., Christopher Garrett, Sandra Jones and Chris Gill. Also attending were Town Manager Rodney Newton, Treasurer Diane Harding and Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel. Absent was Police Chief Keith Phillips and Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend.

Mayor Smith called the meeting of the Town Council to order.

The invocation was given by Councilmember Brame followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Town Manager Rodney Newton requested a closed session at the end of the council meeting. Mayor Smith added Mr. Newton under Closed Session.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any Conflicts of Interest on matters being discussed on the agenda. There were none.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the March 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the Treasurer's report for March 2022. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith presented the Police Report. There were no questions regarding the Police Report. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised council that Chief Phillips has put in his resignation. Chief Phillips last day will be Saturday, April 16, 2022. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith presented the Fire Department Report. There were no questions regarding the Fire Department Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Town Manager Rodney Newton discussed the wastewater treatment facility projects. The preliminary engineering report has been finalized and sent to DEQ for review and comment. Mr. Newton advised there were several comments that they are working on responses to. He will be placing a notice on the eVA site advertising for engineering services for the sewer project. They have identified the preferred route for the force main and will be meeting with B&B Consultants next week. Mr. Newton advised we will be using the ARPA funds for the construction of the force main, work at the east facility and the closing of the west facility. We will be looking at the DEQ clean water revolving loan fund for funding of the actual pump station. Mr. Newton stated we will not know until first quarter 2023 if awarded. Mr. Newton advised the pista grit for the east facility has been ordered and are reviewing the submittal drawings. There will be a three to four month wait time for it. We are also waiting on the revised quote on the mechanical bar screen and in the process of gutting the old UV building. This will be the new warehouse or storage area for the wastewater plant.
- b) Mr. Newton discussed the water filtration plant project. Mr. Newton advised the amount of water produced at the plant a day (450,000 gallons) came into question last month. Mr. Newton advised our figures that were done for production coming from the plant are not close to what is being sold. We recently calibrated the flow meters and found that some are not working properly causing significant issues. Mr. Newton stated the flow meter measuring the finished water coming out of the prison is the same flow meter that was put in 1970. The raw water flow meter doesn't match what is coming from the Falls. Mr. Newton is in the process of building a bid package to replace the raw water flow meter with a magnetic meter and replace the flow meters on the two filters for the back wash

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pump and the finish water line with ultra-sonic flow meters. We need to know what we are producing and sending to town versus what we are billing our customers. Also, another big issue is it is taking 10 to 11 hours a day to make 250,000 gallons of water. Mr. Newton advised the finished water pumps were installed in 2005 and rated to pump 600 gallons a minute. We recently installed a clamp-on flow meter to Pumps 1 and 2 to check the capacity of each. Pump 1 is pumping 391 gallons a minute while Pump 2 pumps 352 gallons a minute averaging a 40% loss. Mr. Newton stated a new flow meter change could be approximately \$75,000. He will advise council more in possibly July.

- c) Mr. Newton discussed the proposed FY23 budget. The General Fund increase has no tax or refuge charge increases. Mr. Newton along with the Finance Committee recommended a \$1.00 increase in water and a \$2.00 increase in sewer charges on the water bills. Mr. Newton stated the values of personal property has increased. This is not an assessment; this is a revaluation. This would calculate a \$30,000 difference in revenue for PP taxes. The proposed budget gave an 85% evaluation. The county will also be increasing. Mr. Newton advised it will be councils decision how to handle the increase for the town. Councilmember Elam suggested waiting for the county. Mr. Newton recommended a budget workshop before the May council meeting.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Jones to have the budget workshop on Thursday, April 28, 2023 at 6:00pm and a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 10, 2023 at next month's meeting. Motion carried.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton advised the Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday at 10:00 am in the park.
- b) Mr. Newton advised the week of April 25th through April 29th we will be picking up limbs/debris at no cost.
- b) Mr. Newton advised we have received one quote and waiting on a second quote for the LOVE sign. The quote received would be for a 6x8 aluminum with vinyl sheeting for \$9,945.84. Once it's installed, we can apply for a reimbursement grant with the Virginia Tourism Corporation up to \$1,500.00 to apply towards the cost. It will also be listed on their website. Mr. Newton anticipates having ready by Autumn Days 2022. Mr. Newton will try to get a second quote by the May council meeting and will request council to make a decision.
- c) Mr. Newton updated council on the refuse carts. An order has been placed for 1,000 carts with the town seal and a serial number on the front. Mr. Newton advised markings will be done by town employee's as to where to put the rolling carts.
- d) Mr. Newton updated on the park bathrooms. Town employees power washed the floors and got up all the old paint. Mr. Newton has received some of the new fixtures and locks for the front doors. He anticipates having the bathrooms back open in the next two weeks.
- e) Councilmember Brame inquired about the marijuana legislation bill that was deferred until this month's council meeting. Mr. Newton advised the consensus of the way the laws were set, there is nothing a locality can do to prohibit the sale of marijuana. Mr. Newton stated he has not heard back meaning there is nothing state code requires to be decided at this time.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to go into closed session for discussion on:

Motion to go into closed session in accordance with the VA Code §2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body, and VA Code §2.2-3711(A)(19) for discussion of threats to public safety where discussion in an open meeting would jeopardize the safety of any person or the security of any facility, building, structure, information technology system or software program; or discussion of reports or plans related to the security

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of any governmental facility, building or structure, or the safety of persons using such facility, building, or structure.

CLOSED SESSION April 12, 2022

Motion was made by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Brame to return to regular session according to Code of VA §2.2-3712 to certify that only business matters identified in the motion to convene and those lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were discussed. By show of hands, all voted unanimous yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to appoint Officer David King as Acting Sergeant and that this appointment will be at the pleasure of the council. Motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting.

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved May 10, 2022

Rodney Newton, Town Manager