

Town Council Meeting

December 12, 2023

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on December 12, 2023, 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., Sandra Jones and Chris Gill. Also attending were Town Manager Rodney Newton, Treasurer Diane Harding, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, and Chief Camden Lawson. Absent was Councilmember Christopher Garrett 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.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to go into Public Hearing on (1) Proposed ordinance for regulation of alleys and (2) Proposed ordinance for vehicle exhaust/excessive noise. Motion carried.

Citizen Alvin Powell discussed the alley behind his house. There is still access to get by while he is working in his shop. There is also another way out of the alley. Also, Mr. Powell suggested getting a work pass or permit to work more than one hour. Councilmember Brame agreed with getting a pass from the town to work more than one hour in a 24-hour period. Councilmember Jones asked Mr. Powell to clarify how often he would need an extended pass to work in his shop. Mr. Powell advised he would not need a pass everyday but occasionally.

No comments were made on the Proposed ordinance for vehicle exhaust/excessive noise.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to come out of Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Citizen Marvin Estes at 1413 4th Street asked to speak about junk left in yards. Mayor Smith added Mr. Estes under Informational Items as item (e).

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 Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the November 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the Treasurer's report for November 2023. Motion carried.

Chief Camden Lawson introduced new Police Officer Calvin Adams. Officer Adams lives in Kenbridge with his family and will start the police academy in January 2024. Council welcomed Officer Adams to the Town of Victoria. Chief Lawson presented the police report. He stated they had 90 calls, six arrests and seven citations. Chief Lawson advised they have been working on a few ordinances regarding rubbish in yards and inoperable vehicles. They will begin to second tag the inoperable vehicles that have not been moved. There were no questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend was absent. There were no questions regarding the Fire Department Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Elam to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Councilmember Elam suggested the one-hour timeframe for parking in the alley is too short. Councilmember Mattox agreed and to table the Proposed ordinance for regulation of alleys until next month. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Gill to table the Proposed ordinance for regulation of alleys until January 2024. Motion carried.

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- b) Motion was made Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Gill to adopt the Proposed ordinance for vehicle exhaust/excessive noise. Motion carried.
- c) Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the 2024 Holiday Schedule. Motion carried.
- d) Councilmember Brame raised the idea of including Town Manager Rodney Newton in the Holiday bonuses at the supervisory rate. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Elam to included Town Manager Newton in the Holiday bonuses for December 2023. Motion carried.
- e) Citizen Marvin Estes at 1413 4th Street addressed council on junk in the yard across the street from his house. Mr. Newton advised he has spoken with the neighbor and two garages will be taken down. Some things have been removed. Mr. Newton will monitor and if not cleaned up will send a letter on the first of the year. Mr. Estes also inquired about the ditch line on 4th Street. Mr. Newton advised VDOT was taking care of it and paving started today, December 12th.
- f) Treasurer, Diane Harding advised we will be having a Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 14th at noon at the town office for those councilmembers who would like to attend.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton updated on the sewer project. We applied for an extension with DEQ at the end of our consent order until February 15, 2024 due to logistical issues and delay in supplies since August. The manhole has been set and ready for connection to the new system. Mr. Newton advised much of the electrical work has been done and we are still running on budget and able to finish with the funds we have available.
- b) Mr. Newton discussed the 4th Street sewer replacement. With paving completion today, the total cost was \$39,394.05. The east wastewater treatment permit has to be renewed every five years. They have been working with Moonshot Missions and with lots of help and hard work, our 2024 permit was issued with a new copper limit of 13.4mg. The west permit has been extended for 90 days to allow us to stop discharging from the plant so we will not have to renew that permit.
- c) Mr. Newton advised 90% of the RE/PP Taxes have been collected as of December 4, 2023.
- d) Mr. Newton advised within the next 90 days; the west wastewater usage should almost come to a complete stop. On the east side, we've had a recirculating pump and pipe temporarily installed to hopefully stop using 1M+ gallons of water for treating sewage.
- e) Mayor Smith advised Councilmember Garrett has been in touch with Aquionics regarding the pool. They have agreed to come look at the pool but it must be drained first. They will give an assessment of what can or needs to be done for expansion and other issues in the pool.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved January 9, 2024

Rodney Newton, Town Manager