

Town Council Meeting

February 14, 2023

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on February 14, 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., Christopher Garrett, Sandra Jones and Chris Gill. Also attending were Town Manager Rodney Newton, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Police Chief Joel Manning and Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend. Absent was Town Treasurer Diane Harding.

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 Gill to go into Public Hearing on:

- **Parking of commercial vehicles in residential districts**-this is a new ordinance that we discussed at the last meeting. Town Manager Newton has discussed with Chief Manning and reviewed the proposed ordinance and is in support of it. This will pertain to those commercial vehicles over 26,001 lbs. or more and parking such vehicles within 75 feet of an intersection.
- **Speed Limit Ordinance change**-this is a verbiage change discussed at the last meeting regarding posting that the townwide speed limit is 25 MPH unless otherwise posted.
- **Enterprise Zone expansion**-Mr. Newton advised we held a Public Hearing back in December 2022 to add two small areas to the town's enterprise zone. When this was sent to DHCD by the county, we learned that there is a 10-acre minimum expansion requirement. Therefore, more land needed to be added. The new additions include Nottoway Blvd from the intersection with Main Street to 13th Street. The new expansion will also include the Lunenburg County IDA land that surrounds Food Lion. The addition to the zone will be approximately 59.54 acres and is no cost to the town.

No comments were made.

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

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Councilmember Garrett asked to speak on the pool update. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Garrett as item 10(d) under Informational Items. Citizen Chris Garrett asked to update council on 1414 Nottoway Blvd. Mayor Smith added Mr. Garrett as item 10(e) under Informational Items. Mayor Smith asked to speak about the towns history. Mayor Smith was added as item 10(f) under Informational Items.

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 January 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the Treasurer's report for January 2023. Motion carried.

Chief Joel Manning presented the Police Report. He stated they had a busy month with 308 calls, 11 citations and five arrests. There has been more directed patrol throughout the town which has resulted in more calls for service. It has led to several charges and summonses. Chief Manning advised they continue to use Shieldware in their case filing system. However, our call reporting has improved and is expanding as the department grows but our computers and software are becoming outdated. Chief Manning advised they are currently using Windows 7 which is no longer supported by Google updates. This will need to be addressed in the upcoming months. Chief Manning advised they are looking into funding sources with the Town Manager. P/T Officer White has become effective as the weekend P/T Officer. He has been instrumental in two investigations that occurred at Lakeview and Oakwood Cemeteries. Both Officer Beagle and Officer Behler have had their roles changed from OJT Officers to Patrol Officers. Chief Manning advised their monthly schedule will rotate from day to night. Mayor Smith congratulated Officer

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Behler who was present. Mayor Smith also stated their police presence is seen more throughout the town and hears that from local citizens quite a bit. There were no further questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend presented the Fire Department Report. Assistant Chief Townsend thanked those who recently attended the VFR Banquet and hopes everyone enjoyed themselves. Several councilmembers agreed it was a good banquet. He stated they had a busy month with a total of 138 responses with 63 calls at Station 2 and 75 calls at Station 7. Assistant Chief Townsend also provided council with the 2023 Officers report. There were no questions regarding the Fire Department Report. Councilmember Jones thanked the VFR for everything they do. Councilmember Mattox agreed and also thanked the Victoria Police Department. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the proposed Town Speed Limit verbiage changes to Section 30-201 of the Town of Victoria Ordinances. Motion carried.
- b) Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to accept the Commercial Vehicle Parking Ordinance in residential districts throughout the town. Motion carried.
- c) Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the Enterprise Zone expansion of an additional 59.54 acres to the Town of Victoria. Motion carried.
- d) Councilmember Garrett with the Swimming Pool Committee updated council on the Victoria Pool. He has provided Douglas Aquatics with pictures and blueprints of the pool. Councilmember Garrett stated they will be coming down to do an analysis of what needs to be fixed and/or repaired. More updates to follow in the coming months.
- e) Citizen Chris Garrett updated council on 1414 Nottoway Blvd. Mr. Garrett stated after three months attempting to get the property surveyed, it was completed a few days ago. It appears the property line towards the residence on the right side is four feet off. Mr. Garrett stated they will be working with the property owner. Also, renovation on the building has stopped due to mold, asbestos and lead paint. He has submitted with the county to try to get a grant for remediation. This will give them a list of companies to contact to come and identify what is lead, mold, etc. The abatement process is until June 2023 for the identification and removal of mold, lead and/or asbestos.
- f) Mayor Smith advised over the past several month's he has stumbled across some YouTube videos on the Virginia Outdoors site. He came across a video of The Falls and the rock formation but it did not have a lot of history of the mill. He also found another video where someone was inspired to come visit the Nottoway River, but still no history. Mayor Smith stated some of the southern counties have had right much revitalization (old coal mines, trails, etc) and the one thing in common with the Town of Victoria is the Virginia Railroad. Mayor Smith wishes to expand, preserve and explain our history. He asked councilmembers to give some thought to this and possibly reaching out to the community to see if someone may have old photographs, memorabilia from older buildings in the town to help revitalize our community. Council will give their thoughts in the upcoming month. Town Manager Rodney Newton liked Mayor Smith's thoughts but agreed it's going to take more than one person to find out the town's history.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton advised Ms. Sue Still, who was the Town Treasurer for many years, passed away Saturday, February 11, 2023. Also, Mr. Bill Gary, electrician and musician had a heart procedure done this afternoon and reported that he is doing well and will be coming home tomorrow.

- b) Mr. Newton updated the flowmeter project is complete except for running the wires to the SCADA connection. We can now tell how much the plant is producing each day. Also, the pressure relief valve has been replaced but needs adjusted. Mr. Ronnie Williams with Precision Pipes will be getting with them to come make those pressure adjustments. Mr. Newton advised Pump #2 has been pulled by Sydnor-Hydro and is being evaluated. It is in worse shape than the first pump and he is still waiting to get the estimate on repairs. Mr. Newton did inquire on the cost of a new pump which will be \$13,150.00 as we paid over \$8,000.00 to rebuild the previous pump. If Pump #2 comes back worse, we may be better off replacing it with a new pump. Mr. Newton stated the other pump is working well and everything is usually full by 1:00pm. They shut down pumping and top-off again late in the afternoon. This allows them to leave by 6:00pm every night. The second-floor heater is playing out and cannot be repaired. It is the original heater from the 1970 construction. He is looking at options now to be addressed next year.
- c) Mr. Newton advised the water meter project is complete. We have approximately 20 meters to read manually each month. We are able to pull in the meter readings off the flash drive into the FMS billing system. Mr. Newton advised the manually read meters are mostly commercial and some with larger lines that were not cost effective to replace.
- d) Mr. Newton discussed the sewer project. He and Grayson Townsend, WWTP Supervisor attended a meeting with DEQ on Wednesday, February 8, 2023. Mr. Newton advised it was a very productive meeting. Also attending was our consultant with MoonStruck who made a very informative presentation on our copper issue. Mr. Newton advised the force main has been staked and construction will begin in the next couple of weeks. Also, the pista grit was installed today at the east wastewater facility. Mr. Newton advised plans for the pump station are anticipated around the first of March 2023. The grant with DEQ that was applied for last month is anticipated to be announced in mid-March 2023 and will pay for some of this project.
- e) Mr. Newton updated on the new garbage truck. Mr. Newton commended Mr. James Hazelwood. He advised things are running smoothly and trash is only picked up in town provided cans. The commercial pick-up is on Friday mornings. Mr. Newton advised they are sending the rear load truck to Chesapeake, VA and having the hydraulic tippers put on the back to use as a back-up.
- f) Mr. Newton advised VDOT will have several paving projects coming up between March and November 2023. Main Street between Subway and Twin Cemetery Road will be deep milled and completely repaved. Also, 8th Street between Main Street and Washington Avenue will be milled and repaved and then Washington Avenue from Nottoway Blvd. to the town limits.
- g) Mr. Newton discussed the elevated water tank repairs. We are currently on a maintenance schedule for our water tanks. Mr. Newton advised we have developed a side wall leak on the elevated tank near the overflow pipe. Scheduled maintenance is the week of March 13, 2023. Southern Corrosion will be taking care of the leak and doing the washout and inspection.
- h) Mr. Newton provided council a summary of ARPA Expenditures that have come in. To date, we have spent approximately \$344,000.00 on the sewer project alone. Mr. Newton also provided council a document for Capital Improvements. This shows some items that the town needs in the future. Mr. Newton asked council to review and advise of any changes or additions.
- i) Mr. Newton advised the last payment was mailed for the Streetscape, Water Plant and Wastewater in February 2023. Treasurer, Diane Harding has received the bond paid in full.
- j) Mr. Newton went around town last week with an appraiser for our buildings and advised the ceiling in the library has collapsed at the Victoria School. Mr. Newton is going to contact a contractor to see if it's something we can patch.

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- k) Mr. Newton met with the Finance Committee prior to tonight's council meeting. Mr. Newton was contacted by Mr. Ed Brown, a general contractor who will be retiring soon who wanted to give the Town of Victoria first option on purchasing some of his equipment. Mr. Newton and Shop Supervisor, Kevin Ashworth went to see the equipment. There was a CAT 924G Loader, rockbox, pipe and fittings, chains, slings and accessories that they estimated to be \$89,191.00. Mr. Newton advised the last phase of the west wastewater facility closure will require a dozer to close the lagoons. This will probably take two to three months to complete. Mr. Brown is asking \$60,000.00 for his bulldozer with only 3,469 hours on it. We are looking at selling our backhoe as it has less than 3,000 hours and not used that often. Mr. Newton proposed to council the purchase of the above equipment along with the bulldozer at a cost up to \$145,000.00. Mr. Newton recommended using the ARPA Funds to purchase the dozer, selling our backhoe and borrowing the remainder from the General Fund over the next 2 fiscal years. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to proceed with the equipment purchase and recommendations presented. Motion carried.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved March 14, 2023

Rodney Newton, Town Manager