

Town Council Meeting

May 9, 2023

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on May 9, 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, Treasurer Diane Harding, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Police Chief Joel Manning and Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend.

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

The invocation was given by Mayor Smith followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Councilmember Jones had a recommendation for council. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Jones as item 11(d) under Informational Items.

Citizen Ms. Taylor asked to speak about the Victoria Police Department. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised Ms. Taylor the case was still under investigation and was not open to discussion at this time. Citizen Mrs. Martha Manning thanked both Victoria Fire and EMS for their recent assistance during a car accident that involved her daughter.

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 April 2023 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 April 2023. Motion carried.

Chief Joel Manning presented the Police Report. He stated they had a busy month with 248 calls, five citations, four felony arrests and five adult misdemeanor arrests. VPD also made two domestic violence arrests with emergency protective orders. Officers Lt. Camden Lawson and Chief Joel Manning assisted Slurry Paving on April 16th with a road paving project and traffic control. VPD provided additional patrol and security checks from April 10th through April 14th for a tour group whose vehicles were parked at the intersection of Elmore Street and Court Street. VPD assisted with patrol on April 21st for Music in the Park as well as security for an event at the People's Community Center on April 29th. There were no further questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend presented the Fire Department Report. He stated they had a total of 107 responses with 55 calls at Station 2 and 52 calls at Station 7. Assistant Chief Townsend advised they've had more training as well as joint training with the Kenbridge Fire Department in the past few weeks. Treasurer, Diane Harding thanked the Victoria Fire and Rescue for their assistance and kindness during her in-laws' house fire. Chief Joel Manning also thanked the Victoria Fire and EMS for their assistance with his daughter's car accident. Assistant Chief Townsend advised the Truck-n-Tractor Pull is scheduled for Saturday, June 3, 2023. There were no questions regarding the Fire Department Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Mr. Newton advised on the FY24 Budget work session and questions that were asked regarding the water fund. Mr. Newton advised in FY20 we finished with a positive balance. However, in FY21 we ended with a \$70,000 negative balance due to Capital Improvements being over budget along with chemicals and water repairs. The biggest expense was our dam inspections at a cost of \$39,000. FY22 also finished with a negative balance due to Capital Improvements being over budget. Mr. Newton advised on FY23 budget, repairs at the water filter plant, shop water supplies (with a lot of water line repairs) and chemicals right now are all over budget. Mr. Newton stated we currently have 13 commercial customer accounts whereby seven accounts use less than the

minimum (10,000 gallons) monthly usage. After looking at the average overages, not including the Lunenburg Correctional Center, we average around 261,000 gallons over minimum across our 800 plus customers per month. During the work session, they discussed what it takes to make and treat water. Our cost per \$1,000 gallons is \$2.83 less than what it costs to make and treat water. If we were to increase that rate by 50% estimated revenue would be around \$4,500 per year versus a \$2.83 increase to around \$9,000 per year. Likewise on the sewer, we are currently \$1.76 under our overage charge. If we did a 50% increase that would generate \$3,000 revenue per year versus \$1.76 of approximately \$6,000 per year. Mr. Newton provided council with a spreadsheet with current rates for both commercial and residential customers. Mr. Newton recommended a 50% increase in our water overage rate to \$6.59 and carrying our sewer overage rate to \$8.30 per 1,000 gallons. For commercial customers, the current overage rate is \$6.08 per 1,000 gallons while the sewer overage rate is currently \$3.83 per 1,000 gallons. Mr. Newton advised water would increase to \$7.04 for overages and then there are two changes on the sewer with just under a \$5.00 increase in the base rate and then a \$4.42 increase for overages per 1,000 gallons. Mr. Newton advised there will be a lot of changes in the coming months to reduce some of our water usage and cut some of the costs down. There were no questions or comments from council.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to go into Public Hearing on the FY24 Budget. Mr. Newton said he would provide a copy of the Budget Synopsis if necessary. It has also been published in the local newspaper in the past two weeks. Mr. Newton also added there is a significant increase in the General Fund budget for the Police Department but part of that is regarding a police grant from DCJS.

No comments were made.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garratt to come out of Public Hearing on the FY24 Budget. Motion carried.

- b) Mr. Newton provided council with a letter regarding a policy the town has had for many years on water connection requirement whereby an ordinance cannot be found to back up the policy. Mr. Newton stated we have an ordinance that makes sewer connection mandatory and believes that we need to do the same on water line connection if the line is there. In Chapter 5, Public Utilities, Mr. Newton proposed adding Sec. 32-56- Water Connections required when available as a new ordinance that would cover this. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to hold a Public Hearing on the recommendation of a Water Connection Ordinance. Motion carried.
- c) Mr. Newton provided council a letter regarding the trail extension to the Underwood property where an MOU was entered with the understanding that the land would be used to extend the existing trail to the west. Mr. Newton was contacted by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation Preservation Trust Fund last week advising funding opportunities are available to fund the development of the trail extension and trailhead on the Nutbush Road. This would add about two more miles of developed trail. There is no match required and believe this is a good time for council to move forward with the grant which is due in June 2023. Mr. Newton stated the Underwood property/land would have to be in a conservation easement where it could not be sold, divided or sub-divided. Council approved for Mr. Newton to move forward with the VOF Preservation Trust Fund grant.
- d) Councilmember Jones has had citizens advise her they do not know all the councilmembers, Town Manager or Mayor of the town. Councilmember Jones recommended pictures of all councilmembers along with the Mayor and Town Manager on the town website. Mayor Smith agreed with Councilmember Jones' recommendation. Town Manager Newton advised we could also put their town email address under each picture and maybe look into expanding that next month for other town employees.

Town Manager Update:

Town Council Meeting

May 9, 2023

- a) Mr. Newton discussed the water system update. He advised most of the leaks have been fixed but still have some patching to do on the roads. Mr. Newton advised they are waiting on the bowl assembly at the water plant for the second finish pump and hopes that will be early to mid-June 2023 coming in so we can get the second pump back online. This way they can start alternating back and forth. Mr. Newton stated the pump that was rebuilt is doing much better and averaging about 465 gallons a minute, which is much better than the 300 or less gallons as before.
- b) Mr. Newton updated on the sewer project. The grit removal system and mechanical bar screen are now operational. The grit removal was a completely new assembly while the mechanical bar screen was a rebuild. Mr. Newton advised 50% of the pipe is in the ground and of the force main have about 2,500 feet in the ground so far. Mr. Newton is hoping for late June or early July completion. Also, the pumpstation design is complete and pumps are ordered. The generator has been ordered and we did have to increase the size because of a change in the pumps. Mr. Newton hopes to have a December 2023 completion of this project.
- c) Mr. Newton advised the new garbage truck is running great and Mr. James Hazelwood is doing really well. On the 2006 International garbage truck, the tippers have been installed on the back and now waiting on a lift gate cylinder for the completion of that project. Mr. Newton advised once that is completed, we will be looking to surplus the oldest garbage truck.
- d) Mr. Newton followed up on the wheelchair swing for the town park. They are approximately \$10,000 and he will continue looking for other options. Mr. Newton advised there are some pros and cons to leaving those in an open park.
- e) Mayor Smith advised he spoke with Mrs. Sonya Ragsdale with “Klassy Divas” regarding the possible fundraiser in the town park this fall. The logistics have been done by the organizer but Mr. Lewis has chosen not to do an event of that size this year. Mr. Lewis is still interested in having a smaller event maybe another year and wanted to thank council for letting them present the fundraiser and trying to bring people to the Town of Victoria.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved June 13, 2023

Rodney Newton, Town Manager