

Town Council Meeting

October 10, 2023

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on October 10, 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, and Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend. Absent was Chief Camden Lawson.

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

The invocation was given by Mayor Allen Smith 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 (1) FY24 Budget Amendment and (2) Enterprise Zone Incentive Change. Motion carried.

Town Manager Rodney Newton advised we received a grant from SERCAP for \$33,500.00 and because this exceeds 1% of our annual budget, we will need to make a budget amendment. This will be transferred to the ARPA sewer account. Mr. Newton also advised the Enterprise Zone Incentive currently states business license at no cost and proposed removing business licenses from the incentive list. Lunenburg County has already approved it and Kenbridge will be discussing at their next meeting.

No comments were made on the FY24 Budget Amendment or the Enterprise Zone Incentive change.

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 and grass cutting. Mayor Smith added Mr. Estes under Informational Items as item (f). Mr. Mike Hankins at 308 E. 4th Street, Kenbridge, VA asked to speak on Informational Item (e) Request for support of planning district funding. Mayor Smith complied.

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 September 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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

Chief Camden Lawson was absent due to a training session out of town. Mayor Smith reviewed the police report. 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 presented the Fire Department Report. He stated they had a total of 139 responses with 44 calls at Station 2 and 95 calls at Station 7. Assistant Chief Townsend advised they are working towards the upcoming Truck-n-Tractor Pull scheduled for this Saturday, October 14th. Also, Chief Townsend reminded council of the upcoming memorial service for the Southside Firemen's Association on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 6:00pm. They need to know those councilmembers who plan to attend to get a final count. Currently, one of the training classes is full and the other two are close to full. 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:

Town Council Meeting

October 10, 2023

- a) Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to accept the FY24 Budget Amendment. Motion carried.
- b) Motion was made Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the change to the Enterprise Zone Incentive. Motion carried.
- c) Mr. Newton provided council examples from several localities regarding alleys. Town Attorney, Robert Clement was unable to attend the meeting to answer any questions. After reviewing the information from the Town Manager, Councilmember Mattox recommended the Town of Farmville's ordinance. Councilmember Brame submitted his proposal to councilmembers and Councilmember Jones provided an ordinance from the State of Indiana for consideration. Mr. Newton advised guidance needs to be given to the Town Attorney from council. Mr. Clement recommended whatever council decides should be geared towards parking without obstruction or hinderance. Citizen Alvin Powell asked for a copy of what council will be working on. Mayor Smith explained once the Town Attorney gets guidance from council there will be a Public Hearing on the draft ordinance and citizens can state their concerns then.
- d) Mr. Newton provided a draft copy of the Mayor and Council Compensation Policy and recordkeeping for the treasurer for taking care of payroll for council. We will be using the signed Treasurer's Report for regular council meetings while for special and called meetings or work sessions will be recorded using an attendance form then submitted to the treasurer for documentation of who was in attendance. The attendance report will be kept by the treasurer for audit purposes. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the Mayor and Council Compensation Policy. Motion carried.
- e) Mr. Mike Hankins addressed council on support of the planning district funding through the CRC. Mr. Hankins was the Chairman for the CRC in 2021 and 2022. The PDC (Planning District Commission) is seeking to increase state funding by \$150,000.00 per PDC totaling \$3.5M per year in both FY25 and FY26. He provided council the level of state support and how much it had fallen below level in the past years. Mr. Hankins along with Mrs. Melanie Foster worked together and encourages town council to pass a resolution in support of the CRC and the VADPC (Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions) or by sending a letter to the governor. The letter needs to be in Richmond by November 17, 2023 to include additional state funding for regional planning district commissions. Mr. Newton agreed CRC is very beneficial to the town as we do pay dues to the CRC each year. Mr. Hankins stated the purpose of this is to improve working relationships in the federal government and getting funds for large projects is part of it. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the recommendation of letter of support to Governor Youngkin. Motion carried.
- f) Citizen Marvin Estes at 1413 4th Street addressed council on junk in yards and tall grass. He does not see where the ordinance is being enforced in town. Mr. Estes has been looking at junk sitting in the yard across the street for the past five years. There's tall grass on 3rd and Washington Street behind his house and Lee Avenue and 4th Street is also a mess. Mr. Newton advised a grass ordinance was enforced and put out in the town with some red tagged. Town Treasurer, Diane Harding will get with Chief Lawson regarding Mr. Estes's complaints. Councilmember Jones has complained too. Unfortunately, these are town wide issues.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton updated on the sewer project. We are still running on budget and will finish without borrowing any money. The manhole near the east wastewater plant has been replaced and the force main tied into it. Mr. Newton advised we are waiting on materials to start construction on the pumpstation as well as working with K.I.E.S. on the controls for power to that pumpstation. We do intend on making our deadline of December 31, 2023.
- b) Mr. Newton discussed the water plant. Last week, K.I.E.S. spent time fixing problems that have been broken for awhile. Two remote valves at the far end of the basin

Town Council Meeting

October 10, 2023

controlling the water coming in from the river have been broken for years. They have now been repaired so they can control coming through their SCADA system. Also, the sludge vacuums to keep the basins clean have been repaired and we replaced two heaters in the pump gallery downstairs that have been inoperative for awhile.

- c) Mr. Newton advised we are working to repair the water level float at the elevated water tank and replacing the antenna for the tornado warning.
- d) Mr. Newton advised Ms. Sharon Harding has moved out of town. She is currently a member on the Board of Zoning Appeals. We will need to bring back some recommendations to replace Ms. Harding on the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- e) Mr. Newton reminded council Autumn Days is Saturday, October 14, 2023. There will be a dedication at 10:30am at the LOVE sign to Mayor Watson. We have a bronze plaque on order that will withstand the weather but will not be here in time but do have another plaque to present. All councilmembers are advised to attend as this was something Mayor Watson worked to get put in place and fitting for the time of service she put into the town.
- f) Mr. Newton advised he is working with the developer to replace the tall sign at the road at the Dollar Tree/Family Dollar. He doesn't know the timeframe, but they are submitting the zoning permit now.
- g) Mr. Newton advised Fellowship Chair is replacing the roof on the administrative area and we have an IDA meeting Thursday, October 12, 2023. They are submitting plans to completely renovate the administrative area. Councilmember Brame inquired about the old Shoe Factory building. Mr. Newton advised that was sold to a vehicle export company out of Florida. Councilmember Jones questioned will there be jobs here. Mr. Newton believes it is just a father-son business and they found this building to be close enough to the Port of Richmond for shipping.
- h) Mr. Newton updated council on the commercial vehicle parking that was passed last month. He and Chief Lawson discussed and they will not be enforcing on Saturday, October 14th due to the Truck-n-Tractor Pull using the parking lot. Mr. Newton did give them guidelines for Saturday and Sunday and moving vehicles during the nighttime hours.
- i) Mrs. Sue Behler, Events Coordinator provided council the agenda for the upcoming Autumn Days event. Set-up will begin at 8:30am followed by the Welcome message from Mayor Smith. The pet parade will start at 9:30am and awards will be presented at 10:00am. The LOVE sign dedication to Mayor Watson at 10:30am. The Central High School Band will play from 9:30am until 10:30am followed by J.B. & Get Down Browns from 11:00am until 2:30pm. There will be six food vendors and approximately 30 craft vendors. Mrs. Behler also stated there will be a car show again this year.

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 November 14, 2023

Rodney Newton, Town Manager