

Town Council Meeting

April 14, 2020

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on April 14, 2020 in the Victoria/Lunenburg Community Centre with the Honorable Carol R. Watson, Mayor, presiding: Councilmember's in attendance were Ronald Mattox, Johnnie Brame, James G. Elam, Jr, Christopher Garrett, Sandra Jones and Chris Gill. Also attending was Town Manager Rodney Newton. Due to social distancing restrictions with the COVID-19 pandemic, Treasurer Diane Harding, Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Police Chief H. Keith Phillips and Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett were excused from attending the meeting.

Mayor Watson 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 Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to go in to Public Hearing for the following topics:

- Spot Blight Abatement Plan and Ordinance for 1907 10th Street
- Spot Blight Abatement Plan and Ordinance for 1600 Virginia Avenue
- Spot Blight Abatement Plan and Ordinance for 1606 Virginia Avenue
- Monthly sewer rate increase of \$2.00 for residential and commercial accounts and \$2,410.56 for the Department of Corrections account
- Special Use Permit approval for a manufactured home near the intersection of Virginia Avenue and West 5th Street (This is a joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission.)

There were no public comments on any of the items as advertised for the Public Hearing.

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

Mayor Watson asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Town Manager Rodney Newton asked to discuss the budget and the roof on the Municipal Building. Mayor Watson added Town Manager Rodney Newton as item 10 (e) for budget discussion and Item 11(d) for roof on the Municipal Building.

Mayor Watson asked if there were any Conflicts of Interest on matters being discussed on the agenda. No comments.

Motion was made by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to accept the March 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the Treasurer's report for March 2020. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to accept the Police Department Report as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Fire Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Mayor Watson advised we had 223 riders for the month of March 2020.
- b) Town Manager Rodney Newton presented council information on three structures in town that were blighted. Attempts over several years have been made through property maintenance violations to get the structures repaired with no success. A recommended Blight Abatement Plan for each address requiring the owners of record to remove the structures within 30 days was presented along with a Spot Blight Ordinance for each address. Mr. Newton requested adoption of the Blight Abatement Plans and Ordinances for the following structures:

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- a) 1907 10th Street
- b) 1600 Virginia Avenue
- c) 1606 Virginia Avenue

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to approve the Blight Abatement Plan and Ordinance for 1907 10th Street. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Blight Abatement Plan and Ordinance for 1600 Virginia Avenue. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the Blight Abatement Plan and Ordinance for 1606 Virginia Avenue. Motion carried.

- c) Councilmember Mattox presented a motion from the Victoria Planning Commission to approve the Special Use Permit for Mr. Charles Compton for a manufactured home near the intersection of W. 5th Street and Virginia Avenue. The conditions of the permit are that the home met all requirements of a manufactured home for Residential 1 Zoning with the exception of the roof pitch which would be allowed to be 3/12. Councilmember Brame seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- d) Motion was made by Rob Williams and seconded by J. B. Crenshaw to go into joint Public Hearing with the Victoria Town Council on the request of Mr. Charles Compton for a Special Use Permit to locate a manufactured home in the R-1 Residential Zoning District. Motion carried.
 - 1. No comments received.

Motion was made by Rob Williams and seconded by J. B. Crenshaw to come out of joint Public Hearing. Motion carried.

- e) Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the \$2.00 per month increase in residential and commercial sewer rates and \$2,410.56 per month for the Virginia Department of Corrections sewer account but that this will not be enacted until a later date following the COVID-19 pandemic. Motion carried.
- f) Town Manager Rodney Newton discussed the Fiscal Year 2021 budget process. Normally in April, there is a Budget Workshop but given the current status it was decided that the workshop would not be held and the Town Manager would send out budget information to all members of council.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:00pm. Motion carried.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton gave an update on the status of the town in regards to COVID-19. No significant issues at this time.
- b) Mr. Newton discussed Virginia Governor Northam's recommendation to move the local elections from May 2020 until November 2020. Virginia Municipal League has drafted a letter to the governor in opposition to this. This is a decision that will have to be decided by the General Assembly. The General Assembly reconvenes on April 22, 2020 to act on the governor's recommendation. The town has already received invoices for the May election and is being told that these will have to be paid even if the election is moved. Delegate Wright and Senator Ruff have both been contacted in regards to this and the financial hardship that it will create.

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- c) Mr. Newton updated council on the STEPS building. Bids are coming in and being evaluated for the roof replacement over the administrative section of the building. Work has been done by the Public Works Department to trim hedges and trees around the building.
- d) Town Manager Rodney Newton reported that there has been an ongoing roof leak in the rear of the municipal building that needs to be addressed before any more structural damage occurs. Mr. Newton requested permission to work with the Finance Committee to allocate the \$6,325.00 to replace the roof. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the request to replace the roof. Motion carried.
- e) Mr. Newton informed council the Deed of Gift from Centra to the Town of Victoria was almost complete. A copy has been provided to all councilmember's. Town Attorney Robert Clement was able to negotiate the limitations on use from 20 years to 10 years.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Carol R. Watson, Mayor

Approved May12, 2019

Rodney Newton, Town Manager