

Town Council Meeting

April 11, 2023

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on April 11, 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, and Police Chief Joel Manning. Absent was Treasurer Diane Harding and Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend.

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Elam followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Councilmember Garrett asked to speak about Bliss of Lunenburg and the Town Park. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Garrett to item 10(c) and as item 10(d) under Informational Items. Councilmember Mattox asked to speak about tourism. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Mattox as item 10(e) 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 March 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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

Chief Joel Manning presented the Police Report. He stated they had a busy month with 236 calls, 20 citations and one arrest. VPD assisted Town Manager Rodney Newton with information for submission of a DCJS grant. VPD assisted Lunenburg County Animal Control Officer, Ray Elliott in investigating numerous complaints of nuisance dogs, resulting in an Ordinance Violation being brought. Chief Manning thanked Sue Behler who has continued to identify areas of improvement in their case filing system. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised the Criminal Justice Department meets on May 11, 2023 and they will make the final decisions. Mr. Newton will let town council know at the June council meeting if what they submitted was authorized. There were no further 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.

Town Manager Rodney Newton presented the Fire Department Report. He stated they had a total of 128 responses with 55 calls at Station 2 and 73 calls at Station 7. Mr. Newton provided councilmembers a resolution for the VFR for approval to allow them to bill insurance companies for services provided at motor vehicle collisions, motor vehicle fires and structure fires. He stated only the insurance companies will be billed and those without insurance will not be billed. Motion was made by Councilmember Garrett and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the resolution to allow them to bill insurance companies. There were no questions regarding the Fire Department Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Gill to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Mr. Newton provided councilmembers with the FY22 Audit Report. There were no major issues found in the audit. Robinson, Farmer and Cox are still recommending that the town look at getting a Financial Consultant to help with year-end close-out transactions so when they come in, they are looking at true books for the year. Councilmember Garrett inquired about the cost. Mr. Newton advised he would bring it back to council next month.
- b) Mr. Newton discussed the FY24 Budget preparations. The Finance Committee received third quarter FY23 and have started working on FY24 budget. Mr. Newton asked councilmembers to consider a budget work session for May 2023. Councilmembers

agreed to meet on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00pm for the budget work session. Mr. Newton also sent out an email to all councilmembers regarding our water rates. Mr. Newton advised they need to discuss changes to the cost of water overages (over 3,000 gallons). Mr. Newton suggested evaluating through next year to see where we are.

- c) Mr. Newton provided a short presentation on a potential project for the park by the National Fitness Campaign for consideration. The National Fitness Campaign was started in 1979. They focus on parks and trails for outdoor gyms and making fitness an essential part of everyday lives and it's free. Mr. Newton stated the closest outdoor gym was in Henderson, NC. He stated even with the grant this would still be a \$150,000 project. With this being out of our range, Mr. Newton wants to look at ways to improve the town park. He advised repaving the walkways and adding some things to the park. If we could find another grant that could help, it would be an advantage as a lot of people use the park for fitness. Mr. Newton wants to start looking in the next few years at keeping the park up and maybe additions to benefit the community.
- d) Councilmember Garrett advised council that Bliss of Lunenburg fixed all the flowerpots on Main Street and wanted to thank them. Councilmember Garrett mentioned some things needing to be fixed at the town park. He stated there are around 10 to 15 swings that are broken and a big piece of metal in the middle of the playground. Councilmember Garrett can help with the repairs. Mr. Newton will work on ordering the new swings and check on the piece of metal in the park. Councilmember Garrett also asked on behalf of Bliss of Lunenburg if we could provide a wheelchair swing in the town park. Bliss of Lunenburg is willing to do a fundraiser to help with the cost of the new wheelchair swing if funds are not available in the park fund. Mr. Newton will check the cost of a wheelchair swing.
- e) Councilmember Mattox spoke last month on the tourism project but failed to mention the potential RV park campground, possibly camping at Lunenburg Lake and the Boy Scouts site at The Falls for possible town attractions.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton advised on March 20, 2023 we had a contractor boring out in front of STEPS and hit a major water line approximately six feet off the road. Our apologies for any inconvenience during this time. On March 21, 2023 the elevated tank was washed out and inspected. We started refilling during which we experienced an overnight pressure spike of 30 PSI which caused a lot of leaks around town. They still have not determined the cause of the pressure spike and the elevated tank went back online on March 25th after we got our results from the second samples. Mr. Newton advised there are still a few minor leaks around town. The next thing will be patching the holes we put in the roads.
- b) Mr. Newton provided the specifications for the sewer project. The certificate to start the new pumpstation was filed today, April 11, 2023 with DEQ. As of last week, 1500 feet of sewer line has been put underground, about halfway up under Grove Avenue and under Court and Main Streets with a 2" conduit bored under Main Street so we can run fiber to the east wastewater plant at the same time. We had a DEQ inspection on March 8, 2023 and the east wastewater plant was written up for issues with the air diffuser. The two big basins in front of the lab have hoses that go across the basin, and you can see air bubbling up whereas in other places there's no water moving at all. These were rebuilt in 2014 but have since ruptured causing dead spots in the system. Mr. Newton advised we must replace those. Everything that goes under the water except for the weights will run approximately \$10,000. We are waiting on the costs of the weights and the installation cost on that. In talking with the wastewater operators, they are trying to come up with a plan with a seven-to-eight-year life. Being six to seven years from now we can start to replace but do one basin one year and the other basin the next year. Mr. Newton hopes this will help us to reach the point where the plant is working sufficiently.
- c) Mr. Newton advised the new garbage truck is running great. The rear loader is in Chesapeake, VA to have the tipper installed. They found the safety switch on the trash body needs to be fixed and the rear main seal in the engine was leaking. Mr. Newton

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advised there hasn't been a lot of work done to the truck since 2006 and once these repairs are done, it should last for a considerable amount of time. They will only be running this rear loader once a week. Total cost of \$7,000 plus the tipper.

- d) Mr. Newton followed up on the equipment purchase from Mr. Ed Brown. We still have not picked up the equipment but have sold the backhoe for \$40,000.
- e) Mr. Newton advised we will be offering debris pickup the week of April 24th through April 28th in town for those cleaning up their yards.
- f) Councilmember Garrett inquired about the possible park fundraiser event in the town park. Mr. Lewis is planning to attend the May council meeting.
- g) Mr. Newton thanked Councilmember Jones and Mayor Smith for their assistance and attendance at the Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 8th in the Victoria Railroad Park. This year was not as large a crowd but all the eggs were found.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved May 9, 2023

Rodney Newton, Town Manager