

## Town Council Meeting

December 14, 2021

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on December 14, 2021 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, and Sandra Jones. Also attending were Town Treasurer Diane Harding, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Police Officer Cameron Lawson and Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett. Absent were Councilmember Chris Gill and Town Manager Rodney Newton.

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

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

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Councilmember Elam asked to speak about the park. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Elam as item (e) under Information Items.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any Conflicts of Interest on matters being discussed on the agenda. Councilmember Garratt wished to abstain from any matters on 1401 5<sup>th</sup> Street or A&J Produce. Also, Councilmember Brame wished to abstain from Information Item a. Dog Permit request for item (i) Green.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the November 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garratt to accept the Treasurer's report for November 2021. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith presented the Police Report. Councilmember Jones asked had they received any applications for the Full-Time Police Officer position. Treasurer, Diane Harding advised we have received a few applications. There were no further questions. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett gave the Fire/Rescue Department Report. He stated they had an average month at Station 7 with 48 calls. Station 2 in Victoria had 72 calls. Also the Financial Report reflects the Town of Kenbridge Allotment and an AFG-S Grant reimbursement. Some of the funds went towards the air system improvement inside the station. Assistant Chief Garratt advised a few expenses have come in from the recent Truck-n-Tractor Pull fundraiser. This will change the numbers for the Truck-n-Tractor Pull. Also, Assistant Chief Garrett stated they decided not to have their annual bucket brigade fundraiser this year. Instead, letters were sent to all the residents of the county that they support. Assistant Chief Garratt advised it has proven with the donations received thus far, more beneficial than the bucket brigade. There were no questions regarding the Financial Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

### Informational Items:

#### a) Dog Permit request

- i. Mayor Smith discussed the Dog Permit request that was tabled from the November council meeting for 2585 Sandy Lane. Ms. Green was not present. Councilmember Jones discussed the ordinance as citizens have brought their concerns to her and stated we do not enforce the ordinance. Councilmember Mattox has also received a lot of complaints over the past about these dogs. He advised the citizens to file a complaint at the town office. To date, there have been none. Councilmember Brame abstained. Two votes were to deny the dog permit request for 2585 Sandy Lane. Two voted in favor of the dog permit request. The tie vote was decided by Mayor Smith to deny the dog permit request.
- ii. Mayor Smith discussed a second dog permit request for 1524 Mecklenburg Avenue. Mr. David King and Ms. Taylor Newton were present. Motion was made

by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the dog permit request. Councilmember Garratt opposed the request. Motion carried.

- b) Mayor Smith discussed the following ordinances presented to council for review:
- i. Inoperable Motor Vehicle.
  - ii. Debris, grass and junk.
  - iii. Grass and weed.

Councilmember Mattox recommended changing the remediation for both Inoperable Motor Vehicles and Debris, grass and junk to within fifteen (15) days from date of notice.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garratt to hold a Public Hearing at January's council meeting to accept the updated ordinances. Motion carried.

- c) Street Committee-street lights:
- i. Mayor Smith discussed the street light request at 2540 Lee Avenue for Mr. Ricky Lyles. Councilmember Jones opposed the street light request as it's beyond the end of state maintenance and the house is not near the road. Councilmember Mattox agreed and recommended a security light be put up by the homeowner. Motion was made by Councilmember Garratt to accept the street light request at 2540 Lee Avenue. There was no second to the motion. No action taken.
  - ii. Mayor Smith discussed another street light request for Main Street near the Dominion electrical substation and Food Lion parking lot. This was mentioned as being an area of concern. The project would require the installation of a transformer to power the light on the street and sidewalk. The initial cost to add this light would be \$3,296.32. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the street light request for Main Street between the Dominion substation and Food Lion parking lot. Motion carried.
- d) Mayor Smith discussed the 2022 Holiday Schedule. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the 2022 Holiday schedule. Motion carried.
- e) Councilmember Elam discussed the recent vandalism at the park. The caboose windows were knocked out, fire extinguisher was set off inside along with other things broken inside. Councilmember Elam spoke with Town Manager Newton and has posted a reward of \$1,000 for information. Councilmember Elam stated the cameras have finally been redone as well. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to pay the reward of \$1,000 for information. Motion carried.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mayor Smith advised the Property Maintenance update request was in their council packet. No discussion.
- b) Mayor Smith updated on the Marshall Pump Station generator project. Kenbridge Industrial installed the generator for \$3,000. This completes the generator project. No discussion.
- c) Mayor Smith advised the VDOT traffic study report on Mecklenburg Avenue and Mecklenburg Street was also in their council packets for review. Councilmember Elam stated it was a very good report. Councilmember Jones also stated they have posted the signs. No discussion.
- d) Mayor Smith advised information on new variable speed limit signs was also in their council packets. Through the use of the Bryne Justice Local Law Enforcement Grant funds, one of these signs has been ordered with an additional mounting bracket to allow the sign to be moved. This sign will be placed on Mecklenburg Avenue. A separate Bryne Justice Grant has been submitted to purchase 5 more of the devices. Mayor Smith

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mentioned addressing the General Assembly on putting cameras on the speed limit signs. No discussion.

- e) Mayor Smith advised the next DEQ Consent Order of Compliance is due January 1, 2022. An update was in their council packets. No discussion.
- f) Mayor Smith advised on the Water Storage Tank Annual Inspection report. The exterior of the tank is in excellent condition. The interior of the tank is in satisfactory condition. No discussion.
- g) Mayor Smith discussed 2021 Tax status for the Town of Victoria. Taxes were due on December 5, 2021. Councilmember Mattox asked about the outstanding motor vehicle license fees. Treasurer, Diane Harding advised DMV stops do not go on until January 9, 2022 for unpaid PP taxes. This does not apply to unpaid RE taxes.
- h) Councilmember Jones asked new P/T Police Officer Camdon Lawson to introduce himself. Mr. Lawson moved to Victoria in August 2021 from Mecklenburg County. He worked for the Brunswick Sherriff's department for 13 years. He is currently a Funeral Director for Crowder-Hite-Crews Funeral Home in South Hill and joined the Victoria PD part-time in October 2021. Mayor Smith and town council welcomed Officer Lawson.

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

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Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

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Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved January 11, 2022

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Rodney Newton, Town Manager