

Town Council Meeting

December 9, 2025

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 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 and Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel. Absent was Treasurer Diane Harding, Chief Camden Lawson and Fire Chief Frankie Tanner.

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

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to go into Public Hearing on the following:

- a. Water and Sewer rate adjustment proposal.
- b. Disposition of jointly owned airport real estate for a potential lease on an authorized offeror.

Mr. Newton advised that due to increases in chemical costs and we have a significant project coming up at the water plant to replace some basins, we needed to start looking at rate adjustments. He discussed at last month's council meeting that 72% of our customers use less than 3,000 gallons a month. With this plan, there will be a flat base rate for having the meter and a per gallon price which will not penalize those customers who use less than 3,000 gallons a month. This will also eliminate multiple different rate structures now for residential, commercial, etc. We would have just one flat water rate and sewer rate.

Mr. Newton advised on the disposition of jointly owned airport real estate for potential lease. A proposed offer is for 24 acres and the DOA (Department of Aviation) says there will be no impact on the airport operations from this.

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

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Mr. Mike Walker with the IDA asked to speak. Mayor Smith added Mr. Walker as item (f) under Information 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 November 2025 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 November 2025. Motion carried.

Chief Camden Lawson was absent. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised Officer Boshier is scheduled to graduate on December 17, 2025. There were no questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Frankie Tanner was absent. Mr. Newton advised Chief Tanner had an accident in station Friday night and is actually undergoing surgery on Thursday on one of his fingers. Chief Tanner will have the reports for council next month.

Mayor Smith asked about the Committee Reports. There were none..

Informational Items:

- a) Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the Water and Sewer rate adjustment proposal. Motion carried.

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- b) Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to approve the disposition of jointly owned airport property for potential lease. Motion carried.
- c) Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the 2026 Holiday Schedule as submitted. Motion carried.
- d) Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the 2026 Council Meetings Schedule as submitted. Motion carried.
- e) Mr. Newton presented the Community Events update. Mr. William Pernel was absent. Town Manager Newton advised they had another big crowd for Skate Night on Friday, November 21st. Benchmark Community Bank provided hamburgers and hot dogs. Our final Skate Night will be Friday, December 12th from 6pm until 9:30pm. Unfortunately, the Christmas Parade was a little smaller this year because of the weather. Also, thanks to Carter Machinery for donating two light towers to give more light on Main Street.
- f) Mr. Mike Walker with the IDA advised council they will be making their first payment of \$70,000.00 by the end of December 2025. He stated payments are scheduled for the next five years. Mr. Walker wanted council to consider possibly creating an Economic Development Fund for the town. The town will have for future development opportunities that come up. This would be the towns funds and they can then decide what to do with it. Mr. Walker thanked council for their support of the IDA over the years and will follow up with a letter to the town.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton updated on the water plant. Southern Corrosion came in and power washed and cleaned both the basins. Since they were in much better shape than in the past, we are actually going to skip a year and they will come back in two years and washout again. Mr. Newton advised that day while the plant was down, they were able to get several significant maintenance projects done. They will be working on more new instrumentation installations and the Asset Management Plan they have initiated. Mr. Newton advised we were the recipient of a \$30,000.00 VDH grant that will fund an engineering firm to come here and help us do inventory, an assessment of our assets, assign values to them, tending to those that are critical and also assist us in using that information to start an actual Capital Improvement Plan for budget purposes. Mr. Newton discussed the prison water meter. Since last month, he has gotten more information and able to ascertain a copy of the plans for that line when it was built in the 1990's. He advised it's not a 6-inch line, but an 8-inch line which increased the meter cost from approximately \$4,500 to \$5,000 to a cost of \$10,000. Mr. Newton will need council's approval to continue on with this project.
- b) Mr. Newton advised we had an issue when Matthew Schumaker got into the plant. The ground tank was 25 feet lower than what it normally is. There was a small hole in a 2-inch pipe which costs us 144,000 gallons in a matter of 12 hours. On Monday, they spent chasing valves, trying to get valves to operate. This is tapped straight off an 8-inch line coming from the plant. They finally got two valves and were able to slow it down and open three hydrants so the guys could actually work. This was another case where something was put in and the valve was not put in the right place, so you couldn't isolate it. Thankfully, it only fed two houses on the other side of Nottoway Blvd.
- c) Mr. Newton announced Matthew Schumaker's last day will be December 30, 2025 at the water plant. He will stay on as a P/T employee and is still planning to pursue getting his certification. Mr. Schumaker will be running the family-owned business full-time in Kenbridge.
- d) Mr. Newton discussed Blighted Property. He continues to work on several properties but wanted to talk about one on Park Avenue. A Notice of Violation was sent on October 14th but was returned unclaimed on November 8th. The Victoria Police Department has been working to remove several vehicles, which some appeared while working on this. The house burned in March 2024. He met with the Commissioner of Revenue and the

assessed value for the lots and structures is \$8,100.00. Mr. Newton would like to proceed with spot blight on this. Councilmember Jones mentioned she said years ago we have a lot of blighted property in town. Mr. Newton agreed and will continue working on them. Mr. Newton also advised Bennie Newcombs' house that burned on the corner of Court Street and Tidewater Avenue will be torn down. They are in the process of getting bids from the contractors and dealing with insurance issues. Mr. Newton will proceed with Mr. Reenie, Town Attorney to start the spot blight process and possible eminent domain on Park Avenue and bring back to council at next month's meeting.

- e) Mr. Newton advised they replaced the manhole at 6th Street and Washington Avenue. This is where the DEQ contractor believes the gasoline was getting into our sewer system. It was a brick manhole structure that wasn't sealed into the manhole and think it was getting in around the pipe. The cost of the manhole was \$3,400.00 and DEQ is reimbursing us with the cost of that structure. Mr. Newton and Mr. Grayson Townsend will be meeting with DEQ tomorrow morning in Richmond.
- f) Mr. Newton advised they are anticipating closing on 1220 Main Street (old town shop) by the end of the week or first of next week.
- g) Mr. Newton thanked all the town employee's for doing a good job, but a special thanks to the Public Works department. Since last Monday, December 1st, they took care of a big leak on Nottoway Blvd., put a manhole in on 6th Street and Washington Avenue, got barricades open for the Christmas Parade and midnight Monday, December 8th, every street in the Town of Victoria was passable by 9:30 Tuesday morning from the Post Office to Benchmark Community Bank. This included sidewalks, parking spaces. They cleared the side streets in town the rest of the day.
- h) Mr. Newton discussed some organizational changes at the water plant. He is planning to implement on January 1, 2026 a new structure than in the past. We had a supervisor for both the Water Plant and Wastewater Plant, so Mr. Grayson Townsend will be the main supervisor for both plants. Mr. Townsend has been filling this position since May 2025. Mr. Newton has met with both the Personnel and Finance Committee. Mr. Townsend has requested as we move forward with this, that we add another position at the wastewater plant. We will start advertising for this along with the Water Plant position for interviews in January 2026. The wastewater position will be a part-time position until July 1st and then convert to a full-time position.
- i) Mr. Newton advised council we will have our annual Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 17th for town employee's at the town office.
- j) Mr. Newton provided council recommendations for Christmas bonuses for the employee's. Councilmember Brame asked to add the Town Manager, Rodney Newton, at the supervisory rate. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the Christmas bonuses. Motion carried.
- k) Mr. Newton discussed our recent joining of the VML/VACO investment pool. We are looking at some of our investments to see if we can get a better rate or maybe split some between local and them. We've also got some equipment needs and will be looking at getting some prices for Public Works and using one of the programs they have that is a leasing purchase program that extends it a bit longer than normal traditional loans. Mr. Newton will provide more information on this after the first of the year.
- l) Mr. Newton asked for council's approval on an additional Christmas Holiday since it falls on a Thursday. Both the County of Lunenburg and Town of Kenbridge offices will be closed on Friday, December 26th. Mr. Newton requested an additional day off for the town employees. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the additional Christmas Holiday closing on Friday, December 26th. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Gill to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved January 13, 2026

Rodney Newton, Town Manager