

Town Council Meeting

February 9, 2021

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on February 9, 2021 in the Victoria-Lunenburg Community Centre with the Honorable Allen D. Smith, Mayor, presiding: Councilmembers in attendance were Ronald Mattox, Johnnie Brame, James G. Elam, Jr., Sandra Jones, Christopher Garrett and Chris Gill. Also attending were Town Manager Rodney Newton, Treasurer Diane Harding, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Police Chief H. Keith Phillips. Absent was Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett.

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

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

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Councilmember Jones asked to speak about alley upkeep and roadway repairs. Mayor Allen added Councilmember Jones as item 11(d). Town Manager Rodney Newton asked to speak about a request for a Joint Public Hearing for March meeting with both town council and the Victoria Planning Commission for a Conditional Use Permit for a solar project. Mayor Allen added Mr. Newton as item 11(e).

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the January 2021 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 January 2021. Motion carried.

Chief H. Keith Phillips gave the Police Report. Chief Phillips stated they had a slow month with 41 calls, 3 citations and no arrests. Mr. Newton mentioned the police department is currently operating with three FT employees and only one PT employee. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Rodney Newton gave the Fire/Rescue Department Report. He stated they had another busy month with a total of 149 calls. Station 2 had 87 calls while Station 7 had 62 calls. Mr. Newton advised they paid their annual insurance billing in the month of January and is expecting reimbursement for a grant for protective equipment for COVID-19 in February. There were no questions regarding the budget. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Mr. Newton advised council of needing to reappoint two members of the Industrial Development Authority (IDA). They are Mr. Mike Walker for a term of October 1, 2020 through October 1, 2024 and Mr. James A. Dayton for a term of April 1, 2020 through April 1, 2024. Mr. Jeremiah Fix was recently appointed. Motion was made by

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Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to reappoint Mr. Walker and Mr. Dayton retroactively. Motion carried.

- b) Mr. Newton advised council of needing to reappoint retroactively members of the Victoria Planning Commission. Mr. J.B. Crenshaw for a term of March 1, 2019 through March 1, 2023. Mr. Raymond Holliday for a term of June 1, 2020 through June 1, 2024 and Mr. Rob Williams for a term of June 10, 2020 through June 10, 2024. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to reappoint members of the Victoria Planning Commission. Motion carried. Mr. Newton advised councilmember Mattox is an elective member as well however, Ms. Ellen Neal has asked to be replaced on the Planning Committee. Mr. Newton recommended councilmembers bring names to the March town council meeting to appoint for this vacancy.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to go in to a Joint Public Hearing with the Victoria Planning Commission on a Conditional Use Permit Application submitted by Ms. Chiffon Robeson to operate a general business office at 2510 Washington Ave from an out building located on the property. Motion carried. Motion was made by Mr. Raymond Holliday and seconded by Mr. Rob Williams to go in to Public Hearing with the Town Council. Motion carried.

Mr. Newton advised Ms. Robeson was present tonight and interested in operating a general business office out of an accessory building located on her property. Ms. Robeson addressed council and the Planning Commission with any questions. Mr. Newton advised adjoining neighbors had no oppositions to the business office. Ms. Robeson stated it will be used for general business office purposes and dispatching loads for long haul truck drivers with no interruption to the neighborhood. Ms. Robeson plans to hire one or two people to help with the business. Councilmember Brame asked about tractor trailers parking on the street. Ms. Robeson advised there will be no parking on the street.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to come out of the Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission. Motion carried. Motion was made by Mr. Raymond Holliday and seconded by Mr. Rob Williams to come out of the Joint Public Hearing with Town Council. Motion carried.

- c) Councilmember Jones addressed council regarding bushes in the alley's and could the town cut them back. Mrs. Jones has received complaints of the bushes being in the way when cutting grass, etc. She questioned if the town could not cut them, maybe pay someone to do it. Councilmember Jones also addressed council about street conditions on 10th Street and spoke with Councilmember Mattox who is on the Property Committee prior to the meeting. The road is in terrible condition. Town Manager Newton stated 10th Street had been referred to the Street Committee to follow-up on. He advised we need to put in some pipe there and has not talked to VDOT yet as we have to bring up to certain standards before they will start maintaining. Mr. Newton advised it's still in the works. He also advised per town ordinance, landowners are responsible for half way of the alley. There is a provision for the town to take care of it but then gets billed to the property

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owner. Councilmember Gill recommended contacting the property owner(s) to take care of first.

- d) Councilmember Mattox reported the Victoria Planning Commission recommended Victoria Town Council to approve the request for Ms. Robeson for the Conditional Use Permit at 2510 Washington Avenue with the following conditions:
1. obtain a business license
 2. no street parking of a tractor truck on 14th St. or Washington Avenue; must be parked off street
 3. no trailer parking allowed on or off 14th St. or Washington Avenue
 4. no overnight parking of tractor trailers.

Councilmember Garrett questioned overnight parking at the business as we allow overnight parking for residents at their home. Councilmember Mattox stated they were thinking about the through traffic on Nottoway Blvd down to 14th Street while having a tractor truck parked there may impede traffic flow. Councilmember Garrett questioned overnight parking would be off street on adjacent property of Ms. Robeson. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to approve the Conditional Use Permit request for 2510 Washington Ave. Motion carried.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton updated council on recent wastewater facilities and provided a report which was submitted to DEQ. It was accepted and we have heard no negative comments. Mr. Newton advised a few things have been done over the past couple of weeks. At the Marshall Pump Station, town employees installed a manhole and just outside the Park Avenue Pump Station, they replaced the brick manhole last week. Both W. 7th and Lunenburg Avenue are ready but weather has hindered this process. Mr. Newton stated we are now under a consent order from DEQ. Our interim copper limits with the east wastewater plant are back to 11 milligrams per liter so we can stay in compliance while we make the transition.
- b) Mr. Newton advised council on the General Assembly recent updates that has passed the House of Delegates and referred to the Senate. They will start their 11 day extended session tomorrow, February 10, 2021. Some of the bills include:
- 11.57 – will shift all city/town elections from May to November starting after January 1, 2022. This passed the Senate and has gone to the House Committee on Privileges and Alliances
 - 17.43 – reduces from seven to five number of members appointed to the IDA for the Town of Victoria and Town of Kenbridge and reduces the quorum requirements to three members. This passed House and Senate. Waiting for Governors signature.
 - 11.71 – regarding Statement of Economic Interest. This gives an exception to population under 25,000. This passed the Senate and now in the House Committee on general laws. Mr. Newton encouraged Delegate Wright to vote to pass.

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- c) Mr. Newton updated council on the recent Cares Act Fund recently awarded to the town for lost revenue during March 1st through December 20th due to COVID-19. The town was awarded \$5,921.29 and has received the check from the county. Town Treasurer, Diane Harding, is applying funds to delinquent water bill accounts excluding garbage usage.
- d) Mr. Newton advised the Victoria Restaurant is open as of today, February 9, 2021. They are opened Tuesday through Saturday from 8:00am until 3:00pm. Also, 1708 Main Street is currently renovating the upstairs to be five efficient hotel style rooms. The name will be the “Lofts of Waverly” and are anticipating end of March or first of April 2021 they will be ready for use. Councilmember Gill questioned parking for the residents. Mr. Newton advised parking will be at the municipal parking lot across from the library or behind the building.
- e) Mr. Newton advised a zoning permit was issued for the old Bridgforth building located at 1418 6th Street and interior renovations will start Monday, February 15, 2021. This will be the new Southern Dominion Dental Clinic. Mr. Newton also advised at 1508 K V Road (Lunenburg Medical Center) a large addition will be constructed for additional exam rooms. They were recently awarded a grant and Kenbridge Construction will be handling the construction project.
- f) Mr. Newton advised council that work is still being done at the old Napa building. Unfortunately, we did lose a business on Main Street. The hair salon “Teased” has moved across town at the old “Timmy’s Scoops” building.
- g) Mr. Newton advised the county is advertising for a Full-Time Economic Developer. Currently, Mr. Glenn Millican is serving in the position as a Part-Time employee. Deadline for applications is Friday, February 12, 2021.
- h) Mr. Newton advised Councilmember Brame collected information on Mayor Watson to be published in the VML/VTC magazine next month.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve Mr. Newtons request for a joint Public Hearing for a solar project at next months meeting.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved March 9, 2021

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Rodney Newton, Town Manager