

Town Council Meeting

July 11, 2023

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on July 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, Treasurer Diane Harding, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, and Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend. Absent was Lieutenant Camden Lawson.

Mayor Smith 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.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Councilmember Mattox asked for closed session regarding Personnel matters. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Mattox to Closed Session. Town Manager Rodney Newton asked to add request for vacation and conveyance of property on W. 2nd Street with intersection of Roanoke Avenue. Mayor Smith added Mr. Newton as item 10(e) under Informational Items. Town Manager Rodney Newton asked to speak about the LOVE Sign in the park. Mayor Smith added Mr. Newton as item 10(c) under Informational Items. Mr. Newton also asked to speak about the a/c unit in the town office. Mayor Smith added Mr. Newton as item 10(d) 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 June 2023 regular meeting minutes and the special meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the Treasurer's report for June 2023. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised this was the final report for FY22-23. Motion carried.

Lt. Camden Lawson was absent due to a call. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised another police vehicle has been ordered and should be ready by mid-August 2023. They are still working to get IT computers installed in each of the police vehicles. There were no 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.

Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend presented the Fire Department Report. He stated they had a total of 145 responses with 68 calls at Station 2 and 77 calls at Station 7. Assistant Chief Townsend advised repairs were made to the Squirt 2 truck and it is back in service. Also, Victoria Fire and Rescue will be hosting the Southside Virginia Volunteer Firefighters Association Fire School with classes on both Saturday, October 28th and Sunday, October 29th. There were no questions regarding the Fire Department Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Mr. Newton requested council's approval for road closures for the upcoming Autumn Days Festival on Saturday, October 14, 2023 and Christmas Parade on Friday, December 1, 2023. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the road closures. Motion carried.
- b) Mr. Newton provided council a request for vacation and conveyance on W. 2nd Street to build a modular home. Ms. Amber Thornton is requesting vacation and conveyance from W. 2nd Street to the right-of-way, in the alley way to Roanoke Avenue. Mr. Newton advised by state code and town policy, the Property Committee will need to review the property. Councilmember Garrett and Councilmember Jones will review and report back to council at the August council meeting.

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- c) Mr. Newton advised the LOVE sign has been completed and in the town park. Mr. Newton recommended a dedication at the Autumn Days Festival in October 2023 to Mayor Carol Watson, as this was a project she originally started, in honor of her years of service to the town. Council approved the recommendation and Mr. Newton will be working to get a plaque to put at the LOVE sign.
- d) Mr. Newton discussed the air conditioning unit at the town office. The unit is over 30 years old and has quit working. Due to changes in technology and materials, Mr. Newton advised that we need a new unit. Jack & Son Refrigeration Service, who have done service work for the town for many years gave a price of approximately \$21,000.00 to replace the whole system. Mr. Newcomb advised that the unit is in stock and will be installed as soon as it's delivered to him. Mr. Newton has discussed this with the Finance Committee and is looking at appropriating from the General Fund to this year's budget to accommodate the purchase.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton updated on the sewer project. The force main is at Jefferson Avenue and we have about 750 feet of pipe to lay in the ground before connection to the manhole. We will still have the pressure testing and relief valves to put back in before moving onto construction at the pumpstation.
- b) Mr. Newton reminded council that paving on Main Street to Twin Cemetery Road has started. They are milling to the concrete and into the concrete some and anticipates paving to begin next week. Sometime after that, 8th Street between Main Street and Washington Avenue will be milled and paved. Then Washington Avenue from Nottoway Blvd. to the town limits later this summer.
- c) Mr. Newton reminded everyone due to weather on Friday, June 16th, Music in the Park was cancelled with the Tobacco Road Band. They will be playing now on Friday, August 4th starting at 6:00pm.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to go into closed session for discussion on:

- a. In accordance with VA Code §2.2-3711(A)(1) on Personnel Matters for the discussion of Police Chief for the Town of Victoria as well as Town Manager's evaluation.

CLOSED SESSION July 11, 2023

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to return to regular session according to Code of VA §2.2-3712 to certify that only business matters identified in the motion to convene and those lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were discussed. By show of hands, all voted unanimous yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to appoint Lt. Camden Lawson as Chief of Police at the salary specified and to adopt the new organizational chart effective August 1, 2023. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to increase the town manager's salary effective August 1, 2023 as discussed. Motion carried.

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

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved August 8, 2023

Rodney Newton, Town Manager