

Town Council Meeting

June 13, 2023

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on June 13, 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, Lieutenant Camden Lawson and Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend. Absent was Treasurer, Diane Harding.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to go into Public Hearing on the proposed Town of Victoria Water Connection Ordinance. Motion carried.

No comments were made.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to come out of Public Hearing on the Town of Victoria Water Connection Ordinance. Motion carried

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.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Councilmember Brame had a donation for the railroad museum. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Brame as item 11(d) under Informational Items. Town Manager Rodney Newton asked to add Susan Behler, Events Coordinator, to present a Veteran's Banner project. Mayor Smith added Mrs. Behler as item 11(e) under Informational Items. Town Manager Rodney Newton asked to speak about the First Citizens ATM machine in front of the town office and requested a closed session for disposition of old town property. Mayor Smith added Mr. Newton as item 11(f) under Informational Items. Mayor Smith also asked to present a token to the Victoria Police Department.

Citizen Wayne Hoover asked to speak about the Victoria pool. Mayor Smith added Mr. Hoover as item 11 (g) 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 May 2023 regular meeting minutes and the special meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the Treasurer's report for May 2023. Motion carried.

Lt. Camden Lawson presented the Police Report. He stated they had a busy month with 167 calls, seven citations, three felony arrests. Lt. Lawson advised there has been a change in the department. Recently, all firearms in service have been qualified along with all police officers. DCJS has completed a small audit and is working to clear a few minor things. He advised all reports are up to date. Lt. Lawson discussed re-opening the Victoria PD Facebook page for alerts and advertisements (National Night Out). Councilmembers agreed with Lt. Lawson to proceed with the Victoria PD Facebook page. There were no further questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith presented Officer Behler and Officer White with a token for their recent graduation and full-time employment with the Town of Victoria Police Department. Officer Beagle was not able to attend. Mayor Smith asked them to keep up the good work and work with their new leadership. Mayor Smith advised be responsible and respectful and always remember they are the face of the Town of Victoria.

Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend presented the Fire Department Report. He stated they had a total of 141 responses with 73 calls at Station 2 and 68 calls at Station 7. Assistant Chief Townsend advised the Truck-n-Tractor Pull held on June 3, 2023 was a big success and thanked

Town Council Meeting

June 13, 2023

everyone who participated in the event. There were no questions regarding the Fire Department Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Mr. Newton provided council the FY24 Proposed Budget that was discussed at the May council meeting and Public Hearing. Mr. Newton recommended increasing both water and sewer coverage rates for residential customers with the water coverage rate going to \$6.59 per 1,000 gallons and sewer coverage rate to \$8.30 per 1,000 gallons. For commercial customers, water rate coverage increasing to \$7.04 per 1,000 gallons and sewer coverage rate to \$4.42 per 1,000 gallons. Mr. Newton advised the minimum sewer rate for commercial customers would increase from \$30.33 to \$35.00 per month. Mr. Newton requested a motion to adopt the FY24 Proposed Budget and approved the utility rates as presented.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to adopt the FY24 Proposed Budget and to increase the utility rates as presented. Motion carried.

- b) Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the Water Connection Requirement ordinance to Chapter 5, Public Utilities, Sec. 32-56- when town water is available. Motion carried.
- c) Mr. Newton requested two vehicles that are ready to be declared surplus:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. 2007 Ford Explorer | VIN#1FMEU73E37UB64917 |
| 2. 1991 International Garbage Truck | VIN#1HTSCNPN9MH384434 |

Motion was made by Councilmember Garratt and seconded by Councilmember Gill to surplus the two vehicles. Motion carried. Mr. Newton will advertise on Gov.deals.com.

- d) Councilmember Brame found an old C-1 caboose light from the old Virginia Railroad and donated to the town. Councilmember Brame asked if people have anything railroad related, they can donate the items to the railroad amusement park as well.
- e) Mrs. Sue Behler, Events Coordinator presented council a Hometown Hero's Banner Program which honors current and former residents in the community who have served in the Armed Forces, EMS, Fire and Police Departments. Mrs. Behler provided prices for double-sided flags and a two-person banner. All banners will be displayed on Main Street starting mid-January until mid-June and will be theirs to keep unless donated to the town. The town currently has 34 poles. Mr. Newton advised the banners will be made by the same company that currently makes our banners. Motion was made by Councilmember Gill and seconded by Councilmember Brame to proceed with the Hometown Hero's Banner Project. Motion carried.
- f) Mr. Newton advised the First Citizens Bank ATM machine will no longer be in operation after August 7, 2023. Mr. Newton requested councils permission to send a letter to First Citizens Bank to reconsider and keep the ATM operational. Councilmember Gill asked if not, we could possibly offer another bank. Mr. Newton is looking for the contract for the ATM from when the building was bought.
- g) Citizen Mr. Wayne Hoover from 2023 9th Street addressed council on the Victoria pool. Recently, J&R Autoworks moved from 1610 Main Street taking a lot of vehicles out of the parking lot. Mr. Hoover respectfully asked council to consider allowing that parking area for the Victoria pool and not as a junk yard in the future. Motion was made by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Elam to revert parking back to town for use of the Victoria pool. Motion carried.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton discussed the water system update. He advised the second finish pump was rebuilt and put back online. Mr. Newton stated the output is back where it should be and to the point they're having to shut down twice a day. Between the two pumps, we are in

Town Council Meeting

June 13, 2023

much better shape with water coming back into town. Mr. Newton advised they are still working on some issues as some are control issues while some are process issues. Mr. Newton was happy to announce Mr. Bill Gary is back at work.

- b) Mr. Newton updated on the sewer project. The force main construction is crossing Washington Avenue and within 1,000 feet of terminating from the manhole. Mr. Newton hopes by mid-July 2023 it can be pressure tested and relief valves put back in then move on to construction at the west pumpstation. There were no questions regarding the water or sewer projects.
- c) Mr. Newton updated on the 2006 International garbage truck. The tippers have been installed and the truck runs on Tuesdays and Fridays to the businesses where the new garbage truck cannot pick up. Mr. Newton advised the expenses came in more than what he anticipated on the garbage truck but has extended the life of the truck for many years. Mr. Newton complimented Mr. James Hazelwood for adapting very well to the new garbage truck.
- d) Mr. Newton advised the signs for the new Family Dollar/Dollar Tree have been delivered. They changed the entrance from the original entrance off the side to the Main Street entrance of the parking lot. In talking with the developer, they are still working on potential spaces and once they are secured, they will start renovating those spaces.
- e) Mr. Newton advised on Main Street to Twin Cemetery Road, paving is scheduled for the month of July. Mr. Kevin Smith has advised they will be milling to the concrete and into the concrete some. It will probably take a week, but he does not have a definite date yet. Next will be 8th Street between Main Street and Washington Avenue will be milled and paved and then Washington Avenue from Nottoway Blvd. to the town limits.
- f) Mr. Newton reminded everyone Music in the Park will be Friday, June 16, 2023 with the Tobacco Road Band starting at 6:00pm.
- g) Councilmember Jones inquired about the building where the new Family Dollar/Dollar Tree is located needing work done on the inside. Mr. Newton advised they are in bad shape due to moisture from over the years, but the plan is once they can secure a tenant, they will install a new roof and clean the interior. They did secure the building through Rocky Top Locksmith and rekeyed and locked all the front doors.

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

- a. In accordance with VA Code §2.2-311(A)(3) for the discussion of the future disposition of town property located at the corner of Main Street and 1st Street.

CLOSED SESSION June 13, 2023

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame 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.

Discussion followed and new businesses in town and the notification of council regarding new business. The town manager will look into options for notifying council of new businesses in town.

There was discussion of games of skill and any regulations on them. The town manager will investigate these and bring a report back to council.

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

Town Council Meeting

June 13, 2023

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved July 11, 2023

Rodney Newton, Town Manager