

Town Council Meeting

June 9, 2020

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on June 9, 2020 in the Victoria-Lunenburg Community Centre Town Municipal building with the Honorable Carol R. Watson, 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, Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Police Chief H. Keith Phillips and Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett. Absent was Treasurer Diane Harding.

Mr. Gordon Erby, Lunenburg County Circuit Court Clerk, conducted the swearing in of recently elected Councilmember Ronald Mattox, Councilmember Sandra Jones, Councilmember Chris Gill and Mayor Allen D. Smith.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to go in to Public Hearing on the disposal of public property at 1418 6th Street. Motion carried.

No comments were made.

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

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

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

Mayor Watson asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Town Manager Rodney Newton asked to speak about a USDA RD Resolution for police vehicle grant. Mayor Watson added Town Manager Rodney Newton as item 10 (g).

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the May 2020 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 May 2020. Motion carried.

Chief H. Keith Phillips gave the Police Report. Chief Phillips welcomed new Mayor Allen Smith and well wishes to Mayor Watson. Chief Phillips stated they had another busy month with 67 calls, 4 citations and 7 arrests with 4 charges. Chief Phillips advised grass letters have been mailed for 21 yards. At this time, a majority of them have been cut as well as junk piles addressed. He will continue to monitor. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett gave the Fire/Rescue Department Report. He stated calls were extremely down with 101 calls at Station 2 in Victoria and 35 calls at Station 7 in Kenbridge. They have had some challenges with supplies but they are starting to replenish now and are operating normal at this time. There were no questions regarding the budget. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Gill to approve the Fire Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to approve the FY21 Budget. Motion carried. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised the following:

- General Fund Budget of \$708,760.00
- Water Fund Budget of \$719,970.00
- Sewer Fund Budget of \$610,200.00
- No employee raises for FY21 due to uncertainty of economy

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a) Town Manager Rodney Newton advised the recent surplus of a mower and bush-hog have been sold and requested approval for the following surplus equipment:

- 1997 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Truck (Shop)
- 2007 Chevrolet Impala (Police)

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame for approval of the surplus equipment. Motion carried.

b) Mayor Watson advised we had 139 riders for the month of May 2020.

c) Mr. Newton advised we are still negotiating with DEQ. In working with Jeff Reynolds, DEQ, the dates of completion have been changed of PER from July 15, 2020 to September 1, 2020 as well as the completion of Plan and Schedule of Construction from October 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021. Mr. Newton also advised the \$4,600.00 fine was reduced to \$2,300.00. The date of project completion changed from 12/31/2020 to 12/31/2022.

d) Mr. Newton received a request for a Special Use Permit for the construction of a manufactured home on 3rd Street between Lee Avenue and Jefferson Avenue. This area is zoned R-3. Mr. Newton requested a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission at the July meeting. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Special Use Permit Joint Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to approve the sale of public property at 1418 6th Street to Southern Dominion Health System for \$70,000.00. Motion carried.

e) Mr. Newton requested approval of a USDA RD Resolution for Police Department vehicle grant. This is necessary for reimbursement. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to approve the USDA RD Resolution. Motion carried.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton advised council with the recent COVID-19 restrictions the pool season is still in a holding position. With Phase II, pools are allowed to re-open for lap swimming, diving, swim instruction and exercise but require 10' of separation of users and screening of all pool users. Mr. Newton is talking with LCPS to determine a start date for school re-opening as this may play into whether we open for the 2020 season.
- b) Mr. Newton advised the 1997 Chevrolet that was declared surplus earlier was replaced by a 2019 Chevrolet 2500 4-wheel drive pick-up truck. The new truck is more suited for pulling loads. Mr. Newton worked with the Finance Committee to identify savings in the FY20 Budget to fund the purchase.
- c) Mr. Newton advised on the three blighted properties that were discussed a few months ago; Dominion Virginia Power has disconnected electricity from 1907 10th Street, 1600 Virginia Avenue and 1606 Virginia Avenue. Also, CenturyLink has been contacted to remove telephone lines and the removal of the homes will begin as soon as other projects are completed. Mr. Newton stated through a Deed of Gift the town now owns 1700 Needham Drive and are working on a plan to clean up the lot and possibly a potential buyer.
- d) The county has received its CARES Act Funding based on population. The Town of Victoria and Town of Kenbridge will be able to get a share of this but guidelines on spending are vague at this time. Mr. Newton is working with the County Administrator on potential use of funds for the town. The newly installed partitions at the customer service windows will be reimbursed and possibly the equipment to provide internet service in the park for students.

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- e) Mr. Newton requested approval to work with IDA and the Finance Committee to use funds from the sale of 1418 6th Street to make repairs to the roof at the old STEPs building located at 300 Court Street. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to work with IDA and the Finance Committee to use funds from the sale for repairs to the roof. Motion carried. Mr. Newton is negotiating with possible tenant once repairs are done.
- f) Mr. Newton advised we are in the beginning process of the automated meter readings. Training is scheduled for next week with Core & Main.
- g) Mr. Newton advised we received grant funding from DCR for \$33,348.00 for Dam Safety Inspection, Emergency Plan Development and Dam Break Inundation Zone analysis, mapping and digitization as these are currently out of date. He is evaluating cost and working to select a contractor to complete the work.
- h) Mr. Newton invited Mrs. Carol Watson and her family to attend the July council meeting to celebrate her years of service as Town Mayor.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D, Smith, Mayor

Approved July 14, 2019

Rodney Newton, Town Manager