

## Town Council Meeting

March 8, 2022

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on March 8, 2022 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 Police Chief Keith Phillips.

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

Councilmember Brame asked to speak prior to the invocation. Councilmember Brame recognized Councilmember Jones for her service to the town, its citizens and Town Council for the past 20 years. Councilmember Brame also recognized Town Manager Rodney Newton and his wife, Stacey Newton for being named Citizens of the Year by the Lunenburg Chamber of Commerce and becoming the first couple to receive this honor.

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. Town Manager Rodney Newton asked to speak about FY21 Audit report. Mayor Smith added Mr. Newton as item (b) under Information Items. Citizen Mr. Nathan Ackerman asked to speak about property at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Lincoln Avenue. Mayor Smith added Mr. Ackerman as item (c) 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 Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the February 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the Treasurer's report for February 2022. Motion carried.

Mr. Newton advised Chief Phillips was on vacation and will be at next month's council meeting. 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.

Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend presented the Fire Department Report. Assistant Chief Townsend stated brush fires are prevalent at this time. There were no questions regarding the Fire Department Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Garratt to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

### Informational Items:

- a) Town Manager Rodney Newton along with Town Council and Mayor Smith held a work session prior to the council meeting tonight to discuss the waste water treatment facility projects. Mr. Newton stated we have until December 31, 2023 to make corrections. Mr. Newton suggested closing the west wastewater plant to meet the requirements of the DEQ consent order and recommended a hybrid model that the town will be responsible for managing. The designated ARP funds will be used to cover the costs of the force main, closing the west wastewater plant, replacement of the bar screen, pista grit and renovations of the old UV building at an estimated cost of \$1,144,340.00. Also, Mr. Newton recommended we contract out the pump station building and chemical feed systems at the east wastewater plant at an estimated cost of \$1,195,538.00. Mr. Newton advised also to begin discussion with the DEQ Clean Water Revolving Fund on finances for that. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Gill on the recommendations made by Town Manager Newton. Motion carried. Mr. Newton also recommended based on our Procurement Policy and discussions had that we enter into a contract with B&B Consultants for all engineering on these projects. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to contract B&B Consultants on these projects. Motion carried.

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- b) Mr. Newton provided council with the FY21 Audit report. We had another good report. Mr. Newton stated we had one recommendation from Robinson, Farmer and Cox to hire another accountant or accounting firm to assist Diane Harding, Town Treasurer at the end of the fiscal year to close out journal entries so Robinson, Farmer and Cox do not have to make those changes and it is a true audit.
- c) Citizen Nathan Ackerman addressed town council regarding the purchase of two lots on 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Lincoln Avenue. Mr. Ackerman stated it's adjacent to the old landfill. His plans are to put two houses on each lot (Lots 3 and 4 Block 104a). Mr. Ackerman requested easements to clear trees on both lots. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to allow the easements and authorize the Street Committee to work with Mr. Ackerman on future details. Motion carried.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton advised the Welcome to Victoria Sign is ready to be picked up. After it's repainted, it will go on Court Street. Once we remove the one on Court Street, it will be refinished and moved to Nottoway Blvd.
- b) Mr. Newton advised we have received one quote and waiting on a second quote for the LOVE sign. We are able to get a grant up to \$1,500.00 to apply towards the cost.
- c) Mr. Newton updated council on the marijuana legislation bill. There was a bill in the Senate that was defeated last week that changed some of the wording. As of now, the town can defer to the county and let the county handle the referendum for the retail sale of marijuana. Mr. Newton stated at this year's November 2022 election, there may be two options. 1) let the county do their referendum and the town will comply with the county or 2) both the county and town do their own referendum. There will be a presentation Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at the Board of Supervisors meeting. Council agreed to defer until next month's council meeting.
- d) Mr. Newton updated council on the new refuse truck. Anticipated delivery is scheduled between July and August 2022. Mr. Newton advised he is getting ready to place an order for the new trashcans.
- e) Mr. Newton stated with the cost of fuel prices recently, we refueled all the generators and an off road diesel tank at the town shop. We have ordered 450 gallons of gas and 450 gallons of diesel for the two tanks purchased last year during the ice storm. These tanks are locked behind the STEPS building.
- f) Mr. Newton advised during the final phases of the PER process, B&B Consultants questioned our water production. The east wastewater facility plant treats 400,000 gallons of water a day. Generally, 10% is consumed while 90% makes its way to the wastewater plant. Mr. Newton advised we are only billing for 193,000 gallons a day. Mr. Newton will be doing some flow meter testing tomorrow and has spent time at the water plant facility with Supervisor Phil Pegram examining figures. Mr. Newton will advise council of any findings.

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

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Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

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Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved April 12, 2022

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Rodney Newton, Town Manager