

Town Council Meeting

May 12, 2020

The Town Council of Victoria, VA met on May 12, 2020 in the Victoria-Lunenburg Community Centre with the Honorable Carol R. Watson, Mayor presiding: Councilmembers in attendance were Ronald Mattox, Johnnie W. Brame, James G. Elam, Jr. Christopher Garrett, Sandra Jones, and Chris Gill. Also attending was Town Manager Rodney Newton. Due to social distancing restrictions with the COVID-19 pandemic, Treasurer Diane Harding, Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Police Chief H. Keith Phillips and Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett were excused from attending the meeting.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to go into public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. Motion carried.

There were no comments from the public on the Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Jones to come out of public hearing. Motion carried.

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

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

Mayor Watson asked for additions to the meeting agenda. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality draft consent order was added as item 11(C). Mr. Robbie Batte asked to be added to the agenda to speak on Nottoway Falls. Mr. Batte will be added as item 10(A) and the other business in item 10 will be moved down.

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to approve the April 2020 regular minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to approve the Treasurer's report for April 2020 as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Police Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Gill to approve the Fire Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Information Items:

- a. Mr. Robbie Batte appeared before council to ask questions and to offer suggestions on improving and capitalizing on the use of Nottoway Falls as a park. Mr. Batte said that Nottoway Falls has gained popularity through social media over the past few years and he believes there is much to gain by making it a park. Mr. Batte offered to assist with researching and working on options for the area. Mayor Watson asked the Park Committee, Councilmembers Elam and Mattox, to explore the options.
- b. Town Manager Rodney Newton requested council to declare an estate mower and a bush hog from the Town Shop as surplus to allow for disposal. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to declare the two pieces of equipment as surplus. Motion carried.
- c. Local elections will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 as moved by the governor of Virginia. The elections will take place at Peoples Community Center on

Tidewater Avenue instead of Victoria Fire and Rescue. Those elected were reminded by the Mayor that they need to be sworn in by July 1, 2020.

Town Manager Update:

- a. The Town of Victoria has been awarded a \$20,000.00 grant from Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project to replace the two smaller water pumps at the ground storage tank. This was submitted in July 2019. Quotes are being updated for the project and it is hoped that the project will be completed by the end of 2020.
- b. Discussion of the opening of the pool for the summer was discussed. Executive Order #61 issued by the governor of Virginia that goes into effect Friday, May 15, 2020 until Wednesday, June 10, 2020 only allows pools to be used for lap swimming in designated lanes. Consensus of council was to re-evaluate the situation at the end of May and make a decision on the 2020 season then.
- c. Councilmembers were given a copy of a draft consent order from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality dealing with the East and West Waste Water Treatment Facilities. Compliance issues at both facilities were listed in the order. The order included terms to make changes at the west facility as well as a civil penalty of \$4,620.00. Councilmembers did not feel that the town received fair and due process in the drafting of this consent order. Items questioned included the civil fine, due date of the preliminary engineering report, due date of design plans, and the completion date of the project. The Town Manager was asked to contact the town's General Assembly delegation in regards to this.
- d. At the April meeting council declared three properties as blighted and approved an abatement plan for all three. As of this meeting there has been no response from the property owners. After May 18, 2020 if no action is taken by the property owners the town has authority to carry out the abatement plan. All documents for the three properties are with Town Attorney Clement for review to ensure that everything is in order.
- e. A blighted property located at 918 Mecklenburg Avenue will be abated by the current owners during the week of May 18, 2020.
- f. Another blighted property located at 1700 Needham Drive is tied up in the estate of the recently deceased owner. The town manager has been in touch with the sister of the deceased owner and her plans are to have the issues with the property addressed.
- g. Letters informing citizens of the inoperative motor vehicle ordinance were distributed throughout town and have had some success. Due to the current situation and DMV and ABC Recycling being closed, citizens have not been able to dispose of some vehicles. As conditions improve more action will be taken if there is not compliance.
- h. There have been several complaints of junk piles around town. Victoria Police Department will be visiting these addresses and making the residents aware of the ordinance and giving them a time frame once businesses open up to remedy the situation.

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- i. The roof repairs to the lower roof on the municipal building were completed during the week of May 4, 2020.
- j. Current plans are for the town office and DMV Select to reopen on Friday, May 15, 2020.
- k. There appears to be funding for towns through the CARES Act. This money is not for revenue replacement. The funds will be channeled through the county.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to go into closed session in accordance with VA Code §2.2-3711(A)(3) for the discussion of disposition of publicly held land where open discussion would harm the council's bargaining position. Motion carried.

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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 Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to hold a public hearing at the June 9, 2020 council meeting to hear public comment on the disposition of publicly held land located at 1418 6th Street. Motion carried.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Carol R. Watson, Mayor

Approved June 9, 2020

Rodney Newton, Town Manager