

Town Council Meeting

May 12, 2021

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on May 12, 2021 in the Victoria-Lunenburg Community Centre 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, Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Officer David King and Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett. Absent was Town Treasurer, Diane Harding.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to go in Public Hearing on FY22 Budget. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised no increases in utilities or taxes for town customers and very little changes to expenses and revenues.

No comments were made.

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

Mayor Allen 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 Allen asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Citizens David Hawks and Edward Pennington addressed council.

Mr. David Hawks of 1103 Main Street addressed council on speeding and loud exhausts in the town limits. The speed limit is 35mph and most are illegal exhausts. Town Manager Newton advised he has talked with Chief Phillips regarding these matters and plans to meet with the Commonwealth Attorney. Mr. Newton advised some have gone to secondary offenses and will keep Mr. Hawks posted.

Citizen Edward Pennington of 1121 Mecklenburg Avenue addressed council regarding log trucks coming down Mecklenburg Avenue. Mr. Pennington is concerned with a possible accident as these trucks are speeding and using as a short-cut route from Route 635, Oral Oakes Road. Mr. Pennington asked for help with truckers using Mecklenburg Avenue as a truck route. Town Manager Newton advised VDOT states we cannot post "Thru Trucks Prohibited" sign however, we can address the speeding issue. VDOT cannot restrict commerce on state highways.

Mayor Allen recommended for both Mr. Hawks and Mr. Pennington's concerns increased police presence and coordinating with Virginia State Police.

Mayor Allen 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 Gill to accept the April 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the Treasurer's report for April 2021. Motion carried.

Officer David King gave the Police Report. Office King stated they had 36 calls, 16 citations and 2 arrests. Office King stated both the arrest and citation reports did not reflect any activity due to the SWMS system being down however, the issue has been corrected as of today. 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 they had an average month with 126 calls. Station 2 in Victoria had 75 calls while Station 7 in Kenbridge had 51 calls. Assistant Chief Garret advised on the Financial Statement, vehicle maintenance was performed on Engine 2. Assistant Chief Garrett advised during the ice storm most cellular service went down. He will be meeting with the Federal Regional Director tomorrow. He and Chief Newton have identified some resources that will benefit them better in the near future.

Also, with fuel issues/shortages going on right now, Asst. Chief Garratt advised fuel suppliers are holding for emergency services, rescue, etc so they are fine. Councilmember Brame questioned how long the fuel issues will last. Town Manager and Chief Newton advised hopefully resolved by the weekend. Motion was made by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to approve the Fire Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Mr. George Felts with Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC) presented council with an overview of the recent ice storm, “Winter Storm Shirley”, back on February 13, 2021. This was the biggest storm in SEC history. Mr. Felts stated customers were without power up to 13 days as ice accumulations caused power poles and supporting hardware to break. Mr. Felts provided council an overview of the restoration services from the planning stages before the storm arrived and well after all service was restored.
- b) Councilmember Mattox reported the Victoria Planning Commission recommends to the Victoria Town Council to approve the Conditional Use Permit to 6th Street Solar 1, LLC for a solar facility located on 2188 Poorhouse Road. A copy of the Conditional Use Permit will be attached to the May minutes.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Conditional Use Permit for a solar facility located on 2188 Poorhouse Rd. Motion carried.

- c) Councilmember Mattox reported the Victoria Planning Commission recommends to the Victoria Town Council to approve the re-zoning request for parcels 033A7-02-05-2 4, 6 and 8 and parcels 033A7-2-08-1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 from R-1 to R-2 zoning after reviewing water and sewer.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the re-zoning request from an R-1 to R-2 zoning. Motion carried.

- d) Town Manager Newton submitted to council a Special Dog Permit for Cynthia Gauling to have three dogs at 1617 5th Street. Councilmember Jones and Councilmember Brame questioned why three dogs and talking with the neighbors. Mr. Newton advised tabling till June council meeting.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton advised the sewer line between Mecklenburg Avenue and Tidewater Avenue on W. 7th Street has been replaced and a new manhole was installed at the intersection of W. 7th Street and Tidewater Avenue. Also, the sewer line between W. 8th Street and W. 9th Street on Lunenburg Avenue has been replaced and a new manhole installed near the intersection of W. 8th Street and Lunenburg Avenue. Mr. Newton advised they found, during this project, a water line needing replacement on Lunenburg Avenue between W. 8th and W. 9th Street while the road is torn up.
- b) Mr. Newton advised wastewater operators have seen a difference in the amount of influent into the west wastewater facility since April 10th. He will continue to monitor the next 30 days.
- c) Mr. Newton discussed the fuel situation and possible shortage. The town is fine right now. After the ice storm, we have two tanks at the town shop with both on-road diesel and gasoline for back-up.
- d) Mr. Newton discussed the American Rescue Act of 2021. Towns are considered non-Entitlement Units of Local Government. The funds may be used for wastewater infrastructure projects, including constructing publicly owned treatment infrastructure, managing and treating storm water or subsurface drainage, facilitating water reuse and securing publicly owned treatment works. Mr. Newton stated funds will be passed to the state and they will disburse to the town. These funds probably will not be disbursed until after July 1, 2021 and will require a budget modification.

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- e) Mr. Newton advised FY20 Audit has been completed and you will receive a copy at next month's June meeting.
- f) Mr. Newton stated DMV Select received two flags for 30 years of service. They will be displayed at the town office.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to go into closed session in accordance with VA Code §2.2-3711(A)(1) for personnel matters to discuss compensation for the Town Manager and in accordance with VA Code §2.2-3711(A)(5) for discussion of a prospective business in which there has been no public announcement of the business. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION MAY 12, 2021

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox 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.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to approve the compensation package for the Town Manager as discussed. Motion carried.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved June 8, 2021

Rodney Newton, Town Manager