

Town Council Meeting

November 9, 2022

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on November 9, 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, Police Chief Joel Manning and Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend.

Motion was made by Mr. J. B. Crenshaw and seconded by Mrs. Linda Walker with the Planning Commission to go into a Joint Public Hearing with Town Council on a Conditional Use Permit by Mr. John T. Crenshaw to operate a golf cart repair and customization business at his residence, 1706 Virginia Avenue, Victoria, VA. Motion carried. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to go into a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission on a Conditional Use Permit by Mr. John T. Crenshaw to operate a golf cart repair and customization business at his residence, 1706 Virginia Avenue, Victoria, VA. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to go into Public Hearing on a) to hear comments on the proposed disposition of publicly held land in accordance with VA Code §15.2-1800. The publicly held parcels are identified as Tax Map Parcels 003A7-02-05-3 and 33A7-03-05-5, also known as 422 Court Street and b) to hear comments on the proposed Transient Occupancy Tax for short term rental properties. Motion carried.

No comments were made.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to come out of Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission. Motion carried. Motion was made by Mr. J. B. Crenshaw and seconded by Mrs. Linda Walker to come out of the Joint Public Hearing with Town Council. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith 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 Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Councilmember Garrett asked to speak about brush and debris. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Garret as Information item 11(f). Town Manager Rodney Newton advised of the address correction for Information item (c) should be 1706 Virginia Avenue instead of 1607 Virginia Avenue and asked to speak about the Lunenburg County Airport. Mayor Smith added Mr. Newton as Information item 11(g).

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 Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the October 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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

Chief Joel Manning presented the Police Report. He stated they had a busy month with 80 calls and currently have several cases in court for continued investigation. Chief Manning hopes to resolve these in November 2022. Chief Manning advised both F/T Police Officers attending the academy are continuing to do well and have five weeks left until graduation on December 14, 2022. Also, our two P/T recruits have completed their 40-hour in-services. Chief Manning stated they are working with several citizens on isolating some of the barking dog's nuisance around town. Chief Manning along with Lunenburg County Deputies Duckworth and Townes with the Lunenburg County Sheriff's Department provided presence at the recent Trunk-r-Treat in the Victoria Railroad Park. He is already preplanning for the upcoming Christmas Parade on December 2, 2022 with the Kenbridge PD, Lunenburg County Sheriff's Department and VSP for traffic control. There were no further questions regarding the Police Report. Councilmember

Jones inquired how often they patrol the town park. There have been sightings of people playing on top of the Nutbush house and park restrooms. Chief Manning advised they do patrol the park throughout the day and into the night. However, in the future contact the Sheriff's Department to report these sightings and someone will be dispatched to investigate. Councilmember Jones was concerned with safety and possible liability to the town. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend presented the Fire Department Report. They had 49 calls at Station 2 and Station 7 had 76 calls totaling 125 calls for the month of October. Assistant Chief Townsend stated the recent Truck and Tractor Pull was a success. There were no questions regarding the budget. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Town Manager Rodney Newton advised on the sale at 422 Court Street that we do have a pending offer of \$8,900.00 for the property through Long & Foster. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox for the approval of sale of publicly held parcels identified as Tax Map Parcels 003A7-02-05-3 and 33A7-03-05-5, also known as 422 Court Street. Motion carried.
- b) Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to accept the proposed Transient Occupancy Tax Ordinance. Motion carried.
- c) Councilmember Mattox of the Victoria Planning Commission recommended to approve the request for Mr. John T. Crenshaw for a Conditional Use Permit at 1706 Virginia Avenue with the following conditions:
 - obtain the proper business license
 - all vehicles being serviced/customized be loaded and unloaded in the alleyway

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Conditional Use Permit for Mr. John T. Crenshaw to operate a golf cart repair and customization business at his residence, 1706 Virginia Avenue. Motion carried.

- d) Councilmember Mattox stated the Victoria Planning Commission met and reviewed the Solar Facility and Financial Compensation Policy and recommended to town council to adopt the Solar Facility and Financial Compensation Policy as presented. Councilmember Jones questioned was it possible for the chemicals to go into the ground. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised that it's always a possibility but the technology for the solar panels has changed and is addressed through their solar design. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Jones to hold a Public Hearing at the December 2022 council meeting on the Solar Facility and Financial Compensation Policy. Motion carried.
- e) Mr. Newton followed up on last months discussion for the use of part of the STEPS building as the Public Works town shop in a lease with the IDA. Also present was Mr. Mike Walker, IDA Chairman. Mr. Newton advised the IDA has met several times since then about other projects. Mr. Newton asked council if they had any questions regarding the use of part of the STEPS building in a lease with the IDA. Councilmember Mattox questioned if the STEPS building was sold in the future, where would we put the Public Works town shop. Mr. Newton advised the IDA voted the building will be subdivided and will have multi-tenants that the IDA will maintain. Councilmember Elam stated whatever the IDA does, they do for the benefit of the town and does not see this as a problem. Mr. Mike Walker commented he has been on the IDA around ten years and currently serves as chairman. The IDA was formed through aiding, inquiring, leasing and planning properties for lease or trade. Their mission is to improve the quality of business environment in the Town of Victoria. Mr. Walker advised of ten projects going on in the Town of Victoria. He stated there are a lot of positives going on right now. Mr. Walker advised they are looking to have approximately four tenants maximum with 25,000

square feet. Mr. Walker stated they are devoting 15,000 square feet to the Town of Victoria for the Public Works town shop. Town Manager Rodney Newton proposed last month to town council the leasing of the STEPS building at \$26,000.00 a year. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to bring back a lease agreement from the IDA for the Public Works town shop for review. Motion carried.

- f) Councilmember Garrett was concerned with the house under construction on 6th Street and debris blocking the sidewalk. Councilmember Gill advised no one is there now. Mr. Newton advised he will follow-up with cleaning up the debris and have Chief Manning speak with them as well.
- g) Town Manager Rodney Newton advised he met with the Lunenburg County Airport. He advised TOV is 25% partial owner, TOK is 25% partial owner, and the County of Lunenburg is 50% partial owner. There is a lot of activity going on there. Until recently, they were selling a lot of diesel fuel until gas prices went up and Councilmember Elam stated our price was higher than others. Mr. Newton advised of several upcoming projects:
- Runway demolition and reconstruction- the runway is in a terrible state and is basically a daytime flight restriction per the DOA because the trees at the end of the runway are in the glide path. The county is trying to work with the landowner to get that corrected. Mr. Newton stated the county and towns are in line to be the next recipients of a Rural Runway Renovation fund. It is a 95% grant with a 5% local match. The estimated cost of the runway is \$950,000.00. This does not include the taxiway from the hanger over or the apron outside the taxiway. Mr. Newton advised if the county comes to the towns at 5%, we will be looking at \$12,500.00 each. They are looking at this for a Spring project and will not be looking for these funds in this FY22-23 but rather push it out. They do have monies for the taxiway and apron at an 80% /20%.
 - Construction of 10 new T-hangers- the county is working to build a new 10 bay t-hangers right off the apron. There is already interest in renting the hangers. The County of Lunenburg is working with Southside Electric Cooperative to help fund the t-hangers at approximately \$300,000.00. The county is looking at doing an environmental study to get ready at a cost of \$12,500.00. Mr. Newton advised if the county should request help with this, our share would be \$3,125.00. Mr. Newton requested authorization for the Town Manager and Finance Committee to review the budget to find the \$3,125.00. Motion was made by Councilmember Garret and seconded by Councilmember Gill for approval to review the budget for the \$3,125.00. Motion carried.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton updated on the water plant. Mr. Newton stated they will be meeting with a representative tomorrow from Sydnor-Hydro to discuss the finish water pumps and options to increase efficiency. He spoke with Mr. Ronnie Williams with Precision Pipes and most of the parts for the flow meter and relief valve project have been received. Mr. Newton will be working with Ronnie and his staff along with Phil at the water filtration plant to coordinate this project as there's a possibility the water plant will have to run overnight for a couple of nights. The plant will have to be shut down when these two projects are done.
- b) Mr. Newton advised we had a significant water failure last month at the water plant. The SCADA system went down so they could not run the water plant by computer for 24 hours. We are working through repair issues as well as the ability to move to a manual operation of the plant with all staff and an emergency operation plan. Mr. Newton also asked council to keep Mr. Ty Dunbar in your prayers. Due to sickness, Mr. Dunbar's surgery was pushed back to November 28, 2022. He is not expected to back at work until February 2023.
- c) Mr. Newton advised approximately 650 meters and transmitters have been installed. We are working with Southern Software (FMS) to get everything implemented to automated data entry. The goal is to have everything installed by the end of December 2022.

- d) Mr. Newton updated on the sewer project. The plans for the force main should be completed by the first of the year. He and WWTP Supervisor Grayson Townsend are working with Moonshot Missions on several topics. Moonshot Missions is a non-profit 501c3 working with disadvantaged communities on water and wastewater issues. They are an organization made up of individuals who have been in water and wastewater business in large and small institutions all around the world. They provide help at no cost to the locality. They have had several meetings thus far including an extensive site visit and have opened several doors with DEQ according to Mr. Townsend. Mr. Newton stated one of the things that he has pointed out is part of our process is wearing out. The basin system needs to be replaced and he is also working to do an energy audit at the east WWTP due to blown out aeration basin diffusers whereby we can put some controls in place to control the blowers. This would give us some energy and equipment savings. Moonshot Missions in planning to return in the next couple of weeks. They are also interested in going to DEQ regarding our copper issue. Mr. Newton stated DEQ announced an application period for the ARPA Sewer Collection System Program. This is due by December 15, 2022. Mr. Newton is working on it now and will send to B&B Consultants for their review. There is \$65M in funds available. We should know by March 1, 2023 if we are awarded.
- e) Mr. Newton stated he had no new news on the garbage truck. They are still waiting for parts.
- f) Mr. Newton advised the Lunenburg Circuit Court approved the Board of Zoning Appeals Board.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved December 13, 2022

Rodney Newton, Town Manager