

Town Council Meeting

November 12, 2024

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on November 12, 2024, 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., Sandra Jones, Christopher Garrett and Chris Gill. Also attending were Town Manager Rodney Newton, Treasurer Diane Harding, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Lieutenant Justin Beagle and Fire Chief Frankie Tanner.

Mayor Smith 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 Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. There were none.

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 October 2024 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 October 2024. Motion carried.

Lt. Justin Beagle presented the Police Report. Lt. Beagle stated they had 311 calls, thirteen arrests and 22 citations. He stated they have had TDO's and ECO's where an officer has to sit with them at the hospital uninterrupted. This seems to be getting worse in the area not just for our jurisdiction but Kenbridge Police Department and Lunenburg County Sheriffs office. Lt. Beagle explained when they have these situations, they have to be with them 24 hours a day so they rely on the other agencies to back each other up. They are also still working with inoperable vehicles. Currently, seven vehicles out of thirteen were tagged and moved. He stated final letters will be going out to the others shortly. The two cadets in the academy are still doing great. They have 22 days left and graduate on December 18, 2024. Lt. Beagle stated with them coming back, they will be moving towards adjusted shifts. With more manpower it will give the town more coverage meaning we will have an officer out from 6 a.m. until 2 a.m. with 4 hours of on call time. Mayor Smith mentioned property checks. Lt. Beagle stated they do this at least once a day per shift and requested property owners who are out of town to contact the sheriff's department. Mr. Newton stated we have not received the final confirmation on graduation but will forward to everyone once we receive it. There were no questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Frankie Tanner presented the Fire Department Report. He advised they had a total of 133 responses for the month of October. Assistant Chief Chris Garrett updated on EMS and the Department of Health recent drug changes. The date was coming close in November to meet their new drug box policy. He advised the state recognized that over 60% of all EMS agencies were not going to meet the deadlines. Therefore, they extended the date to November 1, 2025 as their implementation date. Asst. Chief Garrett advised our date for completion is July 1, 2025.

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They should have no problem meeting that deadline. We are waiting for an inspection and to verbally discuss some of the processes they are looking into. He stated they were not happy with us going with a local pharmacy for our supply (Smith's Pharmacy) but rather wanted us to go with a big pharmaceutical corporation. However, we met with Smith's Pharmacy again and sent their process into the state department to make sure all aspects of what they are going to do are correct. Thankfully, we will be able to keep our local pharmacist and keep our business local. Asst. Chief Garrett will be meeting with the Department of Health and State Board Pharmacy in the coming days. This will be an onsite meeting for approximately four hours with a lot of personnel present. VF&R is ready but waiting for this process to move forward. Councilmember Brame questioned who has to pay for the costs of the drug boxes. Assistant Chief Garrett advised all costs are at the VF&R expense. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Mr. Newton advised the November 5, 2024 council election results should be completed today, November 12, 2024 and certificates completed sometime next week. Mr. Newton will contact Mr. Gordon Erby, Clerk of Court, to attend next month's council meeting for the swearing-in of all re-elected councilmembers.
- b) Mr. Newton discussed a parcel of land adjacent to the water filtration plant that council tabled until the November council meeting. It is 7.32 acres adjacent to the town's existing property for sale. Mr. Dan Perkins, the forester that the town has used for many years, viewed the property for timber value the end of October. Its estimated value is \$1,000.00 per acre and providing a small logger can be found to harvest it. This will give us room to expand in the future. The property is assessed for tax purposes at \$25,800.00. The Hardy family owns the property and have made an offer of \$16,000.00 plus closing costs which are approximately \$1,300.00. Mr. Newton provided council the tax card as well as a map showing the existing water treatment plant property and the 7.32-acre tract. Mayor Smith would like to purchase the land for possible expansion down the road. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to purchase the property. Motion carried. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to hold a Public Hearing for the purchase of 7.32 acres adjacent to the water filtration plant at next month's meeting. Motion carried. Mr. Newton will also meet with the Finance Committee prior to next month's meeting.
- c) Mr. Newton discussed a request from Simona's Restaurant for the purchase of a portion of Parcel P, a 20' strip located adjacent to their property. They want to add a storage room and office area and also possible work to the existing cooler. Mr. Newton provided council documentation of the town purchasing Parcels F & P in 2012 for \$25,738.05. Mr. Newton's recommendation was to offer nothing more than the Parcel P, Lots 6, Z and I that adjoins the existing property. The forced main from Grove Avenue Pump Station crosses Lot X. Councilmembers discussed the excess tax value of the property and agreed to sell the property for \$5,000.00. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to hold a Public Hearing for the sale of the property at next month's meeting. Motion carried.

- d) Mr. Newton advised in August 2024 the town with the assistance of the CRC applied to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation Preservation Trust Fund Program for the Modest Creek project. The amount requested in the grant was \$257,000.00. After the October 10, 2024 meeting with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, we were notified that an award of \$240,000.00 for the project was approved. He stated the two-year project period for the grant will begin on November 14, 2024. The funds will be used to do a bridge enhancement out at Modest Creek. Mr. Newton is looking to replace with a pre-manufactured 40'x14' bridge at an estimate of \$80,000.00 and working on the roadway. On the lakeside, he would like a picnic table, kiosk about the lake and information about the town and if funds allow, adding a canoe/kayak launch off the bank to be able to use the lake. Mr. Newton has been working with an engineer and requested a sole source of the bridge manufacturer. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the grant for \$240,000.00 and proceed with negotiations with manufacturer for the purchase of the bridge. Motion carried. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett for a budget amendment for the VOF grant. Motion carried.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton updated on the wastewater project. Mr. Newton advised one of our generators at the Grove Avenue pump station has failed. They have pulled the pump and were notified today the parts are in and the rebuild is in process. He has submitted a letter to DEQ requesting to keep the 3-acre lagoon at the west facility open as a retention basin for infiltration inflow. He stated we will have to do another permit for that lagoon and continue to do groundwater monitoring of the wells around that area. This will give us another five years to work towards the inflow and infiltration (I&I) problem. Mr. Newton advised the portable pump that was approved last month has arrived. On October 21st and 22nd, Capital City Services was here with a vacuum truck and cleaned about 4,000 feet of sewer line. Some of the area's we know of are issues on Tidewater Ave., Lunenburg Ave., Washington Ave., 6th Street to Jefferson Ave. and Marshall Ave. and 13th Street from Main Street over to Lincoln Ave. They were looking with the sewer camera on Tidewater from West 10th to West 9th Steets and saw several holes, several concrete taps when the lines were put in that the plugs are deteriorating and at least one service line where there is no longer a residence there but still tapped in. Mr. Newton advised we are doing some concentrated smoke tests in these areas around Lunenburg Ave., Tidewater Ave., Jefferson Ave., and Kelly Drive. The brick Park Avenue pump station generator project is almost complete.
- b) Mr. Newton advised Southern Corrosion was here Monday, November 4th for cleaning of the clear well at the water filtration plant. This was planned to be about a four-hour project but turned out to be a two-day project. After sending sample, we started pumping water back to town on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Newton stated we were down for approximately 32 hours and close to issuing a boil notice alert. He explained that future cleanings will not take as long and it will be on a regular cleaning schedule.
- c) Mr. Newton advised Moonshot Missions toured our water filtration plant and all three water sources on October 21st and October 22nd to observe our water filter operations to

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learn about their work and are drafting a report on the systems and their recommendations to help us improve our operations at the water plant. Mr. Newton hopes to have for the December meeting.

- d) Mr. Newton advised Trunk-R-Treat was another successful event. We had approximately 475 attendees as well as lots of people who participated in handing out candy.
- e) Mr. Newton advised the Christmas Parade will be Friday, December 6, 2024 at 7pm. Councilmember Jones inquired about the lighting at the Christmas Parade. It's very hard to see where it didn't used to be at night. Mr. Newton advised we had streetlights on a pole then where now we have streetlamps. Councilmember Jones mentioned they changed the judging stand where it used to be right where they came through the stoplight. Mr. Newton stated we have not had a judging stand in years. Councilmember Jones explained they would stop though. Mr. Newton asks for suggestions as far as the lighting besides putting up two portable light towers there is really nothing we can do. Mr. Newton will look into the lighting and directing them to stop at the area of the drug store if they have something to perform. He also mentioned if anyone would like to help with the Christmas Parade to please see William Pernell.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Jones to adjourn the meeting.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved December 10, 2024

Rodney Newton, Town Manager