

Town Council Meeting

October 13, 2020

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on October 13, 2020 in the Victoria-Lunenburg Community Centre with the Honorable Allen D. Smith, Mayor, presiding: Councilmembers 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, Police Chief H. Keith Phillips, and Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett. Absent was Town Clerk, Vickie McDaniel.

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

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

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Councilmember Brame asked to speak about an article for the VML magazine regarding retired Mayor Carol R. Watson and her service to the community. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Brame as item 10(d).

Mayor Smith 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 accept the September 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to accept the Treasurer's report for September 2020. Motion carried.

Chief H. Keith Phillips gave the Police Report. Chief Phillips stated they had another busy month with 82 calls for service. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Chief Phillips advised council members that Sadie, the police department drug detection dog, would need to be retired due to her training on detecting marijuana and new laws regarding marijuana. Chief Phillips advised that he had spoken to the Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney that will be prosecuting the cases and she did not feel that it would not be in the best interest to continue to use Sadie for drug detection. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to retire Sadie as of October 31, 2020. Motion carried.

Town Manger Rodney Newton, Assistant Chief Garrett had to leave the meeting early, gave the Fire/Rescue Department Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the Fire Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Councilmember Brame reported that he had been contacted by a citizen about the need for a street light at the trailhead parking lot near the intersection of 10th Street and Main Street. Mayor Smith referred this item to the Street Committee for review and to report back at the next meeting.
- b) Town Manager Rodney Newton provided council with a DEQ Consent Order for the wastewater treatment facilities. The order has been re-written to allow time to identify and repair I & I and for a period of monitoring influent into the west facility. This order extends the interim copper limits for the east facility as well. A motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to authorize the town manager to sign the consent order on behalf of the town. Motion carried.
- c) Election Day has been added by the governor as a state holiday, this was not on the list of holidays approved by council for 2020. This falls on November 3rd for 2020. A motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to add Election Day as a town holiday. Motion carried.
- d) Councilmember Brame made a presentation to council suggesting that an article be submitted to Virginia Town and City, the VML magazine, to recognize retired Mayor

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Carol R. Watson for her years of service to the community. It was the consensus of council to submit the article for publication.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton provided council with letters sent to Delegate Wright and Senator Ruff regarding the Industrial Development Authority of the Town of Victoria. The letters request an amendment to the Code of Virginia to reduce the required number of members to five instead of seven and to reduce the quorum from four to three except for actions dealing with the lease or sale of real estate. The letter also requests legislation providing a population exemption for the Statement of Economic Interests filing requirement.
- b) Sewer smoke testing will begin Wednesday, October 14, 2020 to work to identify I & I. Initial testing will be from Tidewater Avenue to Park Avenue from W. 6th Street to W. 13th Street.
- c) AECOM has completed the inspections of the three permitted dams, but the inspection report has not been received. AECOM is in the process of updating the emergency action plans.
- d) Blighted property update:
 - a. 1600 9th Street – The spot blight process has been initiated on this property. This property has been cited under property maintenance for several years with no response. The owner has until November 4, 2020 to submit a written plan of action for the property.
 - b. 1300 & 1304 8th Street – The spot blight process has been initiated on this property. This property has been cited in the past for property maintenance violations with no action. The owner has until October 30, 2020 so submit a written plan of action for the property.
 - c. 1600, 1606, 1500, & 1506 Virginia Avenue - 1600 and 1606 Virginia Avenue were declared blighted by council several months ago but remediation action was halted since the property was included in a recent tax sale. All four properties have been sold and the new owner has acquired the proper zoning and building permits to begin renovation of all four properties.
- e) Trunk or Treat will be held Saturday, October 31, 2020 but will probably be held along Firehouse Road instead of in the parking lot at the park. This will allow the participants to spread out to allow for social distancing.
- f) Town attorney Robert Clement has announced his retirement as Commonwealth's Attorney for Lunenburg County effective December 31, 2020. Mr. Clement is considering continuing to represent the Town of Victoria as its attorney. A motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Elam to authorize the town manager to negotiate with Mr. Clement for town attorney services. Motion carried.
- g) Notification was received Tuesday, October 14, 2020 that the Town of Victoria was awarded a Pre-disaster Mitigation Grant for a backup generator and its installation at the Marshall Pump Station on Norfolk Avenue. The total project is \$35,884.00 with 75% of the funding coming from the grant. As soon as the paperwork is received and the grant is accepted the order will be placed for the generator to beat the 2021 price increases.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

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Approved November 10, 2020

Rodney Newton, Town Manager