

Town Council Meeting

October 12, 2021

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on October 12, 2021 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, Clerk Vickie McDaniel and Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett. Absent were Police Chief H. Keith Phillips and Town Treasurer, Diane Harding.

Mayor Smith 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 Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Mayor Smith requested to be added for properties along Main Street. Mayor Allen was added as item (d) under Information Items.

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

Town Manager Rodney Newton advised on the September meeting minutes to add a motion for the Street Light Policy under Information Items (d). Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the amended September 2021 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 September 2021. Motion carried.

Chief H. Keith Phillips was absent. Mayor Smith advised any questions regarding the Police Report can be directed to Town Manager Newton for discussion with Chief Phillips. There were no questions. 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 a decrease in calls for the month at Station 7 with 44 calls. Station 2 in Victoria had 87 calls. Also the Financial Report reflects vehicle maintenance along with EMS supplies and equipment purchased prior COVID that expire 12 to 18 months and most have hit their expiration date. Asst. Chief Garratt advised expenses will increase over the next few months due to replenishment. Councilmember Elam inquired about the recent Truck-n-Tractor Pull. Asst. Chief Garratt advised they are still working on the numbers but had a great outcome despite the weather. There were no questions regarding the Financial Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Gill and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the Fire Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) A roll call vote was recommended for the charter amendment that was approved at the September 2021 council meeting. All councilmember's voted as followed:

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- Councilmember Jones voted yes
 - Councilmember Garrett voted yes
 - Councilmember Elam voted yes
 - Mayor Smith voted yes
 - Councilmember Mattox voted yes
 - Councilmember Brame voted yes
 - Councilmember Gill voted yes
- b) Mr. Newton discussed a recent traffic survey conducted by VDOT at two locations on Mecklenburg Avenue between W. 7th Street and W. 8th Street and also on Mecklenburg Street near the intersection with Twin Cemetery Road. The data showed 26- 5 axle double vehicles (tractor trailers) going east while only six heading west at the W. 8th Street location. Mr. Newton advised this may be attributed to the signs on Court Street just before Mecklenburg Avenue as the sign is misleading to drivers causing them to turn on Mecklenburg Avenue instead of Tidewater Avenue for the truck route. The arrows have been changed to straight arrows before Mecklenburg Avenue and the sign before Tidewater Avenue has right arrows.
- c) Mr. Newton advised we have advertized on Indeed.com for a certified police officer position for the town. At this time, we have three applications. Mr. Newton advised they had no prior law enforcement experience. The cut-off date for applications is Friday, October 15, 2021. Mr. Newton stated we have received interest from a retired officer who is looking to work 32-36 hours per week. Chief Phillips is looking into this possibility and also working with some Part Time officers to help fill the vacancies. Council member Garrett asked about an academy candidate. Mr. Newton stated we are not sure at this time.
- d) Mayor Smith advised council he has received calls regarding buildings on Main Street. Mr. Newton advised we can either take them to court or have it blighted and the town fix it but either way it's going to be an expense to the town. Mayor Smith has also received calls with intentions for A&J Produce. Mr. Newton stated an offer was made to purchase and it was declined. Mayor Smith did mention the town received a compliment from recent visitors stating the town was clean and there was a lot of activity going on.

Town Manager Update:

- e) Mr. Newton discussed the Welcome Signs. The sign near Central High School was erected in 2014 with a cost of \$3,015.00 from Martin Monument. Councilmember Elam stated that was just for the granite as the school masonry class built the brick foundation. Mr. Newton advised for the existing sign on Court Street the letters are individual. The sign on Falls Road at the end of Nottoway Blvd. is actually on a track. Mr. Newton stated we have another sign at the town shop on a track. Mr. Newton recommended taking those two signs and having them sandblasted, repainted and stained for approximately \$500.00 to \$750.00 per sign.

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- f) Mr. Newton discussed the recent Autumn Days Festival. Unfortunately it did rain but we still had a good weekend. The street dance Friday night had approximately 250 people in attendance. Mayor Smith advised he received a note from the B.E.Z. Band thanking the Town of Victoria for having and welcoming them like family. Mr. Newton stated we had 28 vendors on Saturday at the festival with seven different food vendors. The ax throwing vendor will also be back next year.
- g) Mr. Newton advised the restrooms in the park are closed until further notice due to vandalism. Councilmember Elam mentioned offering a reward to possibly find who destroyed the restrooms. Mr. Newton recommended working with the Park Committee and bringing back a proposal for rehabilitation and moving towards stainless steel (permanent) fixtures, an electronic lock system, a camera, etc by spring 2022.
- h) Mr. Newton updated council on the town shop move. Mr. Newton advised work is supposed to start Monday on the roof. The supplies for the interior wall on the manufacturing floor where we're dividing out are here. The DCHD Grant we applied for is not looking favorable and is meeting with Mr. Mike Walker; IDA Chairman tomorrow to discuss. Mr. Newton advised what they are asking for will cost \$50,000 to \$60,000 to possibly get a grant and would rather use those funds towards other things. Mr. Newton advised they are slowly moving things (hay, straw bales, etc) to the new shop location.
- i) Mr. Newton advised the public assistance during the ice storm with FEMA has been completed, obligated and closed out with FEMA and transferred back to the state. The reimbursement request has been sent to VDEM.
- j) Mr. Newton has received the quote for the Park Avenue Pump Station (brick) generator and waiting on the submittals to come back and be signed. Once we know the funds are coming Mr. Newton will place an order for the generator. The pumps ordered for the pump house behind the town office are here.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved November 9, 2021

Rodney Newton, Town Manager