

## Town Council Meeting

October 14, 2025

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The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on October 14, 2025, 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, Chief Camden Lawson and Fire Chief Frankie Tanner.

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.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to go into Public Hearing concerning an amendment of the fiscal year 2026 Budget in accordance with Virginia Code §15.2-2507.

The Town of Victoria is proposing the following changes to the FY26 adopted budget. It exceeds the 1% allowance of the Virginia Code. The two items would be for the DMV Selective grant that the Victoria Police Department was awarded in the amount of \$30,000.00 and then an additional SERCAP grant that the town was awarded in the amount of \$79,958.00. These budget amendments do not represent any increases to customer utility bills.

There were no comments.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to come out of the Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Mr. Newton ask to add the proposed Budget Amendment. Mayor Smith added Mr. Newton under Information Item as item (c).

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 Jones and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the September 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the Treasurer's Report for September 2025. Motion carried..

Chief Camden Lawson presented the Police Report. Chief Lawson stated they answered 286 calls, issued 12 summons and two arrests. Officer Boshier continues to do an outstanding job in the academy and recently finished three weeks of defensive tactics. Chief Lawson advised graduation is Wednesday, December 17, 2025. Mr. J.R. Newman's last day with the Victoria Police Department was Saturday, October 11, 2025. Mr. Newman will be going to work at the Nottoway Sheriff's office. Officer Nathan Vaughan, who currently works part-time for the Victoria PD will be switching to full-time effective November 1, 2025. There were no major

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problems at the recent Truck-n-Tractor Pull. Chief Lawson mentioned they did have a booth at the Autumn Days festival for Neighborhood Watch. There were a lot of people interested and some left their information. There were no questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill 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 140 responses for the month of September for Station 2 and Station 7. The Truck-n-Tractor Pull was a success. They did have less participants as far as the pulls. Chief Tanner thanked the Victoria PD and others for working the entire event. Chief Tanner updated on Truck 2. It's still on schedule and the lighting package is here and will be going to Atlantic Emergency Solutions in Richmond. The lettering is going to be done at Cardsville Fire Station. Chief Tanner's goal is to have it in service by the first of December 2025 or shortly thereafter. Chief Tanner asked council for consideration on a No Parking zone on Firehouse Road. This is due to the length of the new ladder truck. The truck is 47 feet long and not going to go on the front ramp due to the inclines from Main Street. Therefore, they are going to put it in one of the rear bays coming out on to Firehouse Road. Chief Tanner provided council a screenshot of the back of the firehouse and Firehouse Road with the No Parking zone. This area has been used since the station opened for members to park and depart when responding to calls, along with public parking. The problem is the new ladder truck being so long; in order to safely make the turn either right or left, the truck is going to drop off the pavement on Firehouse Road. Chief Tanner would like to make that area a No Parking zone. It will be paved and striped along with fixing another area that is holding water. Motion was made by Councilmember Garrett and seconded by Councilmember Brame to designate the area behind Firehouse Road as a No Parking zone. Motion carried. There were no questions regarding the Financial Report for September 2025. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith asked about the Committee Report. There were none.

### Informational Items:

- a) Citizen Al Powell thanked the PD for the Neighborhood Watch booth on Saturday at Autumn Days. Mr. Powell stated people have been speaking highly about it and wanting this to move on. He has a couple of things they are working on right now like flyers, places to meet and get approved. Mayor Smith questioned how many showed up at the booth on Autumn Days. Chief Lawson said he had thirteen people sign up. Mayor Smith stated he was the representative from the town and a citizen of the town so if anybody needs to communicate they can reach him through his town email or leave a message on his town phone extension. Chief Lawson is going to set up a generic email address that will come to all the officers. Mr. Powell will get the information together and then an email will be sent out to everyone.
- b) Mr. Newton discussed Northside Gospel. This was tabled from last month's meeting and unfortunately he does not have any more information on it. He spoke with Mr. Glenn Hood who is a representative of Northside Gospel during the month and they feel like they need something to be done. Mr. Newton advised him the councils stance was

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waiting until we get something back from VDOT. Councilmember Jones suggested Mr. Hood going to the Board of Supervisor's meeting and mentioning there. Mr. Newton agreed that the district engineer for VDOT is usually there. Mr. Newton recommending tabling again.

- c) Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to approve the Budget Amendment for fiscal year 2026. Motion carried.

### Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. William Pernell updated on the Community Events and Recreation Report. The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn Days was a great success. Attendance was strong despite the cloudy and chilly day. There were 40 craft vendors and 12 food vendors. The Fastlane Band had a fantastic performance while the Bounce Zone Inflatables and petting zoo had a constant crowd. Mr. Pernell advised the last Skate Night held on September 19<sup>th</sup> along with the Food Truck Rodeo was yet another success. Our next Skate Night will be on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 6pm until 9:30pm. Trunk-r-Treat will be on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30pm until 7:00pm in the Victoria Railroad Park. Mr. Pernell sent letters out asking for donations for this event and posted on social media and the town website. Mr. Pernell was approached by a new resident, Mr. Joel King about painting a mural on one of the gray buildings at the Victoria Railroad Park. Mr. King emailed William a mock-up mural of a newer age train. Mr. Newton recommended William meet with the Park Committee to discuss. Mayor Smith along with other councilmembers applauded William on the Autumn Days event.
- b) Mr. Newton advised DEQ is continuing to work on the issue with gasoline entering the sewer system. They will continue to ventilate and draw samples.
- c) Mr. Newton attended a VDH-ODW sponsored funding workshop in Fredericksburg on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Most of the information on that he will hold until the work session next week. Mr. Newton advised on October 9, 2025 the water plant employee's operated the Nottoway River Raw water pump on generator power for a full day to exercise that generator. There were no issues and plans are to do this quarterly and perhaps move the generator to Modest Creek to do the same thing to ensure everything operates properly.
- d) Mr. Newton reminded council about the work session on waterworks scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 6:00pm.
- e) Mr. Newton advised hydrant flushing will be on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and if needed Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will start around 6:00pm and finish between midnight and 1:00am if all goes well. This is part of the semi-annual maintenance to the water plant. The sedimentation basins are going to be washed out on October 30<sup>th</sup> and again November 20<sup>th</sup>. We are also planning to flush the Modest Creek line again on October 30<sup>th</sup>.
- f) Mr. Newton updated on blighted property at 1118 Main Street. They had a court appearance on September 16, 2025 to set the date for the case. The case will be held on

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February 11, 2026. Mr. Newton advised five more Notice of Violation letters have been sent out in the past month.

- g) Mr. Newton discussed the issue that came up at last month's meeting about feral cats. He met with Animal Control Officer, Ray Elliott who advised him the donations from last year had been used. We made another \$650.00 donation to the Ruff-n-It campaign at the SPCA. Mr. Elliott will provide receipts so we will know when the monies have been used.
- h) Mr. Newton updated on the Modest Creek bridge project. All the geotechnical work has been completed, quote signed and purchase order issued for the foundation specs and the RFP (request for proposal) from Kimley Horn for the installation. We are hoping to bid out in late December 2025 or early January 2026.
- i) Mr. Newton advised the November council meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 due to the Veteran's Day Holiday on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to go into closed session for discussion of negotiations for the sale of the 1220 Main Street property pursuant to VA Code §2.2-3711(A)29.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to return to regular session according to Code of VA Section §2.2-3712 and 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 unanimously, yes. Motion carried.

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

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Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

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Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved November 12, 2025

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Rodney Newton, Town Manager