

Town Council Meeting

September 14, 2021

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on September 14, 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, Town Treasurer, Diane Harding, Clerk Vickie McDaniel and Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett. Absent was Police Chief H. Keith Phillips.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to go in to Public Hearing on a) a proposed amendment to the Charter Change for Municipal Elections for the Town of Victoria, b) a proposed ordinance change for the Election of Mayor and Council and c) proposed ordinance allowing the use of Golf Carts in the Town of Victoria. Motion carried.

No comments were made.

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

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

The invocation was given by Mayor Smith followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Councilmember Elam requested a closed session to discuss Public Safety. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Elam to the end of tonight's meeting. Councilmember Jones requested to be added regarding the Welcome signs coming into town. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Jones as item (g).

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the August 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the Treasurer's report for August 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 Gill to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett gave the Fire/Rescue Department Report. He stated they had an increase in calls for the month with 163 calls. Station 2 in Victoria had 92 calls while Station 7 in Kenbridge had 71 calls. There were no questions regarding the Financial Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Gill and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Fire Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Motion was made by Councilmember Garratt and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Golf Cart ordinance for the Town of Victoria. Motion carried.
- b) Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to approve the ordinance for transition to November Elections for Mayor and Council. Motion carried.
- c) Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Jones to move forward with the Charter change for Municipal Elections. Motion carried.
- d) Councilmember Jones asked for input on the Street Light Policy provided by the Street Light Committee. Councilmember Mattox recommended removing #4 and #5 under Section III. Procedures-General as well as reversing #2 and #3. Councilmember Jones

stated the previous Street Light Policy did not go into detail and not a lot of input was given beforehand. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to make the recommended changes to remove #4 and #5 along with reversing #2 and #3 under Section III. Procedures-General. Councilmember Jones opposed the motion. Motion carried.

- e) Councilmember Mattox with the Planning Commission advised council Mr. Gordon Erby has submitted a second project request to the county for 6th Street Solar 2, LLC. The Planning Commission reviewed the request and did not find any conflicts within the town projects in the future. The county is considering a new Solar Ordinance. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised the county did approve the Solar Ordinance and prohibits large scale projects within the mile buffer of town. This project is considered medium scale (3mg watt) and reviewed on a case by case basis and also whether it would have an impact on the town in the future. Mr. Newton advised is not binding but gives the towns a say in the process. We need to provide a letter to the County Planning Commission whether there is any disagreement or conflict with the town. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to provide a letter to the County Planning Commission stating no conflict or disagreement with the Town of Victoria. Motion carried.
- f) Mr. Newton advised Halloween falls on Sunday, October 31st and recommended changing to Saturday, October 30th. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to move Halloween and Trunk-R-Treat to Saturday, October 30th. Motion carried.
- g) Councilmember Jones asked about the LOVE sign progress. Mr. Newton advised it's still in process and trying to find someone to make the sign. Councilmember Jones inquired about the beautification of the Welcome Sign coming into town from Route 49 and perhaps getting a sign like the one near Central High School. Mr. Newton suggested a couple of options and will get quotes for council review.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton advised the Police Officer position closed on September 3rd and had no applicants for a certified police officer. Mr. Newton and Chief Phillips have discussed to continue advertising for a certified officer until October 15th. If we still have no applicants, they will start recruiting for an officer candidate for the upcoming academy in January 2022. Chief Phillips is attempting to find another PT Officer to help at this time.
- b) Mr. Newton advised tax bills are ready to be mailed and applauded Treasurer, Diane Harding for processing in a timely manner.
- c) Mr. Newton discussed the generator at Garthwright Pump Station at the end of Jefferson Avenue. It is the only pump station we have with an active generator. We have a generator for Marshall Pump Station but is not installed yet. Mr. Newton advised we still need generators at both Park Avenue Pump Stations as well as Jenkins Pump Station on K-V Road. Mr. Newton stated we will be reimbursed from FEMA approximately \$39,000.00 due to the ice storm and recommended ear marking these funds for the generator at the brick Park Avenue Pump Station. Total cost would be approximately \$34,500.00 installed. There is a Hazard Mitigation Grant due next month to see if we qualify however, we will not know anything until next year as far as being able to purchase a second generator. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Gill to approve the purchase of a generator for the brick Park Avenue Pump Station. Motion carried.
- d) Mr. Newton stated the town has 211 street lights not including the ones on Main Street that we pay for monthly through Dominion Virginia Power. We have between eleven and twelve different kinds of street lights. Some are mercury vapor, high pressure sodium and some have been converted to LED. Our current monthly bill is \$1,921.99 for street lights in town. Mr. Newton advised once we get everything converted to LED we will save \$3,300.00 a year.

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- e) Mr. Newton advised we are now monitoring Tidewater Avenue from W. 7th Street to W. 9th Street. This sewer line serves around 18 customers with very minimal usage at some locations. In the past seven days, they averaged 17,700 gallons of water a day which averages 970 gallons an hour. We are planning to do a smoke test in this small section to look for a water leak. Mr. Newton has narrowed it down to within 600 ft. from the main and there is an issue with storm water too.
- f) Councilmember Jones discussed the bathrooms at the park. The soap dispenser is broken and there's no sanitation in the women's bathroom. Mr. Newton advised Mr. Kevin Ashworth has attempted to fix the soap dispenser and bought several bottles of soap but they are stolen. Mr. Newton suggested we may have to allocate some park funds for permanent fixtures this winter to rebuild the inside of both bathrooms.
- g) Councilmember Brame questioned the gazebo behind the post office in the park. Mr. Newton advised the posts broke and the railings have been cut off for now. Councilmember Gill questioned if the school could possibly help rebuild the railings.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to go into closed session in accordance with VA Code §2.2-3712(A)(19) for discussion on public safety and future need of public safety for the town. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

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

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

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved October 12, 2021

Rodney Newton, Town Manager