

Town Council Meeting

September 9, 2025

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on September 9, 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, 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.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to go into Public Hearing on an ordinance to authorize participation by the Town of Victoria in the VACO/VML Virginia Investment Pool for the purpose of investing in accordance with Section 2.2-4501 et seq. and 15.2-1300 of the Virginia Code.

There were no comments.

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

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Councilmember Gill asks to speak about feral cats in the town. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Gill under Information Items as item (d). Mr. Newton advised there will be a closed session to discuss an offer for 1220 Main Street (old town shop).

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 August 2025 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 August 2025. Motion carried..

Lt. Justin Beagle presented the Police Report. Lt. Beagle stated they answered 358 calls, issued 32 summons and two arrests. Also executing a search warrant leading to multiple drug-related arrests. Officer Bosher continues to do well in the academy and will begin his defensive tactics mode for the next several weeks. The Victoria PD was awarded \$20,000.00 for a Highway Safety grant which will be used for overtime enforcement and potential checkpoints during the months for Click It or Ticket. The grant also provided three new radar units and two Lidar units to enhance our traffic safety efforts. Also, a reimbursement match of \$10,000.00 for fuel and maintenance costs. Lt. Beagle advised he along with Chief Lawson had a case to proceed to a jury trial which resulted in a 10-year prison sentence for the defendant. Councilmember Jones inquired about the tractor-trailers parked in residential areas and were they being addressed. Lt. Beagle has addressed it a couple of times but will usually try to give them a chance to move

them. They will continue to patrol as much as they can and find them when they're not running calls. Councilmember Brame inquired about the flock camera on Main Street. Mr. Newton advised they have come and looked at it and are scheduled to come back at a later date. He advised it has been marked and will be behind the lamp post on the 8th Street side so it will actually give a better view. 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 118 responses for the month of August for Station 2 and Station 7. Unfortunately, they had another residential structure fire on Court Street and Tidewater Avenue. There were no injuries. The Truck-n-Tractor Pull is still scheduled for Saturday, October 11th. There were no questions regarding the Financial Report for August 2025. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

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

Informational Items:

- a) Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to approve the proposed ordinance that will allow the town to participate in the VACO/VML Investment Pool. Motion carried.
- b) Citizen Al Powell inquired about a Neighborhood Watch that was discussed at last month's council meeting. Town Manager Newton advised Mr. Powell a meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 7pm at the town office with Chief Lawson to evaluate interest and discuss the formation of a Neighborhood Watch program in the town.
- c) Mr. Newton provided council a letter from Northside Gospel Church located at the corner of Hunter Road and Marshall Avenue. They are concerned about Marshall Avenue that needs repair. Mr. Newton advised this is under the maintenance of VDOT and has spoken to Mr. Newcomb several times regarding this section of Marshall Avenue. VDOT has made attempts to repair but will be forwarding to the South Hill office to get input from them. Council will table until next month's meeting until we find out what VDOT is going to do.
- d) Councilmember Gill received an email from a town citizen, Cassidy Cline concerning the number of feral cats in town. She has spoken with Animal Control Officer Ray Elliott and was told there was nothing he could do. Ms. Cline asked about a fund to raise money to have the cats spayed or neutered. Mr. Newton advised we voted possibly a year ago and it was approved to have funds for Mr. Elliott to trap, spay and/or neuter, clip their ear and then release them. We will bring back a report at next month's meeting. Mayor Smith will respond back to Cassidy Cline.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. William Pernell advised the last Skate Night was a success. The next Skate Night will be Friday, September 19th from 6pm until 9:30pm. He has also ordered four foldable skater aids. This month's Food Truck Rodeo is also scheduled for Friday, September 19th from 5pm until 8pm. We hope by hosting Skate Night alongside the Food Truck Rodeo it will give everyone a chance to enjoy some fantastic food as well as a fun-filled night of skating. Mr. Pernell advised we've got the Autumn Day's Festival on Saturday, October 11th and have gotten most everything lined up. Mr. Pernell updated on the Norfolk Southern grant that was discussed last month. The application period ended on September 1, 2025 so hopefully we will hear back from them soon. This is for the Thriving Communities grant to fund Rails Without Limits playground project. Lastly, Mr. Pernell advised Trunk-R-Treat will be on Friday, October 31st from 5:30pm until 7pm at the Victoria Railroad Park. He will be sending letters for donations for this event by the end of the week and will also start promoting on social media and the town website.
- b) Mr. Newton provided council a copy of the VFW survey that Mr. Rick Dunn has finished. Mr. Newton pointed out Parcel 1 is the 1.876 acres we talked about with the VFW post and the town would deed to them and in return some of the land would come back to the town which ends up being approximately six acres total. Mr. Newton discussed Parcel 2 of 0.030 acres and when we put in the new system we put the control board behind the holding tank to get it away from the existing roadway. We did not know that the sewage holding tank was sitting on the property line. Mr. Newton and Mr. Dunn discussed it and have added this Parcel 2 so the control board is on the property of the VFW. Basically, we are giving them the sewage pumpstation so that is out from under town maintenance. Mr. Newton will work with our attorney to get the deed drawn up for the 1.876 acres plus the 0.030 acres.
- c) Mr. Newton advised Mr. Grayson Townsend had his surgery on August 27th and is doing well. We are hoping he will be able to come back to work on limited duty after September 15th.
- d) Mr. Newton updated on blighted property on Main Street. He and our attorney will be going to court on September 16, 2025 but is only scheduled for 15 minutes. There will be another court date later on.
- e) Mr. Newton provided council a spreadsheet of fire hydrants they have been working on. Anything that's not highlighted has been addressed. The eight hydrants highlighted in yellow still has issues and will need more work. The three hydrants highlighted in red need to be replaced. Mr. Newton advised by VDH regulations the hydrant has to be installed on a minimum six-inch main line. The cost of the hydrant and valve is \$4,000.00 and labor and equipment is \$1,800.00.
- f) Mr. Newton discussed gas in the sewer lines at 5th Street and Washington Avenue. The street is now closed to allow ventilation of the sewer main to dispense vapors. We are working with DEQ and a DEQ contractor to monitor and investigate the source of the gasoline. They have taken some measurements by taking readings on different manholes

and have some ideas but still don't know exactly where it's coming from. DEQ is continually monitoring the area.

- g) The Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) is offering a Conflict-of-Interest training on Friday, November 21, 2025 starting at 10am until 2pm with lunch included.
- h) Mr. Newton updated on the Modest Creek bridge project. Mr. Newton is still working with Mr. Rick Dunn on the survey. He also met with a Contech representative to go over the engineering reports and look at the next steps. They have started looking at the foundation specs and the RFP (request for proposal) for the contractor to install it. As soon as we get the survey done and deed finished we will submit to the VOF (Virginia Office of Forestry) for approval so they'll disperse the funds to us.
- 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 11th.
- j) Mr. Newton updated on the water plant. The four new turbidimeters have been installed and are operational. We received the rest of the process instrumentation which is raw water to build a pH meter and alkalinity meter and hope to get that operational in the next couple of weeks. The SCADA system which is the supervisory control and data acquisition program that runs the plant is failing. We received a quote from Dorsett Controls for \$79,958.00 to update the system. We received notification back on August 15th that SERCAP awarded the town \$79,958.00 to upgrade the SCADA system. He has signed the quote and sent back to Dorsett Controls to begin the project. Mr. Newton asked for a Public Hearing at next month's council meeting to have a budget amendment to cover this as well as the change in the police budget for \$30,000.00. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Jones to hold a Public Hearing for the budget amendments. Motion carried.
- k) Mr. Newton will be attending a meeting tomorrow to begin setting up our Asset Management Program. This will take a while to create and allow scheduled notifications for preventive maintenance to help maintain the equipment.
- l) Mr. Newton discussed the prison utility rate increases. Council approved at last month's meeting to increase the rate beginning October 1, 2025. The Department of Corrections and Lunenburg Correctional Center were notified after last month's meeting of the rate increase.
- m) Mr. Newton attended a Water Business Operating Plan class. This is something that is going to eventually be required by the VDH. It's going to be a living document which will change every year because basically you are looking two years back at budget and four years ahead right now. This will aid in decisions in the future.
- n) Mr. Newton discussed the Office of Drinking Water (ODW) grant funded through the General Assembly at last month's meeting. He did not apply for the grant after the Class 1 he was in and meeting with the Danville ODW office personnel. We didn't feel as though

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we were quite ready to apply but had some recommendations that we need to look at. His plan is to work towards an application late spring to early summer of 2026.

- o) Mr. Newton would like to schedule a work session in October 2025 to work on plans for the future of the water filtration plant, system, rates, etc. Town Council discussed and agreed to meet on Tuesday, October 21st at 6pm for a Waterworks Work Session at the town office.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame 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)3.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Gill 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.

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved October 14, 2025

Rodney Newton, Town Manager