

Town Council Meeting

August 9, 2022

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on August 9, 2022, 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, Treasurer Diane Harding, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Police Chief Joel Manning and Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend.

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. Town Manager Rodney Newton asked to speak about street closures. Mayor Smith added Mr. Newton as item 10(d) under Information Items.

Citizens Irene Wilkinson asked to speak about our local UPS driver, Scott Crawford. Mayor Smith added Ms. Wilkinson as item 10(e) under Information Items.

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 Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the July 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Newton advised the Invoice/CM Detail Check Listing Report has been inaccurate the past two months. There are double entries for some checks. A ticket has been submitted to FMS and we are not the only locality having this issue. Town Clerk, Vickie McDaniel is waiting for resolution. A final report was provided for June 2022 and July 2022. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the Treasurer's report for both June 2022 and July 2022. Motion carried.

Chief Joel Manning presented the Police Report. He stated they had 34 calls, 17 citations and zero arrests. Chief Manning shared stories about two of his bloodhounds, K-9 Reba, who works for Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department and K-9 Shiloh, with the Magnolia Police Department in New Jersey. Chief Manning advised K-9 Reba recently found her 31st missing person in Kenbridge, Va. Lt. Lawson was also commended for his expertise involving missing persons and praised by Chief Manning for his dedication. Meanwhile, K-9 Shiloh found three missing boys by a creek in New Jersey and all were safely reunited with their families. Chief Manning introduced our two new P/T Police Officers, Mr. Caleb Lafferty and Mr. Rondell White. Chief Manning thanked both town council and Town Manager Rodney Newton for allowing him and Lt. Lawson to recruit officers to work in the community. Chief Manning also advised both F/T Police Officers attending the academy completed driving school and are scheduled for firearms training next week. Mr. Beagle and Mr. Behler are doing well. Town Manger Rodney Newton added Chief Manning is putting in a lot of hours and obvious changes are taking place. Also, Chief Manning provided council a Social Media Policy for the VPD and does not require town council action. There were no further questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend presented the Fire Department Report. He stated they had 64 calls at Station 2 in Victoria and 68 calls at Station 7 in Kenbridge. Asst. Chief Townsend advised they now have a 24-hour crew at Station 7 in Kenbridge. This is one reason for a significant increase in payroll cost. There were no questions regarding the Fire Department Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Mr. Newton provided council documents from VDOT regarding the town's truck route. Mr. Newton noted three places coming into town at Court Street, (this side of the Welcome to Victoria sign), Main Street (at Food Lion), and Nottoway Blvd. signs will be added alerting truck drivers of the truck route. Mr. Newton stated changes will be made

Town Council Meeting

August 9, 2022

to the signs. The biggest change in town will have a yellow notice sign above it. Some are not VDOT standard and will be replaced while others will be moved further out.

- b) Mr. Newton discussed the VDOT Traffic Count results. A recent study during July 12, 2022 through July 19, 2022 was conducted at the following locations:
- W. 6th Street (Gallion Town Rd) at the town limits sign
 - Poorhouse Rd (Rt. 663) at the town limits sign before the split at 6th St and 8th St, 11th Street and Needham Drive
 - Mecklenburg Avenue between W. 7th Street and W. 8th Street

The combined total of vehicles for each location was provided along with tractor trailer traffic for comparison. Mecklenburg Avenue had more traffic with 5,130 vehicles, however, only 27 were tractor trailers. Mr. Newton also advised we have three speed limit signs at Mecklenburg Avenue, 6th Street (outbound but switching to inbound) and 8th Street (inbound). Mayor Smith inquired about the landfill signs and truck routes. Mr. Newton stated trucks are to use from Lunenburg Medical Center to Oral Oakes, turn on New Grove and go out to Old Mansion Road. If they are coming from the west from Keysville or Chase City, trucks turn on Hardy Road. Mayor Smith inquired about Nottoway Blvd. Mr. Newton advised they continue straight through.

- c) Mr. Newton advised the Victoria Board of Zoning Appeals still needs two more members to fill the board. Council will need to appoint two members to fill the board as this is a state required board.
- d) Mr. Newton requested council approval to close Firehouse Road on Friday night, October 7, 2022 and all day Saturday, October 8, 2022 for the Annual Autumn Days Festival and Friday, December 2, 2022 on Court St. from Tidewater to Main Street and on Main Street from 8th Street to 1st Street for the Christmas Parade. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Jones to submit the requests to VDOT for street closure approvals. Motion carried.
- e) Citizen Irene Wilkinson advised town council that our UPS driver, Scott Crawford, will be retiring at the end of October 2022 to care for his elderly parents. Ms. Wilkinson would like for the town to recognize Mr. Crawford by asking citizens/businesses to put up signs, banners, etc and possibly publicize on the town website and Facebook page. Councilmember Brame also suggested a Resolution from the town. Mr. Newton agreed and will work with Mrs. Behler to set a date.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton advised National Night Out was held at the Victoria Railroad Park, Tuesday, August 2, 2022 with a combined effort by the Town of Victoria and Town of Kenbridge. Mr. Newton stated for the first time at an event, every first responder agency in Lunenburg County was represented including Game and Inland Fisheries and the Virginia State Police. The next National Night Out will be held in the Town of Kenbridge.
- b) Mr. Newton updated council of the bid opening for proposals for the finished water flow meter and the pressure relief surge valve at the water plant. Mr. Newton received one bid from Precision Pipes of \$50,629.00 for the replacement of both devices. There is an option bid of \$3,200.00 if the existing pipes that run from the vault outside into the plant cannot be used in the conduit for the wiring. Mr. Newton advised we have met all the requirements and recommended using some of the unappropriated ARPA funds to make these needed repairs to the water plant. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Gill to use the unappropriated ARPA funds to begin repairs to the water plant. Motion carried.
- c) Mr. Newton advised he and Phil Pegram, Water Plant Supervisor have been working on some issues at the water filtration plant but have more assignments to work on. They have not been able to see the water level at the plant for the Lunenburg Prison. Recently, a technician from SCADA found that we had a bad set of contacts on a control card and repaired so operators can now see the water level at the plant. Mr. Newton advised with

Town Council Meeting

August 9, 2022

the maintenance done at the ground tank and pump behind the town hall, the pumps now are automated to the elevated tank. When the elevated tank hits 25 feet, these pumps turn on and then automatically turn off when it hits 29 ½ feet. They are still trying to work out some things but hopefully will address a lot of extra hours the employees are working at the plant. This tank does have a safety of 20 feet so it will not come on so we will always maintain 100,000 gallons in the tank in case of an emergency. Mr. Newton stated we pump 4 ½ miles to town from Nottoway Falls and it takes roughly four hours. The first four hours in the mornings, they are treating water that was put in same day meaning the new water will not come in until sometime around noon. Since 2009, Lunenburg Lake has not been used and will not draw a draft to pull water into it. Mr. Newton requested permission to start doing some investigating and experimenting, to see if we can get that pump system back up and running. This will save a lot of time and money. Mr. Newton requested to move forward to find out if the pump works and install a temporary intake line to see if it will pump water. Mr. Newton stated we cannot do a whole lot of changing because it was grandfathered in so we will be making repairs to what we have. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Gill to move forward with Lunenburg Lake repairs. Motion carried.

- d) Mr. Newton advised we have installed approximately 400 new water meters and 275 transmitters. Testing was done last week and we will be doing some maintenance on the programming of the meters. Mr. Newton stated from the old middle school to 11th Street and Poorhouse Rd., he read 244 meters in 18 minutes. This would have taken approximately four hours to manually read these meters. Once everything is installed and integration with FMS, meter reading will be a thing of the past. Also, depending on the cost, we may be reading from the town office later down the road and high reading alarms set-up for customers who have leaks, etc.
- e) Mr. Newton updated on the sewer project. He advised B&B Consultants was the only submittal for engineering work. The next step will be engineering the force main to start construction on this fall 2022. Mr. Newton stated pump station design will be early 2023 and the generator for the Park Avenue brick pump station is at CAT in Richmond with delivery within the next two weeks.
- f) Mr. Newton advised he met with the Planning Commission and made some recommendations. They will be working on a draft Solar Ordinance Policy over the next couple of weeks.
- g) Mr. Newton advised we have received Red Brick Solar's permit application and it will be placed in the lobby for review. This solar facility will be located on Route 49 near the Lunenburg Courthouse. Comments can be made between August 17, 2022 until September 18, 2022.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved September 13, 2022

Rodney Newton, Town Manager