

## Town Council Meeting

August 8, 2023

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on August 8, 2023, 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, and Chief Camden Lawson. Absent was Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend.

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 the request of vacation and conveyance of a part of W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street adjacent to Roanoke Avenue right-of-way. Motion carried.

No comments were made.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to come out of Public Hearing on the request of vacation and conveyance of a part of W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street adjacent to Roanoke Avenue right-of-way. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Councilmember Gill asked to add Family Dollar. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Gill as item 11(g) under Informational Items. Town Manager Rodney Newton asked to add Bliss of Lunenburg mural. Mayor Smith added Mr. Newton as item 11(e) under Informational Items. Town Manager Rodney Newton asked to speak about alleyways in the town. Mayor Smith added Mr. Newton as item 11(f) under Informational 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 Jones and seconded by Councilmember Garratt to accept the July 2023 regular meeting minutes and the special meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the Treasurer's report for July 2023. Motion carried.

Chief Camden Lawson presented the Police Report. He stated they had a busy month with 146 calls, 21 citations, and two felony arrests. Chief Lawson advised there has been a schedule change in the department. Effective August 1, 2023 officers went to 10-hour shifts coming in at 6:00am until 4:00pm and 4:00pm until 2:00am. This leaves two hours on-call per officer. Chief Lawson advised there is a lot of traffic out early in the morning and this is prior to school opening as well. Councilmember Jones asked Chief Lawson had the certified Police Officer position been filled. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised he would address later in the Town Managers Update. There were no questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Town Manager Rodney Newton presented the Fire Department Report. He stated they had a total of 130 responses with 64 calls at Station 2 and 66 calls at Station 7. There were no questions regarding the Fire Department Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Mr. Newton discussed the Public Hearing request for vacation and conveyance of W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Councilmember Jones with the Property Committee advised she and Councilmember Garratt were not able to get together to view the property yet. This was tabled until next month's meeting.

- b) Mr. Newton provided council a revision of the Commercial Vehicle Parking ordinance. The model verbiage that was used was geared more to parking in and along streets and left a gray area for interpretation of parking anywhere else in a residential zone. Mr. Newton met with our Town Attorney, Robert Clement, and changed to Restricted Areas instead of Restricted Streets whereby it shall be unlawful to park a commercial vehicle in any residential zone in the Town of Victoria. Also, Section 5. Penalty was added meaning any person found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this article shall be deemed a class IV misdemeanor as defined in section 1-18. Each 24-hour period shall be deemed a separate offence. Motion was made Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to hold a Public Hearing on revisions and additions made to the Commercial Vehicle Parking ordinance at the September council meeting. Motion carried.
- c) Mr. Newton discussed the Virginia Outdoor Foundation Grant for the trail extension for the west of the trail and development of the trailhead on the Underwood property on Nutbush Road. The estimate for that project came in at approximately \$450K to \$550K. The grant requires land to be placed under a conservation easement to use the funds. The stipulation was if land is already in a conservation easement, these funds cannot be used for that project. Mr. Newton advised the entire tract except for one small parcel at the right-of-way owned by Roanoke River Trails is already under an easement therefore, the funds cannot be used to construct the trail. We withdrew the application and will continue to pursue other grant resources.
- d) Mr. Newton advised the First Citizens ATM machine was removed Monday, August 7, 2023. He spoke with Mr. Arrington with First Citizens Bank and this is a nationwide business plan for them to remove their ATM's. Mr. Arrington advised they found it would be cheaper for them to not charge their customers for using a foreign ATM than maintain all their ATMs around the area. Mr. Newton requested guidance on what to do with the empty space so he can provide to First Citizens Bank. With previous talks about turning the Mayor's office into a display room, this could be used as office space for the Town Mayor. Mayor Smith and Councilmember Garratt discussed an electronic message board to display notices of events going on in the town. Mr. Newton will work with Mr. Arrington on closing in the empty wall and look into quotes for an electronic message board.
- e) Miss Teresa Bagley met with Bliss of Lunenburg on an idea for a mural on the wall beside 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Miss Ellie Shortridge also came up with the same idea and the two collaborated together. This will be a four-panel mural as follows:
- Panel 1- represents Bliss of Lunenburg and commemorates Mr. E's father
  - Panel 2- represents climate change
  - Panel 3- allows local artists to leave their creative mark. This will be controlled and approval beforehand. This is geared more towards elementary, middle and high school children
  - Panel 4- Shop Secondhand, bringing back to Bliss and a LOVE sign with each letter representing different things that represent our community (ei.... tobacco, unity, growth and hobbies)
- Miss Ellie Shortridge is looking to get her highest honor Girl Scout award for the mural. The project will take approximately four months and plans are to start in the fall of 2023. Also, council would like to look at the quotes. Motion was made by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Garrat to approve the wall mural on the Bliss of Lunenburg building once quotes are given to council. Motion carried.
- f) Mr. Newton discussed alleyways in the Town of Victoria. A question came up as far as enforcement of alleys being blocked. Mr. Newton has studied the town ordinances and we have no ordinance that states that you can or cannot block an alleyway. It does say in the Charter that alleyways are supposed to be available for public use. Mr. Newton provided council a letter that was given to two people recently. He recommended the Street Committee look into this. Mr. Newton advised we do not maintain alleys. Councilmember Jones stated at one time the alleys were being maintained at the citizens request and that the alleys were to remain open in case a utility vehicle needed to enter the alley for repair. Mayor Smith agreed

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for the Street Committee to look into this and come back in September with recommendations and thoughts of adding an ordinance to address this issue.

- g) Councilmember Gill advised the manager of the new Family Dollar/Dollar Tree reached out to him. The grand opening will be held on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> and they would like town councilmembers to attend. He is not sure of the time but will get back with everyone. Mr. Newton also advised we have been working with the developer as one of the lamp posts was hit by a dump truck, so we are working to get it removed and coordinated to get a new light.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton updated on the sewer project. The force main was 20 feet from the termination point on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. They have capped that end of the line and are getting ready for the pressure test. Once its pressure tested, they will install the valve and the new manhole will be set in place. Mr. Newton advised we are ordering more supplies for the west pumpstation, the valve fault and wet wall, as the pump has already been ordered. This will be everything needed to rebuild that pumpstation hopefully by September. Then we will cease flow at the west pumpstation by December 2023.
- b) Mr. Newton advised the announcement for Certified Police Officer closed last Friday, August 4, 2023. We received two applications and will be interviewing on Monday, August 14, 2023.
- c) Mr. Newton advised with the 10<sup>th</sup> Street crossover between Main Street and Lincoln Avenue we were able to acquire millings from the recent project to use on town projects and have been using to fill in the deep ruts on the crossover until the project can be completed properly.
- d) Mr. Newton reminded council that 8<sup>th</sup> Street between Main Street and Washington Avenue will be milled and repaved as will Washington Avenue from Nottoway Blvd. to the town limits. The road has already been marked and he anticipates this to start in the next week to two weeks.

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

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 September 12, 2023

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Rodney Newton, Town Manager