

## Town Council Meeting

February 8, 2022

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on February 8, 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 Officer Camden Lawson. Absent was Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett.

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 Garratt asked to speak about infrastructure. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Garratt as item (c) under Information Items. Town Manager Rodney Newton requested a closed session. Mayor Smith added Mr. Newton for a closed session at end of council meeting.

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 January 2022 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 January 2022. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith presented the Police Report. Councilmember Jones questioned parking on Main Street overnight and tenants were supposed to park around back. Mr. Newton advised he would get with Chief Phillips and check into this. Mr. Newton stated with no signage there, this may fall back on the landlords. There were no further questions. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith presented the Fire Department Report. 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) Town Manager Rodney Newton advised the November 8, 2022 council meeting falls on a state holiday, Election Day. The VA Code §15.2-1416(B) states "the meeting shall be held on the next following regular business day." This will move the November 2022 council meeting to Wednesday, November 9, 2022.
- b) Mr. Newton introduced Mr. Ty Dunbar as the new water plant operator trainee. Mr. Dunbar will work closely with Water Supervisor, Phil Pegram and water operator Andrew Ward as well as attending training courses as they become available for a Class 4 certification. Mr. Dunbar's first day is Monday, February 14, 2022.
- c) Councilmember Garratt questioned monies allotted for infrastructure was any allotted for the purchase of new fire hydrants. Mr. Newton advised we already have new fire hydrants at the town shop but do not have the man power to put them in right now. Most of them are on a 10" line with no valves. Also, we will have to coordinate with the water department. Mr. Kevin Ashworth had a follow-up surgery on January 5 2022 and is not expected back to work until February 27, 2022.

### Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton advised the town has received several law enforcement grants over the past 30-45 days. The first was the FY18 Byrne Justice Grant for \$3,311.00. These funds were used to purchase the first driver feedback sign. We received a FY19 Bryne Justice Grant in the amount of \$3,012.00 however; these funds have not been obligated yet. And a

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Bryne Justice Assistance Grant for \$16,045.00. These funds will be used to buy the remainder of the driver feedback speed limit signs.

- b) Mr. Newton advised they met with B&B Consultants on January 20, 2022 to discuss the repairs made over the past 18 months and the plans to update the PER report. They also met with DEQ on January 25, 2022. Mr. Jeff Reynolds, with DEQ is pleased with the progress we are making so far. Mr. Newton advised town crews made a repair on W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street and this could be one of our large influent places. Based on what we have corrected so far, we have reduced our I&I going into the west wastewater plant by 50%. This may have saved us \$2M. Since we have been able to show this through documentation that we have reduced the flow and feel comfortable we can do our consolidation soon and revise the PER report by the end of the February 2022. Mr. Newton advised coming in April 2022, there will be a lot of funding opportunities such as construction loans and grants. On the federal level, they have passed the bi-partisan infrastructure law which funnels back into these construction funds. Mr. Newton stated hopefully by April 2022 we will be ready for the project and recommended to council to have a work session prior to the March 8<sup>th</sup> council meeting. This is to discuss our options and estimated costs. We are down from approximately \$5.5M to \$3M. Council members agreed to meet on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 6:00pm prior to the council meeting.
- c) Mr. Newton updated council on the new refuse truck. Maryland Industrial Trucks is waiting for parts and scheduled to be built in May 2022. We hope to have it here by summer.
- d) Mr. Newton advised the FY21 audit was completed today, February 8, 2022. Robinson, Farmer & Cox have been here the past two days. Treasurer, Diane Harding stated they were scheduled to be here for three days but the presentation and timeliness of our documents enabled them to complete the audit in two days. Mr. Paul Lee, Senior Accountant, will be getting with her for any final documents needed.
- e) Mr. Newton advised we received a \$4,500 donation to the Victoria Community Centre fund.
- f) Mr. Newton discussed the LOVE sign. He has found two vendors to give us a quote and will be meeting with one by the end of the week. Mr. Newton discussed the prior location of the LOVE sign at the Kiosk may not be that visible and asked council to look on Main Street for a possible location. He anticipates having quotes by next month.
- g) Mr. Newton attended the VML/VACO and Planning District Local Government Day last Thursday, February 3, 2022. He met with Delegate Wright, Delegate Wachsmann and Senator Ruff to discuss some of the bills. Other than budget, each house has to act on the bills by Tuesday, February 15, 2022.
- h) Mr. Newton advised there are some planning grants available. He will be meeting with B&B Consultants on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 regarding the Lunenburg Lake pump facility and possible renovations.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to go into closed session for discussion on:

- a. Acquisition of Blighted Property for the Town of Victoria, according to Code of VA §2.2-311(A)(3).
- b. Prospective Business in which there has been no public announcement of the business, according to Code of VA §2.2-3711(A)(5).

CLOSED SESSION February 8, 2022

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

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Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to partner and support the Industrial Development Authority of the Town of Victoria in the acquisition of the commercial property that was discussed in closed session. Motion carried with Councilmember Garrett abstaining.

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 March 8, 2022

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Rodney Newton, Town Manager