

Town Council Meeting

January 14, 2020

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on January 14, 2020 in the Town Municipal building with the Honorable Carol R. Watson, 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, Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Police Chief H. Keith Phillips and Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett..

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

The invocation was given by Councilmember Elam followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mayor Watson asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Citizen Terry Dalton asked to speak about bamboo on West 6th and Lunenburg Avenue. Mayor Watson added Mrs. Dalton as item 10 (a).

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to accept the December 2019 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the Treasurer's report for December 2019. Town Manager Rodney Newton commended the town office employees and town shop employees as well as Mayor Watson for their hard work. Mr. Newton noted FY2019 shows an increase in funds compared to FY2018. Motion carried.

Chief H. Keith Phillips gave the Police Report. Chief Phillips stated they had another busy month with 59 calls, 20 citations and 4 arrests with 8 charges. Mayor Watson asked Chief Phillips the status on the new Dodge Ram 1500 Pickup Truck recently purchased. Chief Phillips advised still waiting on inspection and should be shipped soon. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett gave the Fire/Rescue Department Report. He stated they had another busy month at Station 2 in Victoria and Station 7 in Kenbridge. Assistant Chief Garrett also stated they had a large number of calls for FY2019 at 1,564 and everyone did an outstanding job. Assistant Chief Garrett provided the Financial Report and stated they had a positive balance for year-end 2019. Assistant Chief Garrett also provided council the election of Victoria Fire and Rescue 2020 Officers according to Article 5, Section 2. Councilmember Mattox asked how many members they have. Assistant Fire Chief Garrett explained they did a reclassification but total roster is 71 members. Town Manager Rodney Newton and the Victoria Fire/Rescue Chief advised they created two divisions trying to do some recruiting and retention. Now they have the option to do fire only or EMS only and equal requirements have to be met. There were no questions regarding the budget. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to approve the Fire Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Mayor Watson presented Mr. David Dalton, Boy Scouts Master for Pack #7538 with a Resolution of Appreciation and Commendation for his outstanding service. Mr. Dalton has been a scout leader for 19 years and in November 2019 became Scout Master for Pack #7538 in Victoria, VA. Mr. Dalton has been instrumental in various projects in Lunenburg County as well as raising funds for scouting and the Victoria Masonic Lodge #304. Mr. Dalton's dedication of time and resources to the community has been very well appreciated.

Citizen Terry Dalton advised the bamboo on West 6th and Lunenburg Avenue that was cut down has been left and some is in the road. Mrs. Dalton stated it's a horrible condition. Mrs. Dalton also advised several street lights go on and off in the neighborhood. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised Mrs. Dalton they have been reported to Dominion Virginia Power and they are working on repairing those now. Mayor Watson advised Mrs. Dalton we will check on the bamboo complaint.

Informational Items:

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- a) Mayor Watson advised we had 234 riders for the month of December 2019.
- b) Councilmember Elam discussed the recent government discussions to pass laws to severely restrict a law abiding citizen to own a gun. The county passed a Second Amendment Sanctuary and Councilmember Elam recommended a written letter of support to the Board of Supervisors commending them for their actions. Councilmember Elam would also like a copy sent to Governor Northam's office in Richmond. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to write a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors. Motion carried.
- c) Mayor Watson reminded councilmembers to turn in names for this year Autumn Days committee to start planning for the 40th Anniversary. We have three on the committee thus far.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton updated council of the recent meeting with DEQ regarding the operations of the two wastewater treatment facilities. We have worked with B&B Consultants who are primary engineers in the recent feasibility study at the East WWTP. The initial price was \$35,000.00 but after negotiation the price is \$29,900.00. Currently, our permit is through 2024 but need to decide if we want to continue with the West WWTP facility or close it all together. Mr. Newton advised we have approximately \$40,000.00 in Fund 22 (Utility Improvements) due to proceeds from timber cutting and recommended to council to transfer \$29,900.00 to the Capital Improvement/WWTP Fund to get the study moving. Mr. Newton also stated this has been approved by the Finance Committee. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Gill to proceed with the transfer of funds to do the feasibility study. Motion carried. Mr. Newton also discussed the copper study. We have completed the copper study and apparently DEQ has informed us we have wasted \$30,000.00 due to the recommendation by our consultant at Shealy Consulting, LLC. Mr. Newton and Mr. Grayson Townsend, Wastewater Supervisor, will be meeting with our Shealy consultant, Ms. Beth Thompson, tomorrow January 15, 2020 to draw up a letter to DEQ. Mr. Newton also advised they have a meeting with Piedmont and Central DEQ office personnel next Thursday, January 23, 2020 to discuss copper, West WWTP and the sewer system. Within the next three months, we will probably enter into another incremental consent order for protection and additional time to the town. Mr. Newton will provide updates at the next council meeting.
- b) Mr. Newton advised he is currently talking with two individuals who possibly have the capabilities to make the LOVE sign.
- c) Mr. Newton advised the piles at Lakeview Cemetery where previous work had been done have been restacked and burned. Mr. Kevin Ashworth, Shop Supervisor, recently purchased grass seed and will be re-seeding the area soon. Mayor Watson mentioned she was recently at the Lakeview Cemetery and received several compliments on the appearance of the cemetery.
- d) Mr. Newton updated council that the water tank mixer has been installed but still have to run electrical service to it. The entire electrical system has been upgraded. There are lights in the building and a new panel box. Mr. Newton stated we will have another project coming in March 2020 to remove two pine trees.
- e) Mr. Newton stated the altitude valve on the ground tank has been replaced with a remote controlled actuator and as soon as the company that handles our telemetry completes their work, the water treatment plant will have full control to open and close the actuator from the plant.
- f) Mr. Newton advised the tunnel lights have been recently installed. The camera's are not in place yet but cables are there. The tunnel lights are running through the pump house and are on a photocell, which will turn off in the daylight hours and all have LED lighting.

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- g) Mr. Newton advised the new Town of Victoria website is available and encouraged council to look at the website as numerous options have been added. One nice feature is citizens can subscribe to the website and receive Town Alerts regarding town events, news and services, for example boiling water notice or delay in trash pick- up in a text or email message. The web address is still www.victoriava.net.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Carol R. Watson, Mayor

Approved February 11, 2020

Rodney Newton, Town Manager