

Town Council Meeting

January 10, 2023

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on January 10, 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, 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 on Commercial Vehicle Parking. Mayor Smith added Town Manager Newton as item 10 (b) 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 Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to accept the December 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 December 2022. Motion carried.

Chief Joel Manning presented the Police Report. He stated they had a busy month with 75 calls, zero citations and one arrest. Chief Manning advised they have started the Field Training Process and changing schedules for the new F/T Police Officers. Both Officer Beagle and Officer Behler have had their roles changed from student to OJT Officers. Chief Manning advised they continue to identify new codes for Shieldware in their case filing system. Also, December was a cold month. They were able to assist Public Works with identifying water leaks. Chief Manning and Officer Beagle followed up on the 4th Street and Lee complaints with residents. There has been more patrol in this location. Lt. Lawson also made a stop connected to a complaint in this same area. Chief Manning and Officer Behler followed up on the discussion at the December council meeting concerning speed limit signage. It was determined that there are two discrepancies that need to be addressed. One is from Galliontown Road to the town limits on W. 6th Street. Chief Manning advised it does not change from 35-mile speed zone until after Park Avenue. Chief Manning advised also Poorhouse Road presents the same at 8th Street continuing towards Needham and 11th Street. The police department will be running radar prominently in the coming months. Councilmember Brame questioned Chief Manning about homeless persons in the Town of Victoria. Chief Manning advised they have identified some people. and contacted Social Services. Some were taken in on Tidewater Avenue. Councilmember Brame requested Chief Manning let the town know about any incidents so possibly the town can help. There were no further questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend presented the Fire Department Report. He stated they had another busy month with 80 calls at Station 2 and 88 calls at Station 7. Assistant Chief Townsend also provided council with the 2022 Incident Responses report. They had a total of 1,621 calls for service. Assistant Chief Townsend stated December was a challenging month with the cold weather. There were no questions regarding the Fire Department Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Town Manager Rodney Newton discussed the town speed limit signage that Chief Manning introduced earlier in the meeting. Mr. Newton advised traffic engineering with VDOT did a study for W. 6th Street from the town limit sign to Galliontown Road. Their recommendation is extending the 25mph zone to the intersection of west Norfolk Avenue and W. 6th Street and 35mph from that intersection to the town limits sign. VDOT wants a reduction zone in there instead of 55mph to 25mph. Another recommendation was for

councils' consideration for an ordinance to be enacted stating that the speed limit in the Town of Victoria is 25mph unless otherwise posted. This eliminates VDOT putting up many speed limit signs throughout the town. Mr. Newton also asked VDOT to investigate Poorhouse Road to Needham Drive. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to hold a Public Hearing at next month's February council meeting to change Ordinance 30-201- Schedule II, speed limits to the town wide speed limit sign to 25mph unless otherwise posted. Motion carried.

- b) Mr. Newton discussed parking of commercial vehicles in residential areas. Both Mr. Newton and Chief Manning have been discussing parking of commercial vehicles in residential districts throughout the town and have researched the surrounding communities. The Town of Kenbridge, Town of Farmville and Town of South Hill all have an ordinance restricting the parking of commercial vehicles in residential areas.
- Town of Kenbridge- has a 4,000 lb. weight limit in any residential neighborhood
 - Town of South Hill- has a 6,500 lb. weight limit in any residential neighborhood

Mr. Newton feels the TOK is too restrictive as far as weight limits and favors the Town of South Hill ordinance for weight limit, safety and congestion conditions. This excludes buses as well. Chief Manning stated they spoke with one individual who was parking a commercial vehicle in a residential area up on the sidewalk. Mr. Newton advised the IDA has just negotiated an agreement with Fellowship Chair with the Caddis building. Both parking lots on both sides have now been retained by the town and will not be sold with the building. So they can be provided for municipal parking for commercial purposes. There is already much presence now and we will be working to get the lighting fixed in the parking lot soon. Mr. Newton provided council a proposal that he and Chief Manning would like council to consider. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Elam to hold a Public Hearing on Commercial Vehicle Parking in residential district. Motion carried.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton advised the backflow preventor has been rebuilt, reinstalled and certified. The pump that was removed before Christmas has been rebuilt and painted with plans to install next week. Mr. Newton will be sending the quote back tomorrow for the second pump and asked Sydnor-Hydro for a quote on an impeller assembly rebuild for additional spare.
- b) Mr. Newton advised as of December 31st, there were 856 new water meters and transmitters installed at residential and some commercial locations. This concludes the installation of meters and transmitters except for a few vacant properties which will be installed once they are occupied. Mr. Newton stated this has left approximately 20 commercial accounts that will continue to be read manually because of costs of the meters. Mr. Newton advised on January 3, 2023 they read 856 meters in an hour and fifteen minutes. We are working with both Core & Main and FMS for full integration and implementation by the end of January or February 2023.
- c) Mr. Newton discussed the recent cold weather. The town only experienced one infrastructure break. We did have eight to ten customers that had to be cut-off due to massive water leaks. On Monday, December 26, 2022 the elevated tank was down almost 6,000 gallons over normal. By Tuesday, December 27th the majority of the leaks had been fixed or cut-off.
- d) Mr. Newton advised he received VDOT approval for the forced main and met with the Town Attorney, Robert Clement today. There are two easements that need to be done. There are three parcels of land with one landowner on Grove Avenue and one parcel on Main Street. Mr. Newton will let B&B Consultants know so they can start staking the route with intentions of putting pipe in the ground around the first of February 2023. Mr. Newton also advised March 2023 is the timeframe for \$1.5M grant that he submitted for this project.
- e) Mr. Newton advised the new garbage truck is here and was delivered on December 29, 2022. Both January 18th and January 19th are training days for the vendor to come and do.

The town shop employees will be putting out the new cans on the west side of town this week as they will be running the new garbage truck on January 18, 2023 on that side of town. Mr. Newton provided council guidelines for citizens on residential garbage collection. Mr. Newton is looking at two options:

- 1) The TOV will be giving all customers one garbage can: either a 64-gallon or 95-gallon rolling cart. There will be a limited number of 64-gallon cans. There will be some customers who will need more than one can.
- 2) Customer owned carts may be used for collection if they are designed for use with automated or semi-automated collection trucks. The cans must have the metal lift bar on the front. The TOV will not be responsible for damage to carts not owned by the town.

Mr. Newton stated all carts provided by the town remain property of the Town of Victoria and are limited to two (2) carts per resident. Those customers who need a second can may rent one (1) for \$100.00 for as long as they live there. Mr. Newton advised the old refuse truck will be sent to New Way and have a tipper installed on the back to use as a back-up refuse truck. They will be marking with white paint to mark where the cans need to be. The driver will be driving on the right side of the truck. Every can currently has a serial number on it and corresponds to the property address. Customers who move will not be allowed to take can(s) with them as they are property of the town. After much discussion, council agreed to \$100.00 rental fee for second cart. Customer owned carts will not be allowed for garbage collection. Mr. Newton will make changes to the letter going out to those residents next week on the west side of town and provide to council at next month's meeting. Once we get the main trash operator, we may have to adjust or make changes to the pick-up schedule meaning instead of twice a week, we may have to pick-up three days a week. Commercial customers will still be picked up on their regular schedule.

- f) Mr. Newton provided council the General Assembly Bills of Interest introduced for 2023. There were two Mr. Newton thought impacted the town:
- HB1487-Meetings of Local Government Body; Live Broadcast and Archive- requires localities to provide a live broadcast of public meetings of the local governing body and to archive such broadcasts on their website
 - HB1458- Constitutional Amendment; General Assembly and Local Elected Officials, Term Limits-effective on or after January 1, 2026

Mr. Newton received the VML Legislative Bulletin that is put out to members and local government officials. For those who are interested, he will provide the email link from VML to your town email. Also, VML/VACO Local Government Day will be at the Omni in Richmond on Thursday, January 19, 2023 and Mr. Newton is planning to attend.

- g) Mr. Newton update council on Mr. Ty Dunbar. Mr. Dunbar is doing well and went back on December 28, 2022 for his follow-up appointment. He has been by the office a couple of times and if all goes well, looks to be back at the water plant the second week in February 2023 depending on his physical therapy. Mr. Dunbar will have limitations but plans have been put in place to accommodate this.
- h) Councilmember Brame extended their condolences to Councilmember Gill and his family on the recent passing of his father, Mr. Billy Gill on December 31, 2022. Mr. Gill was the Mayor and Town Manager of LaCrosse and a life member of the Southside Rescue Squad in South Hill.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

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Approved February 14, 2023

Rodney Newton, Town Manager