

Town Council Meeting

July 12, 2022

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on July 12, 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. Absent was Assistant Fire Chief Grayson Townsend.

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 Gill asked to speak about the towns burning law. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Gill as item 11(d) under Information Items. Town Manager Rodney Newton requested to have a Public Hearing prior to the August council meeting for a real estate parcel exchange. Mayor Smith added Mr. Newton as item 11(e) under Information Items.

Citizens Patricia Harper-Tunley and Edward Pennington asked to follow up on the Mecklenburg Avenue "No Thru Trucks Prohibited" discussion from last month's council meeting. Mayor Smith added Ms. Patricia Harper-Tunley as item 11(f) 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 Gill and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the June 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer Diane Harding advised council the Treasurer's report was an estimation until all June invoices have been paid. A final report will be provided at next month's meeting for approval. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the Treasurer's report for June 2022. Motion carried.

Chief Joel Manning presented the Police Report. He stated they had a very eventful month. Chief Manning advised they are working to hire two P/T Police Officers. Chief Manning announced on June 14, 2022 Officer Camden Lawson was promoted to Lieutenant for the Town of Victoria Police Department. Chief Manning commended Lt. Lawson for his hard work and due diligence. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised both Chief Manning and Lt. Lawson spent six days for an ECO in Farmville Hospital. Chief Manning advised he is currently at Piedmont Reginal Jail for the safety of the town. Chief Manning advised they had 14 calls for the month of June. He also stated they monitored Mecklenburg Avenue for several days. There was not a gross number of trucks and no children playing near the road. Councilmember Brame inquired about speeding. Chief Manning stated since the traffic sign has been posted on Mecklenburg Avenue it has improved and they did not ticket anyone driving over the speed limit. 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.

Town Manager Rodney Newton presented the Fire Department Report. Mr. Newton advised starting in August 2022 you will notice a significant increase in payroll cost. Beginning, July 3, 2022 they will have a 24-hour crew six days a week with alternating crews. He stated Sunday's will be volunteer. Currently five of the six positions have been filled. Mr. Newton also advised Mr. Johnny Crenshaw is a F/T Supervisor with the Victoria Fire and Rescue. Mr. Newton advised the Truck-n-Tractor Pull in June 2022 made between \$13,000-\$14,000 and plans are underway for another event in October 2022. There were no questions regarding the Fire Department Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Gill and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Councilmember Mattox advised council that he, Councilmember Jones and Councilmember Garrett viewed the 15th Street R-O-W vacation request on July 1, 2022. There were two recommendations to convey the entire street to Ms. Ambrose only, with

one recommendation to convey half to Ms. Ambrose and Mr. Earl Pinchbeck. Mr. Newton stated there were no concerns with either Ms. Ambrose or Mr. Pinchbeck with the vacation request. According to policy, they will have to purchase two deeds and split the cost. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Elam to sell the property and split between both Ms. Ambrose and Mr. Earl Pinchbeck. Motion carried.

- b) Mr. Newton advised council the Ms. Irene Wilkerson and Mr. Johnny Crenshaw have agreed to continue to serve on the Victoria Board of Zoning Appeals. Council will need to appoint three more members to fill the board. Councilmember Mattox advised Ms. Sharon Harding agreed to serve on the board as an appointee. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to reappoint Ms. Wilkerson and Mr. Crenshaw and appoint Ms. Harding to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilmember Gill abstained. Motion carried. Council will need to appoint two more members to fill the board at next month's meeting.
- c) Mr. Newton advised council at the IDA meeting members talked with Mr. Hardy Jones who was on the IDA several years ago and Mr. Jones agreed to come back and serve on the IDA Committee. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Garret to accept Mr. Jones as a member of the Industrial Development Authority. Motion carried.
- d) Councilmember Gill along with Councilmember Brame were asked to investigate the town burning law. They found in the Virginia Administrative Code persons are not allowed to use incineration devices or burn any petroleum-based products. It was their recommendation to make no changes to the town ordinance.
- e) Mr. Newton updated council that the Star Value property is in the process of being sold. The company purchasing the property approached the town about the corner near Dollar General and doing a land swap. They are asking for 0.014 acres but in return the town will be getting 0.077 acres of land that is up in Oakwood Cemetery. Mr. Newton stated this is basically a real estate exchange and by the Code of Virginia we still must have a Public Hearing. Mr. Newton advised they would like to close by the end of July 2022. Mr. Newton recommended a Public Hearing the week on July 25, 2022 outside of council meeting as long as the Mayor and three council members attend. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 25, 2022 at 6:00pm for the real estate exchange. Motion carried.
- f) Ms. Patricia Harper-Tunley inquired about the Thru Trucks Prohibited on Mecklenburg Avenue that was discussed at last month's council meeting being no decision was made. Mayor Smith advised town council has not taken any action at this time. Mr. Newton advised we have three traffic studies on roads coming into town. They are on Mecklenburg Avenue, Poorhouse Rd, and Gallion Town Rd. and will stay out for seven days. Councilmember Gill advised to wait for the traffic studies. The Police Department will continue to patrol as well. Mr. Newton advised that we would address once we get the data back from VDOT. Citizen Mr. Edward Pennington asked council to accept his apology for his behavior at last month's council meeting regarding Mecklenburg Avenue. Mr. Pennington stated if the Board of Supervisors and Town Council both do a resolution, it still takes eight months to a year for VDOT to address. Mr. Pennington wants to get the resolutions, a Joint Public Hearing and then turn over to VDOT.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton updated the park bathrooms are open and operational. We still do not have the locks on as we are waiting for wi-fi. Also, Mr. Newton advised if you hear of any complaints about grass in the swing set areas, the plastic cross ties that were put down are breaking up and becoming a hazard. They will be coming out and eventually all grass. The town employees are limited on how much weed killer they can spray and cannot spray with people in the area. Mr. Newton advised eventually the mulch will go away and convert to grass in the larger areas so they can cut with lawnmowers instead of weed eaters.

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- b) Mr. Newton advised council the bid opening for proposals for the finished water flow meter and the pressure relief valve at the water plant will be August 3, 2022. Mr. Newton hopes to use some of the undesignated ARPA funds to do this and requested authorization from council to award after the bid opening so we can get this project started. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam to authorize Mr. Newton to award the bid opening. Motion carried.
- c) Mr. Newton advised pump controls at Nottoway Falls and Modest creek are currently remote operated through cellular modems. Kinex has fiber at the entrance of Nottoway Falls and will be installing fiber down Reservoir Rd soon so we can put fiber to both pumpstations and have a more reliable connection. This will also allow us to put cameras so the operators will be able to see the damn and water conditions from the plant instead of driving. Mr. Newton will be meeting with a SCADA vendor on July 27th, 2022 to start changing over from the cellular modems to the VPN connections back to the water plant. This controls the pumphouse at the ground tank and the building at the elevated tank. Our cost at Modest Creek and Nottoway Falls is going to go up some but by eliminating these two cellular, it will balance out. The elevated tank on Mecklenburg Avenue holds 500,000 gallons of water. However, usable water is about 320,000 gallons. We have 300,000 gallons in the ground storage tank behind the town office. We are going to start looking at making the ground tank more usable for our operators.
- d) Mr. Newton updated council on the Consent Order Compliance Report and project schedule dated June 17, 2022 when it was initially submitted. Plans are to begin force main installation this fall. Mr. Newton advised he will be submitting a grant application through the DEQ-Clean Water Revolving Fund to help pay for the pumpstation. We have a generator on order for the brick Park Avenue pumpstation with delivery still three to four months out. Mr. Newton advised we have received state reimbursement from the ice storm. For the generator operations we have received \$1,101.49 and waiting on Federal for \$9,913.41. Also, we have received state reimbursement for debris removal in the amount of \$3,668.50 and waiting for \$33,016.50 from Federal. These funds have already been earmarked for the new generator at the Park Avenue pumpstation and installation cost. Mr. Newton advised we have ordered a lift station for the Garthwright pumpstation. This will monitor high flow for failure and run times on the pumps. Mr. Newton stated this is a trial before phasing into the other pumpstations. Councilmember Brame inquired about the cost of the lift station. Mr. Newton advised it's \$1,840.00.
- e) Mr. Newton advised 1,000 rolling carts will be here Thursday, July 14, 2022. Unfortunately, the new garbage truck will not be available until September/October 2022 due to the chassis just arrived for truck to be built. Mr. Newton advised each household will be issued one rolling cart but will have the option to buy or rent another cart at an additional cost.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved August 9, 2022

Rodney Newton, Town Manager