

Town Council Meeting

July 9, 2024

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on July 09, 2024, 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., Sandra Jones, Christopher Garrett and Chris Gill. Also attending were Town Manager Rodney Newton, Treasurer Diane Harding, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, and Fire Chief Frankie Tanner. Absent was Police Chief Camden Lawson.

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

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

Mayor Smith presented Town Manager Rodney Newton a Firefighters Trumpet for serving the community as Fire Chief for the past 17 years. Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Newton on behalf of town council for his dedicated service and countless time spent protecting our community.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Town Manager Rodney Newton asked for a closed session. Mayor Smith added Mr. Newton at the end of the meeting. Also, Mr. Newton advised to remove 10(b) Modest Creek under Information Items as they have withdrawn their request.

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 Gill to accept the June 2024 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 June 2024. Motion carried.

Police Officer Justing Beagle presented the Police Report. He stated they had 80 calls, eight arrests and five citations. Officer Beagle advised there was also town ordinance enforcement for inoperable vehicles which resulted in eleven vehicles being obtained. Mr. Newton stated on the Police schedule you will see one of the county deputies, Mr. Raymond Hite, Jr is working for the town P/T now. Deputy Hite, Jr will be in his county car and uniform while covering the town. Mr. Newton also stated Officer Reese Mitchell with the Kenbridge Police Department has been a huge help. Officer Beagle updated on the two new candidates in the academy. They have completed their basic first aid and are currently in their criminal law phase. There are 68 people at the CVCJA so some are at the Central Virginia Community College because the class is so big. Town Manager Rodney Newton stated with the work Officer Beagle has recently covered due to Chief Lawson's heart attack, they agreed to promote Officer Beagle to Lieutenant effective July 1, 2024. There were no questions regarding the Police Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Frankie Tanner presented the Fire Department Report. He advised they had a total of 127 responses for the month of June. Chief Tanner advised they have had a reduction in fires and motor vehicle accidents. Councilmember Brame commented that the Truck-n-Tractor Pull was another success. Chief Tanner advised they are still calculating the exact total. Another one is scheduled for October 12, 2024 to coincide with Autumn Days. There were no questions regarding the Financial Report. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Mr. Newton inquired about the Holiday Leave/Holiday Pay that was tabled at last month's council meeting. Since 2014, holiday leave/pay was a separate category along with comp time. Mr. Newton advised some employees have built up a lot of holiday time because we don't have the staff for them to take time off. Some jurisdictions/towns around us have moved to holiday pay. Mr. Newton explained it is not any additional pay for them but just paying at a different time. Councilmember Mattox brought up Councilmember Jones's

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request at last months council meeting to have a meeting to discuss this further. Mayor Smith called a meeting tonight after closed session for further discussion.

- b) Mr. Newton provided council a summary of changes to the utility policy. Effective July 1, 2024 one of the laws that was changed this year at the General Assembly has an impact on utility service. The Code of Virginia extends out the time an account can be delinquent and puts a lot of stipulations on when service cannot be discontinued. Mr. Newton advised we will have to revamp our utility billing policy and have a recommendation at the August council meeting.
- c) Mr. Newton provided council a brief synopsis of the determination on three properties. Letters have been sent to the owners of the following properties:
- 1118 Main Street
 - 1600 9th Street
 - 1700 2nd Street

Mr. Newton advised none of the owners submitted abatement plans in the allotted time. Therefore, he requested a Public Hearing at the August meeting to adopt an ordinance declaring these properties a public nuisance along with a recommended spot blight abatement plan. This process is following state Code of Virginia and Town of Victoria Policy 2020-036. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garret to hold a Public Hearing on blighted properties at next months council meeting. Motion carried.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton informed council that the Town of Victoria was awarded full funding for the sewer camera project through SERCAP. The camera was shipped today from Wisconsin and once received, we will get it put in and submit for reimbursement. Mr. Newton requested a Public Hearing at the August meeting to amend the FY25 budget for these funds and expenditures. Motion was made by councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to hold a Public Hearing at next months council meeting for a budget amendment. Motion carried.
- b) Mr. Newton is currently working with CRC on a grant application through the Virginia Outdoors Foundation to possibly repair the bridge at Modest Creek Reservoir and add some minor amenities to the area. VOF requires land to be placed in a conservation easement. Mr. Newton asked council for their help with any documented history of the bridge as this would help with the application. Also, the grant they applied for with the Town of Kenbridge and the county we are hoping to hear something by the end of the month.
- c) Mr. Newton advised National Night Out is Tuesday, August 6th from 5pm until 7pm. Mr. William Pernell has been working hard and already has a local band "Farm Use Band", a snow cone vendor and Fishin' Pig Food Truck. Also, Bliss of Lunenburg will be providing popcorn, cotton candy and bottled water.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Gill to go into closed session for discussion on Pursuant to VA Code §2.2-3711(A)(3) for the discussion of real property acquisition where discussion in open session would harm the council's bargaining position.

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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.

Discussion was held on the current Holiday Leave Policy for employees scheduled to work on holidays and the impact of holiday leave on the budget. Councilmember Elam made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Brame, to change the personnel policy from holiday leave to holiday pay with employees scheduled to work on a holiday being paid double time for the hours worked on the holiday. Employees with holiday balances will retain those hours but the pay for those hours is capped at the employees pay rate as of July 9, 2024. Motion carried.

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

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved August 13, 2024

Rodney Newton, Town Manager