

Town Council Meeting

November 10, 2020

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on November 10, 2020 in the Victoria-Lunenburg Community Centre with the Honorable Allen D. Smith, Mayor, presiding: Councilmembers 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, Vickie McDaniel, Town Clerk, Police Chief H. Keith Phillips, and Assistant Fire Chief Chris Garrett.

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

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

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Councilmember Garratt asked to speak about drug issues. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Garrett as item 10(c). Citizen Wanda Fix asked to speak about ordinances. Mayor Smith added Ms. Fix as item 10(d).

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the October 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to accept the Treasurer's report for October 2020. Motion carried.

Chief H. Keith Phillips gave the Police Report. Chief Phillips stated they had another busy month with 84 calls, 1 arrest and 9 citations. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Assistant Chief Garrett gave the Fire/Rescue Department Report. He stated they had another busy month with 91 calls at Station 2 in Victoria and 51 calls at Station 7 in Kenbridge. There were no questions regarding the budget. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the Fire Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Town Manager Rodney Newton updated on the street light request at 10th Street between Main Street and Lincoln Avenue at the trail. Mr. Newton advised the estimate will be no more than \$2,500 as power will need to be brought over from Lincoln Avenue approximately 150 feet and a new pole set with a LED street light. A recommendation was made by Councilmember Garrett with the Street Committee to add the street light at the entrance to the trail and seconded by Councilmember Elam. Motion carried.
- b) Mayor Smith stated his findings at 10th Street between Main Street and Lincoln Avenue was a lot of trash, debris, etc towards town as well as vehicles coming in and out of the trail. There were also some major road condition issues. Mayor Allen requested to the Street Committee to take a look at the area and possibly close the street. Town Manager Newton asked to meet with the Street Committee along with VDOT to see what the minimum standards would be and address at next months meeting.
- c) Councilmember Garrett discussed issues between 3rd Street up to 6th Street and possibly seeking assistance from Virginia State Police. Chief Phillips stated he has spoke with the Virginia State Police Task Force, Mr. Lacks, along with the Sheriff's Department and the Town of Kenbridge. No one has drug task force officers or the man power at this time. Chief Phillips stated due to officer safety issues and the retiring of Sadie, they will not be searching vehicles. Mayor Smith suggested increasing police presence. Chief Phillips advised they are currently patrolling every 30 minutes to an hour to increase police presence. Also, Chief Phillips advised a summons was issued to a residence last weekend due to a dog at large and turned over to Animal Control Officer, Mr. Ray Elliott.

- d) Citizen Wanda Fix addressed council regarding dog issues on 5th Street. Ms. Fix stated a dog has bitten at least four or five people they she knows of. Chief Phillips was only aware of one bite. Ms. Fix contacted the County Administrators Office regarding communication between the Sheriff's Department and Animal Control. This problem has been going on for over a year. After contacting the dispatcher to have a Victoria Police Officer contact her, no one returned her call. Last weekend, Ms. Fix contacted the dispatcher again to have a VPD Officer contact her and Officer King responded. Officer King advised the homeowner the dog was out and needed to be picked up. Mr. Newton stated the Town Ordinance does have a clause regarding vicious dogs and there's a state law that defines what a vicious dog is. Mr. Newton has spoken with Animal Control Officer Mr. Elliott previously regarding dog issues. Chief Phillips advised if they see the dog bite someone, they will take care of it. Chief Phillips also suggested having Animal Control Officer, Mr. Elliott attend next months meeting. Town Manger Newton agreed this would be beneficial but we still need to be proactive. Ms. Fix stated Mr. Elliott would not return her calls. Mr. Newton will contact Mr. Elliott regarding next months meeting. Mayor Smith advised asking Mr. Elliott to follow up with citizens and for Chief Phillips to increase police presence in the area within what the law allows.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton advised the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) of the Town of Victoria recently lost four members due to new filing requirements. Mr. Jeremiah Fix has expressed interest in joining the IDA. Mr. Newton asked for consideration of Mr. Fix to join. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Gill to move forward on the IDA. Motion carried.
- b) Sewer smoke testing has been completed on everything that feeds into the three pump stations on the west part of town. This includes both pump stations on Park Avenue and Norfolk Avenue. A new manhole will be added back at the Marshall Pump Station. Mr. Newton advised they started testing at the Garthwright Pump Station but had a line break on the smoke machine. Mr. Newton anticipates having the remainder of everything going into the west plant tested by the end of December 2020; this will put us within the time restraints within the consent order with DEQ. Mr. Newton recently purchased a portable flow meter that measures the velocity of the water passing through. The manhole at the Marshall Pump Station has a significant clear water flow. Councilmember Mattox questioned what actions were taken in the smoke test findings. Mr. Newton stated new clean out caps were purchased and have been replaced. However, lateral lines that were found with leaks will follow up with a letter to the homeowner(s).
- c) AECOM has completed the inspections of the three permitted dams and were in much better shape than anticipated. Lunenburg Lake and VFW Hall will need the most work, but we do have our Conditional Permits for certification on all three dams.
- d) Mr. Newton advised Wednesday, November 11, 2020 is Veteran's Day and the town office will be closed.
- e) Mr. Newton discussed the upcoming Christmas Parade scheduled for Friday, December 4th. To date, we have very limited entries in the parade; no school bands as most schools are still in virtual due to COVID 19. Council suggested cancelling this year's Christmas Parade due to lack of participation.
- f) Blighted property update:
- a. 1907 10th Street-structure is gone and lot has been graded.
 - b. 1600 9th Street – we have been contacted by the owners attorney and working to remedy the violations.
 - c. 1300 & 1304 Main and 8th Street –this property has been cited in the past for property maintenance violations. We are working on a plan to get these corrected.

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

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- a. Legal Services for the Town of Victoria, according to Code of VA §2.2-3711(A)(1).
- 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 November 10, 2020

Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Elam to return to regular session according to Code of VA §2.2-3711(A)(1) and Code of VA §2.2-3711(A)(5) 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.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Elam to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate with Lunenburg County and Advantus Strategies for a partnership on assistance with solar farm projects. Motion carried.

The Town Manager requested to give town employee's four hours additional leave on November 25, 2020. The consensus of town council was to approve additional leave.

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved December 8, 2020

Rodney Newton, Town Manager