

## Town Council Meeting

April 9, 2024

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on April 9, 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, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Police Chief Camden Lawson and Fire Chief Frankie Tanner. Absent was Treasurer Diane Harding.

Mayor Smith called the meeting of the Town Council to order. Mayor Smith advised council of the recent passing of Mr. Raymond "Doc" Holliday. Mr. Holliday served on the Planning Commission for approximately 25 years. Mr. Holliday's service will be held at the People's Committee Center, Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am in Victoria, VA.

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to go into Public Hearing on a Request for Vacation and Conveyance of property located near the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Tidewater Avenue. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to come out of Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised Mr. Alvin Powell will not be attending tonight and asked to carry (b) Ordinance enforcement and (c) Neighborhood Watch under Information Items to next month's council meeting.

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 Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the March 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2024. Motion carried. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to accept the Treasurer's Report for February 2024. Motion carried.

Chief Camden Lawson presented the Police Report. He stated they had a very busy month with 106 calls, one arrest and eight citations. Chief Lawson advised they have ordered updated body camera's and they will be arriving soon. Mayor Smith suggested Chief Lawson, the Assistant to the Town Manager and the Public Safety Committee get together and study ways of notification due to recent activity and moving forward in society. Councilmember Mattox asked Chief Lawson how he was doing and Chief Lawson will be back full time Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Smith inquired about Officer Adams. Chief Lawson advised he was doing good and graduation is scheduled in June 2024. There were no 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.

Fire Chief Frankie Tanner presented the Fire Department Report. He advised they had a total of 132 responses for the month of March. There were no questions regarding the Financial Report. Chief Tanner advised they will have two Truck-n-Tractor Pulls this year. One is scheduled for June 1, 2024 and the second one on October 12, 2024 to coincide with Autumn Days. He advised they have had bad luck with two engines recently in the same model Ford vehicles. The Chief 2 Ford pickup truck engine will be replaced, however, the medic unit engine due to age and mileage will not be replaced. They will replace the medic unit through grant funds/EMS. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Mr. Newton inquired about the Planning Commission nominations. Councilmember Mattox asked to table to next month's May council meeting.

- b) Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to move forward with the Request for Vacation and Conveyance for the property located at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Tidewater Avenue. Motion carried.
- c) Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to hold a Public Hearing on the FY25 Budget at next month's council meeting. Motion carried.
- d) Town Manager Newton requested council approval to surplus the following items:
  - Massey Ferguson tractor- out of service
  - Kubota rear discharge mower-permission to offer to Lawrenceville and negotiate a price

Mr. Newton advised the mower will be replaced. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to surplus the Massey Ferguson tractor and to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate a price with the Town of Lawrenceville on the Kubota mower. Motion carried.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton announced Mr. William Pernell will be starting Tuesday, April 16, 2024 as the Executive Secretary/Events Coordinator. Mr. Pernell lives in Kenbridge, VA.
- b) Mr. Newton advised they have received four applications for the Water Plant Operator position. They will be getting together with the Personnel Committee and Chief Operator to start the interview process soon.
- c) Mr. Newton discussed the Comprehensive Plan. The first community meeting will be Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Kenbridge Town Hall and the second will be held on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm at the Victoria Public Library.
- d) Mr. Newton advised at last month's meeting, the pump station was not able to keep up with the flow coming in. In talking with the engineering firm, the pumps were supposed to be designed to pump 400 GPM each but when tested it was determined to only be 250 GPM which is causing some of our issues with the new pump station. The impellers in the pumps now were trimmed due to a calculation error. Mr. Newton advised a full-size impeller will be installed in both pumps at no cost to the town. They are scheduled to ship from Washington state this Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. He advised the generator has been installed at the new pump station and Carter completed startup on April 5, 2024. We do have full back up power on that site.
- e) Mr. Newton advised the closing plan for the west wastewater plant has been submitted to DEQ by B&B Consultants. DEQ is expressing concerns about leaving sludge in place as samples were taken earlier in the month and the results came back today. He advised that after our engineer has time to study these, there will be another conference call with DEQ to finalize the plan. DEQ could make us remove all the sludge and dispose of it which would involve trucking it to a site where it will be disposed of. Mr. Newton will update council at next month's meeting.
- f) Mr. Newton presented council a snapshot of findings with the new iTracker sensors. Three were deployed around the end of March:
  - Lincoln Avenue behind the old dog pound- this line feeds from Benchmark Bank and everything to the left of Nottoway Blvd. heading towards the prison.
  - Main West plant behind the soda ash building- this line feeds from Victoria Automotive to Timmy's and from Old Court Street to W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street. This includes both Park Avenue pump stations and the Marshall Pump station.
  - Upstream from the brick Park Avenue pump station to where Virginia Avenue would cross W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street.All three showed a drastic increase in flow during the rain event on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Three more iTrackers were deployed today at:
  - Main and 13<sup>th</sup> Street- upstream from the one behind the dog pound
  - Tidewater Avenue and W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Mecklenburg Avenue and W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Town Council Meeting

April 9, 2024

Mr. Newton advised he will be providing more information as they begin and start moving these sensors around to narrow down the source of where some of the I&I is coming from. Once we close the west wastewater plant, we will start to concentrate on the east plant.

- g) Mr. Newton discussed the sewer camera. He submitted a request to SERCAP for funding but the funds will not be available until July 2024. The total for the camera and accessories will be approximately \$107,000.00. Mr. Newton spoke with the Finance Committee and recommended using the following:
- Fund 22 (Improvement Fund)     \$34,256.47
  - Fund 21 (Wastewater Fund)     \$20,000.00
  - Fund 10 (General Fund)         \$52,562.70

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Gill to authorize the Town Manager's recommendation for the sewer camera and accessories. Motion carried.

- h) Mr. Newton advised Student Government Day is tomorrow, Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. They should be here between 9:00-9:30am until 11:30am.
- i) Mr. Newton reminded council of Spring Clean-up Day is Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the flagpole at 9:00am.
- j) Mr. Newton advised Music in the Park is scheduled for Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00pm featuring the First Go 'Round Band. We will also have a food vendor.
- k) Mr. Newton advised we have a tentative date for picking up of natural debris the week of April 22<sup>nd</sup>-April 25<sup>th</sup> depending on the grapple truck. It has some mechanical issues and is going to Goodman Truck and Tractor for repair.
- l) Mr. Newton discussed property on KV Road at the end of the airport. Mr. Newton, Kenbridge Town Manager Tony Matthews and Mrs. Taylor King with Lunenburg County had a conference call with DCR to consider a grant application to acquire this property as a trail head for Rails-to-Trails. This would give us a parking area remotely to have access to the trail and control of vegetation and tree issues on the property. This would also provide a gateway. Town Manager Matthews is working on the west from Kenbridge to possibly make a loop around back towards town. Mr. Newton advised they are submitting the application for an 80/20 grant. This is a good funding opportunity and will help with the issues the county has been dealing with for many years. This project is in the works.
- m) Mr. Newton updated on 300 Court Street, the old Steps building. The painters may be coming tomorrow for the interior. Mr. Bill Gary is doing some electrical planning for us so we can upgrade electrical along with HVAC work and the sprinkler system company will need to inspect. Councilmember Brame asked about the tenants we have there. Mr. Newton advised we currently have three tenants, the town shop, The Antique Auction and Smith's Glass Shop.

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

- a. Pursuant to VA Code §2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion of personnel performance and
- b. Pursuant to VA Code §2.2-3711(A)(5) for the purpose of discussion of a prospective business in which no previous announcement has been made.

CLOSED SESSION April 9, 2024

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Elam 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.

Town Council Meeting

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April 9, 2024

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

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

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Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

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Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved May 14, 2024

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Rodney Newton, Town Manager