

Town Council Meeting

January 14, 2025

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on January 14, 2025, 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, Chief Camden Lawson and Fire Chief Frankie Tanner.

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. Citizen Irene Wilkinson asked to speak about water service. Mayor Smith added Ms. Wilkinson under Information Items as item (d).

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 December 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Jones and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to accept the Treasurer's Report for December 2024. Motion carried.

Chief Camden Lawson presented the Police Report. Chief Lawson stated they answered 248 calls, 28 citations and five arrests. The two cadets graduated from the academy on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. Chief Lawson stated they are both doing great. He advised two of our officers, Lt. Beagle and Officer Winslow impounded two vehicles recently and made a felony arrest. Officer Winslow was traveling back from Piedmont Jail when he struck multiple deer sustaining heavy damage to the front end of the police car. We have submitted an insurance claim with VRSA and are waiting on an appraiser. Chief Lawson also advised Officer Keith Phillips resigned the end of December 2024 and is working for the Lunenburg Sheriff's Department. The new officers are in Phase II of their FTO and will be working independently come February 2025. Mayor Smith commended the police reporting system. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised the new Durango will be here by the end of the week. Mayor Smith presented both Officer Winslow and Officer Thornton with their police badges. He thanked them for coming to the Town of Victoria and their families for their patience while at the academy. 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 provided council with the recently elected officers for FY25 and the Board of Directors for VF&R. He provided council with the December report and an Annual Report for 2024. He advised they had a total of 142 responses for the month of December and an annual total of 1,530 responses for Station 2 and Station 7 for 2024. Chief Tanner advised Tanker 2-1 is back in service. He was notified in

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January of a grant from the state and will use the funds to replace a rescue squad that has been out of service. There were no questions regarding the Financial Reports. Lt. Beagle thanked the VF&R for being on scene with him recently while waiting for back-up and keeping the individual calm. This could have been a very dangerous situation. Councilmember Brame asked about Grayson Townsend. Mr. Newton said he still has the wound vac and is scheduled to go back to the doctor tomorrow. He is in good spirits but we do not have a timeframe of when he will be able to come back to work. 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 discussed the alley right-of-way located behind 2408 Nottoway Blvd. There are two accessory buildings located on the property that run parallel to the alleyway. Mr. Wayne Snead, owner of property was present and is in the process of selling the property. Due to the location of the two buildings, the town will need 24-feet to transition back to the alleyway. Mr. Snead has had the property surveyed and is willing to work out a resolution that will work for everyone. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to hold a Public Hearing on the alley right-of-way located behind 2408 Nottoway Blvd for February council meeting. Motion carried.
- b) Mr. Newton provided council a draft lease agreement for 300 Court Street with the IDA for review and consideration. He spoke with Mr. Mike Walker, who requested at last month's council meeting for an extension on repayment of the loan to the town until July 2025, and interest rates were coming down. Mr. Newton recommended the Property Committee meet with the IDA to discuss the lease agreement.
- c) Mr. Newton discussed the utility billing process. This was brought up many month's ago about changing the billing process for our customers. He advised that due to the change in the Code of Virginia regarding utility cut-off's there are a lot of dates to keep up with. The new meters only store data for 30 days. Since our billings are 45-days out, we are unable to store previous readings. Currently our meters are read on the 1st of each month and billed the 1st of the following month. If we could read on the 25th of the month and bill on the 1st, we would have the current readings. However, we need to come up with a plan to catch up the billing without being a burden on the customer. Mr. Newton proposed moving the billing process to after the meters are read on the 25th of the month, bills will be mailed on the 1st starting in July 2025. The meters have the technology to back up what the bills states but our current billing process doesn't have that.
- d) Citizen Irene Wilkinson questioned with the recent water issues happening in Richmond do we have any precautions in place and how likely would it be to happen here in the town. Mr. Newton advised our water sources are somewhat different; we do have back-up power that's automatic and our operators know how to manually run the plant. He advised they are working on some things at the water plant and will be discussing in the upcoming months. We roughly have $\frac{3}{4}$ million gallons of water in our water tanks that would carry us two days, if we don't have any major fires, etc. He explained when we cleaned the clearwell, we ran for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ days on the tanks.

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Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton updated on the wastewater project and I&I (inflow and infiltration) issue. Mr. Newton advised the pipe is in for the Tidewater Avenue and Lunenburg Avenue project. The manholes for Tidewater Ave. have been ordered and they are hoping for a February start date. He is waiting for the paving costs to repair the road after we finish the project. Mr. Newton is working with DEQ on the changes to the plan at the west facility so we can keep the large lagoon open.
- b) Mr. Newton updated on the water plant. Due to the cold weather, we have already had multiple breaks. We had a major leak on 8th Street (spending seven hours), another on Nottoway Blvd. on an 8" line and 11th Street on a 6" line that had both split. He advised we have a leak at Main St. and 12th St. now, one at top of 6th Street hill and a valve at the end of Norfolk Ave. and Court Street that is leaking. Mr. Newton explained we see these more in cold weather due to the ground shifting causing the pipe to split across. At the water plant, we initiated the sodium permanganate at Nottoway Falls last week to help with the iron and manganese issues. Mr. Newton met with Sam Carroll of B&B Consultants to discuss the assessment report that council was provided last month by Moonshot Missions. B&B Consultants is working on several pricing items in the assessment. Mr. Nathan Coey and another member with Moonshot Missions plan to be here the week of February 3, 2025 to work with the plant operators.
- c) Mr. Newton received the engineering proposal on the Modest Creek bridge replacement. He will need to get more information on the project before any work begins.
- d) Mr. Newton discussed the Joint Comprehensive Plan. We are in the final review process and plan to have for public viewing by February 1, 2025. He requested a joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission and town council on March 11, 2025 on the Comprehensive Plan. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Jones on a joint Public Hearing on the Joint Comprehensive Plan at the March council meeting. Motion carried.
- e) Mr. Newton advised he received a letter from VaCorp, who is another municipal insurance service offering us a quote for town insurance. This is the same company the county uses and also does the workman's comp for the fire department. Council advised getting a quote to compare with VRSA.
- f) Mr. Newton provided council the General Assembly Bills of Interest.
- g) Councilmember Jones inquired about McDonald's. Mr. Newton advised the property has been cleared, manhole has been ordered and construction scheduled to begin in May 2025.

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

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved February 11, 2025

Rodney Newton, Town Manager