

Town Council Meeting

July 8, 2025

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on July 8, 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 Councilmember Mattox followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to go into Public Hearing on the Airport property. Motion carried.

Mr. Newton advised the county was approached about the possibility of leasing some of the land for a potential solar project. The property is identified as a 20–25-acre portion in the southeast quadrant, next to the approach Runway 02 of Tax Map No. 046-02-0-2 PRN: 4871. The property is owned by the county of 50%, the Town of Kenbridge and Town of Victoria owns 25% each per the deed. This request came from a single developer, but RFP would be put out for any others to bid on this particular property. The area is an undeveloped area and is not in any part of the Virginia Department of Aviation plans. Because this is a possible source of revenue, Public Hearings are required before anything can be done. Mr. Newton stated all governing bodies have to agree to the request.

There were no further comments.

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

Mr. Newton provided a presentation regarding the new water billing cycle. Effective July 1, 2025 our billing cycle changed. In the past, town employee's were reading the meters manually and then they were manually entered into FMS (Financial Management System). For the past years, the bills were sent out 45-days behind for the usage. Mr. Newton provided examples of previous billings. In 2020, council approved us moving towards the smart meters and this has been a huge improvement and time saver. As of June 2025, the meters are now read on the 25th of each month and billings are sent out on the 1st of the following month. Mr. Newton advised the usage will now be for the previous month.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Town Manager Rodney Newton asked to speak about the Hazard Mitigation Grant. Mayor Smith added Town Manager Newton under Information Items as item (b).

Mayor Smith asked if there were any Conflicts of Interest on matters being discussed on the agenda. There were none.

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Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the June 2025 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 2025. Motion carried. Mr. Newton advised FY24/25 is closed.

Chief Camden Lawson presented the Police Report. Chief Lawson stated they answered 213 calls, issued 33 summons and 5 arrests. Officer Boshier is doing really good in the academy. Chief Lawson advised all of the flock cameras have been installed. Chief Lawson doesn't approve of some of camera's and has contacted the engineer and sent pictures of the one's here at the stoplight. He will be meeting with him to show him exactly where they want it. Chief Lawson explained they have not been wired yet. Also, Chief Lawson is submitting paperwork for the HEAT grant again and has put in for another grant. With this grant, they are updating their handguns, rifle racks for the vehicles, driver's license scanners and a computer desk top for Lt. Beagle. 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 slow month with a total of 126 responses for the month of June for Station 2 and Station 7. There were no questions regarding the Financial Report for May 2025. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to approve the Fire/Rescue Department report as presented. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

- a) Mr. Newton discussed the VFW property. He and the Property Committee met with the VFW commander and his staff regarding the sewer pump station replacement and ownership. The pump station has now been rewired and is running off of the VFW Post electrical panel. MR. Newton provided an estimated cost of \$12,000.00 to \$15,000.00 depending on the final electric bill. In 1992, the town gave the VFW 7.18 acres. Mr. Newton and the Property Committee recommended to the VFW Post #9954 the following conditions:
 - 7.18-acre parcel be divided into two parcels
 - Parcel #1- approximately 1.88 acres will be deeded to the VFW with the following conditions:
 - The Right of Reversion will be removed from the new deed
 - Should VFW Post #9954 decide to sell the property the Town of Victoria will have
 - First right of refusal to purchase the property.
 - Authority to approve or deny the sale to another prospective buyer based on the proposed use to protect the town water supply.
 - The easement documented in the deed dated September 1992 will remain in place until such time that the Town of Victoria

constructs a new access road to the lake and pump house. Mr.

Newton advised this parcel is commercial zone, not industrial.

- Parcel #2-approximately 5.3 acres will be deeded to the Town of Victoria
- Costs associated with the land transfers
 - Awaiting estimate from Mr. Richard Dunn on new plat showing the division of the property
 - VFW will entertain splitting the legal, surveying and recording costs of the transfer

Along with that, Mr. Newton discussed the VFW paying for their utilities, continue paying for the water at the minimum rate plus any access over 3,000 gallons and paying per gallon of sewage based on the gallons of water used for the billing period. The last thing is the Town of Victoria will be responsible for maintenance and/or repair of the forced main from the holding tank to its termination of Jefferson Avenue.

Councilmember Elam asked Mr. Chris Tomlinson would they be willing to split the cost of transferring the land. Mr. Tomlinson will go back and asked the VFW staff. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Jones to proceed with the Property Committee recommendations for the VFW Pump Station Replacement and Ownership. Motion carried.

- b) Mr. Newton discussed the Hazard Mitigation grant. He applied through VDM to purchase a total generator transfer switch and installation for the booster pumps back behind the opposite ground tank. Mr. Newton stated if we lose power, we have no way of moving that water from the tank to the elevated tank. The pre-application price was \$300,000.00. Right now, local cost or local share on this grant is 5%, so we are looking at possibly a \$15,000.00 share for this project. Mr. Newton asked councils permission to draw up a resolution for the Mayor for funding the local share so we can get the generator to keep the water supply in case we lose power. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to allow Town Manager Newton to draw up a resolution to commit to the funding grant. Motion carried.
- c) Mr. Newton asked council if they approve moving forward with the RFP to do a solar project at the airport property. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Garrett to move forward with the proposal. Motion carried.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton updated on the wastewater project. The Tidewater sewer project is almost complete. Three manholes have been replaced and new sewer connections made to all residents along that road. There are now clean-outs at the edge of the road for all those lines. We are hoping by the end of July to have Lanco Paving come in and pave from W. 7th Street to W. 10th Street. Mr. Newton advised since they have started, Park Avenue has not had a lot of rain but it took much longer to go to high alarm than it had in the past. They ran sewer camera's down 12th Street between Lee Avenue and Washington Avenue and went up to 11th Street where they were able to identify a spot that is a problem. Mr.

Newton thinks once we get that repaired, it is also going to take another huge amount out of I&I going to the west pump station.

- b) Mr. Newton updated on the water plant. We received a SERCAP grant of \$49,095.00 to pay for all the new instrumentation at the plant, new turbine meters, the pH sensors and alkalinity sensors. They are planning to start installation later this month. With his grant, we will need to do a Public Hearing next month for a budget amendment. Mr. Newton also received the basins concrete assessment and the preliminary report. It shows that is the concrete is behaving with the alkali silica reaction, coupled by the secondary contaminants filling the air voids, making this susceptible to freeze thaw. At this point, they do not believe a coating is going to do much and that a long-term plan should be to start the process for replacing the 12" wall. The remainder was recommended band-aiding until a new one can be constructed and find some less expensive coatings and sealants to get a few years out of the structure.
- c) Mr. Newton discussed the Modest Creek raw water pump. The pump is up and running but the pressure relief valve is bad and it's dumping all the water back into the lake. The system is still out. We plan to start investigating what it would take to get Lunenburg Lake back online later this fall or early winter. They continue to work on standard operation procedures and guidelines for the plant along with other issues they've identified.
- d) Mr. Newton advised the General Assembly passed a one-time grant program for VDH infrastructure processing, etc. The bulk of the program is \$25M and it requires a 25% match. CRC is looking into what is eligible and involved. This is a quick turnaround as applications have to be in by September 1st, 2025.
- e) Mr. Newton discussed blighted property. Our attorney will be filing documents with the court in the next few days. Once it nears completion and we see the finances, this will give us some direction how we start looking at some of the others.
- f) Mr. Newton advised we hired a maintenance worker, Mr. Mitch Green as a full-time employee and Mr. Max Martin as a water plant operator trainee and their first day was July 1, 2025.
- g) Mr. William Pernell advised we will have a community centre concert starring Redd Volkgart next Friday, July 18th from 6pm-10pm. Doors open at 5pm and we will have a Taste of Texas food truck for people to have a dinner option.
- h) Mr. Pernell advised we have rescheduled Music in the Park for Saturday, July 19th from 6-9pm featuring Gary Wayne & the Twisted Rails along with Dena's food truck.
- i) Mr. Pernell advised we will have another Skate Night on Friday, July 25th starting at 6pm until 9:30pm at the Victoria Community Centre.

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- j) Mr. Pernell advised he is working with Tin Can Coffee and Pippey's Doghouse to get another Food Truck Rodeo going. He will keep you posted.
- k) Councilmember Jones inquired about McDonald's as she has been asked a lot of questions. Mr. Newton advised the work order to relocate the electrical lines has been released to Dominion Va. Power and they are supposed to start that work next week.
- l) Councilmember Brame asked about any inquiries for the old town shop. Mr. Newton advised we have only had a few. The 60-days will be up right around the next council meeting in August.

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

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved August 12, 2025

Rodney Newton, Town Manager