

Town Council Meeting

June 10, 2025

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on June 10, 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 Secretary William Pernell, 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. Rob Williams with Data Care requested to speak about his concerns with cyclist safety.

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 May 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the Treasurer's Report for May 2025. Motion carried.

Chief Camden Lawson presented the Police Report. Chief Lawson stated they answered 288 calls, issued 15 traffic summons and 8 arrests. Chief Lawson informed the Council that he had sent forms to the Virginia Department of Health through the Virginia Chiefs Association to apply for what the chief referred to as a Pharmacy Hub, as well as receiving a license number, that has been shipped as of June 10, 2025. Chief Lawson then informed the Council that the Pharmacy Hub is how the Virginia Chiefs Association supplies Police Departments with Narcan, Narcan Holsters, and two Narcan Kits to be stored in the Police Department, one for the evidence table and another for the evidence room. All these supplies were free of cost thanks to Chief Lawson being a member of the Virginia Chiefs Association. Chief Lawson also informed Council that with the license number provided, they can order more supplies if needed. Chief Lawson then updated the Council on the Flock Safety installation stating that we have received the 811 ticket to mark the installation site on Washington Avenue to upgrade the stoplight with the Flock Safety Camera. Chief Lawson then spoke in regard to the success we are already seeing in the Flock Safety camera system regarding an investigation which was solved thanks to the already installed cameras. Chief Lawson also mention they had recovered two stolen vehicles, both recovered and placed in the impound lot that have been entered into their Flock Safety system. Chief Lawson then talked about the upcoming National Night Out event being hosted in Kenbridge on August 5, 2025 with a donated Dunking Booth. Chief Lawson then introduced the Council to our new Police Department hire Hunner Boshier with his orientation on Thursday. Chief Lawson then discussed some concerns with the golf cart policies regarding the differences between a "go kart" and a golf cart. Chief Lawson stressed a concern for safety and legal compliance regarding a specific citizens motorized vehicle. Town Manager Newton conveyed the possibility of changing the policy to have a member of the Police Department be required to

inspect the golf carts that owners are applying to receive the town sticker to ensure that these vehicles comply with town ordinances and will be operated safely. Town Manager Newton then stated that the Town Council will work on adjusting these policies to ensure everyone's safety. Councilmember Jones then conveyed their concern for individual parking their trucks in their yard and that there is generally a spike in this activity after the Truck Pull event. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Gill 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 110 responses for the month of May for Station 2 and Station 7. The Financial Report for April 2025 was provided. The Truck & Tractor Pull was a successful event, and they did not have the exact numbers regarding the profit. Chief Tanner also informed Council the next Truck Pull will be on October 13, 2025. Chief Tanner then informed Council that the purchase of Truck 2 was still on schedule and that they are planning to upgrade all of the lights on the vehicle once they have received it. 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) Town Manager Newton recommended an allocation from the Blighted Property Fund to the FY25 budget due to the expense of the eminent domain process on 1118 Main Street. The cost of this process was a deposit of \$11,400 with the circuit court, as well as various legal bills that need to be paid. Town Manager Newton requested Council to allocate \$18,000 from the Blighted Property Fund to the FY25 budget. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Council Member Gill to approve the allocation of funds.
- b) Town Manager Newton moved on to the approval of the FY26 budget. Town Manager Newton informed Council that the one change to the budget will be that the Water Department will be providing a service that will cause an increase of \$3,600 in revenue. Town Manager Newton then requested Council to approve the FY26 budget and then allocate the funds on July 1, 2025 for that budget. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Gill to approve the FY26 budget and then allocate the funds on July 1, 2025.
- c) Rob Williams with Datacare voiced his concern with cyclist safety. With the coming of the summer season more cyclists and other recreational modes of travel are increasing. Rob Williams informed Council of his concern with the lack of cyclist communication either verbal or bell signaling when passing another cyclist from behind. Rob Williams stressed his concern with the lack of safety that not using these communications can bring. In an effort to promote cycling safety Rob Williams found a purchasable cyclist bell that can include customizable logo on the design and offered to donate the first 100 bells to the town. Council expressed their gratitude to Mr. Williams for his generous donation and outlook on cyclist safety. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept Rob Williams donation of the 100 bells.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Town Manager Newton updated Council on the Tidewater Sewer Project. This project encompasses roughly a thousand feet covering three manholes that have been replaced. At this time, they are somewhere between a half and two thirds completed of this project. They have one new manhole to place and two more to put in. They also have around 330 feet of pipe to install. Town Manager Newton noted that they have already begun to see improvements in stormwater entering the system. Mr. Newton also stressed that this project has been slower going due to the difficulties they've faced with the environment they are working in such as low powerlines. Mr. Newton informed Council that it will most likely be finished in the next fiscal year.
- b) Mr. Newton discussed leachate. They have started receiving leachate at the Grove Avenue pump station versus the east plant and they are seeing improvements in the ammonia levels at the east plant. Meridian is also adding nitrifiers in their storage tank to increase the reduction of ammonia. Mr. Newton is going to send a report to DEQ June 11, 2025 to provide an update and to get a plan on continuing to receive leachate.
- c) Mr. Newton updated on the water plant. The process monitoring equipment that is all out of date and out of service at the plant, the estimate to replace the equipment is just under \$50,000. Most of it can be installed by staff, but there are some modifications that will need to be made by plumbers or electricians. Mr. Newton put a request into SERCAP, who we have received funding several times from on projects. Mr. Newton expressed that he should receive a response by the end of this month to see whether they will fund this project or not, and that the request is for the entire amount of purchasing the equipment, being around \$49,000. Mr. Newton also touched on their changeover from chlorine gas to sodium hypochlorite is not going as fast as they prefer because they're dealing with engineers and the Office of Drinking Water.
- d) Mr. Newton discussed the concrete assessment on the basins. The basin concrete assessment final report has not been received, but Mr. Newton did receive some preliminary information that they did find some ASR which is an alkalized silica reaction.
- e) Mr. Newton gave an update on the Lunenburg Correctional Center. Mr. Newton met with Environmental Services Unit personnel from DOC Richmond on May 15th. They had a discussion regarding the tank, the maintenance, and the location of the meter. They talked about the altitude valve and the possibility of changing that out with a modulating valve that our personnel could control versus their tank controlling our system, and they discussed rates and amendments to the agreement. The service agreement we have was signed in 1994 before the prison was built. Water rates went up in 2012. Sewer rates went up in 2020 and neither one of those were added as amendments to that agreement, they're not fighting that, but whatever happens now will be added as an amendment to our agreement to provide them water and sewer. Mr. Newton has submitted them a three-year rate adjustment proposal and is waiting on their comments. Mr. Newton then gave Council a general idea of the three-year rate adjustment beginning July 1, it would go up \$2,840.10 a month or \$34,081 a year for July 1-25. July 1-26, it would go up another

Town Council Meeting

June 10, 2025

\$2,850.00 a month or \$34,200.00 a year, and then July 1-27, it would go up another \$1,500.00 a month for another \$18,000.00. So, if they accept this, they are looking at about an \$86,000.00 a year increase in revenue from them by July 1-27.

- f) Mr. Newton gave an update on the Maintenance Laborer position. Mr. Newton met with the Personnel Committee prior to the Town Council Meeting to discuss the applications for the maintenance labor position and the water plant operator trainee. They will most likely be making an offer next week and also begin holding interviews.
- g) Mr. Newton gave a more detailed update on the previously discussed 1118 Main Street blighted property. On May 31st, the property owner was hand-delivered, first-class and certified-mailed documents dealing with this property being pursued by eminent domain by the Town of Victoria. His deadline to respond was June 1st. June 1st came and went with no response from him. Mr. Rennie, the attorney that's working with us on this right now, drafted a certificate of take for the property. It was signed by Mr. Newton and the treasurer, recorded with the circuit court clerk, along with the check for \$11,400. Mr. Newton stated this in essence, says the Town of Victoria now owns that property. Mr. Rennie's recommendation is we do not do anything until all proceedings are finished. He is drafting a petition of condemnation and will be at the Victoria Town Office Thursday afternoon for Mr. Newton to sign.
- h) Mr. Newton gave an update on the sale of the Old Town Shop. At the previous meeting it was discussed that the town would be given 60 days of accepting offers before meeting with a realtor. Mr. Newton stressed that we need to have a final date to stop accepting offers.
- i) Mr. Newton informed Council on repairs to the Victoria Railroad Park parking lot. Mr. Newton is having a company seal coat the parking lot and then restriped at an estimated total cost of \$7,000. This is in an effort to extend the life of the parking lot.
- j) Mr. William Pernell advised that the town will be hosting a Skate Night Friday June 13, in the Victoria Community Center from 7-10pm. This event is open to the public with a \$5 entry fee.
- k) Mr. William Pernell advised Music in the Park will be Saturday, June 14 from 6-9pm featuring Gary Wayne & the Twisted Rails along with a Taste of Texas and Roll With It food trucks as well as Get Silly Lemonade.
- l) Mr. William Pernell advised another Music in the Park on Friday, June 20th from 6-9pm featuring Chap Cash and Amish Traditions with Get Silly Lemonade.
- m) Mr. William Pernell advised we will have another Food Truck Rodeo in the park Wednesday, June 25th from 5:00pm until 8:00pm.
- n) Mr. Pernell advised he has been working with the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) for a concert at the Victoria Community Centre on July 18, 2025. The concert will

Town Council Meeting

June 10, 2025

feature Mr. Redd Volkaert who plays country, jazz and southern swing with a Taste of Texas as the food vendor.

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to go into closed session for discussion of prospective business where no previous announcement had been made pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711(A)(5) and the discussion of personnel matter pursuant to VA Code 2.23711(A)(1).

Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to return to regular session according to Code of VA Section 2.2-3712 and 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 unanimously, yes. Motion carried.

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

William Pernell, Town Secretary

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved June 10, 2025

Rodney Newton, Town Manager