

Town Council Meeting
March 9, 2021

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on March 9, 2021 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., Sandra Jones, Christopher Garrett and Chris Gill. Also attending were Town Manager Rodney Newton, Treasurer Diane Harding. Absent was Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Chief H. Phillips

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. 11(b). Town Manager Rodney Newton asked to speak about the Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission for the Solar project.

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

Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Mattox to accept the February 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Gill to accept the Treasurer's report for February 2021. Motion carried.

Corporal Gatling gave the Police Report. He stated they had 60 calls. Corporal Gatling stated that Chief Phillips has tested Positive for COVID and Officer King is waiting on his results. At the moment Officer Manning which is part time is helping as much as possible. Corporal Gatling stated that advertising for a full time Officer position will start at the end of March. Councilmember Brame asked about Jetta the police dog. Corporal Gatling stated that she is qualified in searching buildings and vehicles. Also he is working on training for Jetta to be certified. Motion was made by Councilmember Brame and seconded by Councilmember Jones to accept the Police Report as presented. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Garrett gave the Fire/Rescue Department Report. He stated Station 2 had 89 calls while Station 7 had 39 calls which were down over half. 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. Mattox stated that he would like to nominate Linda Walker to the Victoria Planning Commission as Ellen Neal asked to be replaced. Linda Walker also stepped down from the Board of Zoning Appeals because Mr. Holliday represents the Planning Commission already. The Board of Zoning Appeals are Irene Wallace, Linda Walker, Raymond Holiday, Claude Otey and Johnny Crenshaw. Mr. Newton stated that two nominations are needed to replace Linda Walker and Claude Otey. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve as submitted. Motion carried.

b) Mr. Newton requested a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission on the April 13, meeting for Poorhouse Solar project Conditional Use permit and an application coming on Rezoning from R1 to R2 with interest in building a duplex off of High Street in between Bragg and Rod Avenue. Mr. Newton stated that we should be able to run this in the next 30 days through the Planning Commission and a Public hearing on April 13, 2021. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and second by Councilmember Brame to approve as submitted. Motion carried.

Mr. Newton stated that Kevin Ashworth had his first surgery to reconstruct his elbow. Also that Kevin has more surgeries ahead. Mr. Newton stated that Diane had set up a special account for donations for Kevin, at Benchmark Community Bank, to help with medical expenses. Mr. Ashworth stated to Mr. Newton that it would be several months before he could return to work.

Town Manager Update:

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a) Mr. Newton stated that Ronnie Williams will be helping with the two sewer projects on W. 7th and Lunenburg Ave. The flow that we were receiving due to the Ice storm and all the raining was horrific.

b) Mr. Newton stated that the Municipal Elections will be held with the November Election ballot, this was passed through the General Assembly. Also the IDA did pass to reduce the committee number from 7 to 5 with the quorum of 3. The requirement for Economic Interest was table with no action from the General Assembly. Mr. Newton stated that the Economic Interest statement application is still required.

c) Mr. Newton stated that a Budget workshop will be held at the Victoria- Lunenburg Community Centre on April 12, 2021 at 6:00p.m. Mr. Newton stated that this will be advertised. Motion was made by Councilmember Elam and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve as submitted. Motion carried.

d) Mr. Newton stated the Underwood Property that was deed to the Town has been taken to the Courthouse to be recorded. Whenever this property is developed, Mr. Underwood would like to have a sign erected with this wording as follow. This tract of 9.6 acres of real estate has been donated to the Town of Victoria in remembrance of John I. Underwood (1889-1970) for his contributions to the Town of Victoria, the County of Lunenburg and the Commonwealth of Virginia."HAPPY TRAILS" from the John I. Underwood Family-2021. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve as submitted. Motion carried.

e) Mr. Newton stated that some of the generators for the pump stations, Nottoway Falls ran for 29 to 65 hours. Park station was off line from 3-13-21 to 3-18-21 until we could get a generator on that. Park Ave, Jenkins and Marshall stayed off line until power was restored. Marshall Pump station is getting a generator next year. DEQ was notified by email and submitted a formal letter of this event.

Mr. Newton stated that fuel freedom and Parker were down and they couldn't get fuel. We worked with Parker and now have two -500 gal fuel tanks.

Mr. Newton stated that with the debris we are using the campground at the old pulp wood yard. We have dumped 42 loads of debris which equals to about 1050 yards. Mr. Newton stated that there were some questions about the purchase of the Grapple truck. Due to the storm there was a lot of debris. Mr. Newton met with the Finance Committee and Town Manager Matthews of Kenbridge. The Town of Kenbridge paid half which was \$27,000. The Truck was \$54,000. The Town of Victoria has it on Monday and Tuesdays and every other Friday. The Town of Kenbridge has the truck Wednesday, Thursday and every other Friday. Mr. Newton stated that on Monday and Tuesday he is with Drake on the truck. Councilmember Jones asked about the limbs pushed to the side of the road. Mr. Newton stated that this is VDOT responsibility.

Mr. Newton stated that the County, Kenbridge and Victoria have submitted assessments of damages to VDEM. Hopefully to get a declaration and we could get reimbursements for debris and time to pick up this debris.

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

Diane Harding, Treasurer

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved March 9, 2021

Rodney Newton, Town Manager