

Town Council Meeting

September 10, 2024

The Town Council of Victoria, Virginia met on September 10, 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, Treasurer Diane Harding, Town Clerk Vickie McDaniel, Police 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.

Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions to the meeting. Councilmember Jones asked to speak about town invitations. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Jones under Information Items as item (c). Councilmember Jones asked to speak about the ladies bathroom at the park. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Jones under Informational Items as item (d). Councilmember Gill had golf cart questions. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Gill under Informational Items as item (e). Councilmember Garrett had a couple of questions about the pool. Mayor Smith added Councilmember Garrett under Informational Items as item (f).

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 August 2024 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 August 2024. Motion carried.

Chief Camden Lawson presented the Police Report. He stated they had 167 calls, two arrests and 16 citations. Chief Lawson advised six inoperable vehicles that were red tagged have been removed and an additional 13 have been tagged. A total of 18 vehicles have been moved since the start of this process. Chief Lawson advised the new software system, ID Networks, is up and running. The software has been installed on all computers and in the officers' cars for reporting use. Chief Lawson stated it has been an adjustment learning the new system but no major issues have been found. Chief Lawson advised the two new candidates in the academy just completed their firearms training at the beginning of August. They continue to do well in the academy. Chief Lawson reiterated for citizens to contact the Sheriff's Department so that we have a documented record of their concern. Chief Lawson advised graduation will be Wednesday, December 18th in Lynchburg, VA. 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 total of 124 responses for the month of August. The Financial Report was not available tonight due to issues with the billing company receiving deposits, etc and the Labor Day Holiday. There will be two Financial Reports at next months meeting. The Truck-n-Tractor Pull is scheduled for Saturday, October 12th. Gates will open at 4:00pm and the pull starting at 6:00pm. Chief Tanner updated on Tanker 2-1. It is still out of service but hopefully will be here this month or next month. 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 provided council an updated draft policy on the enforcement of the grass and weed policy. The previous policy was very vague and outdated. The updated policy includes additions of new steps and forms when the police officer's use this. Motion was made by Councilmember Mattox and seconded by Councilmember Brame to approve the updated grass and weed policy. Motion carried.
- b) Mr. Newton discussed recommendations for the Victoria Planning Commission vacancy. Councilmembers will table until next months meeting.

- c) Councilmember Jones questioned invitations to the town. She doesn't see the invitations. Town Manager Rodney Newton advised if we receive invitations, they are forwarded to the councilmembers. Councilmember Jones inquired about the school convocation. Mr. Newton advised we did not receive an invitation to the school convocation. Mayor Smith advised the public library will be hosting "Meet the Artist", September 16th at 5:30pm regarding the mural at Bliss. Mr. Pernell has also posted on our town website.
- d) Councilmember Jones asked about the top of the door on the ladies' bathroom at the park if it has been fixed. Mr. Newton advised it has not been fixed yet but will check on it.
- e) Councilmember Jones also discussed the trees in the park. The weeping willow limbs need to be trimmed. Mr. Newton advised we will have those trimmed back.
- f) Councilmember Gill questioned golf carts in the town and clarification on the ordinance. He has seen some in the 35mph zones, driving to Food Lion and Timmy's, within the town limits. Mr. Newton advised the state code does not allow them to be driven along a 35mph zone, however they are allowed to cross the street. Mr. Newton advised golf carts are only limited to streets that have posted 25mph signs. We also specified in our town ordinance that Main Street, Court Street, Nottoway Blvd. and Washington Avenue are not allowed. Chief Lawson will let his officers know to keep a lookout for this.
- g) Councilmember Garrett was absent from last month's meeting when Councilmember Gill provided council the proposal from Douglas Aquatics. He suggested for those who could not afford to pay the pool membership adding to their water bills. Mr. Newton advised the membership will have to be paid before the pool season opened in May. Councilmember Gill suggested offering a senior discount possibly. Councilmember Garrett also wanted clarity on the proposal from Douglas Aquatics. Mr. Newton stated there was no discussion on it. There were things that would be nice to have but there are higher priorities right now. Mr. Newton suggested maybe talking with them to see if they could give us a break-out of each item as this may give us a way to possibly do some things to the pool. Councilmember Gill inquired about repairing the roof. Mayor Smith asked Mr. Frankie Tanner, who is also the Carpentry Instructor at Central High School if that could be a school project for them. Mr. Tanner is currently partnering with Kenbridge Construction on a playhouse project and will have to see if they will be available this year. Mayor Smith asked to keep us informed as this would be a good community project and give those seniors community hours who need them to graduate. Mr. Newton advised the pool closed on Monday, September 2nd and ended on the positive side with a balance of \$2,564.92.

Town Manager Update:

- a) Mr. Newton updated on the west pumpstation project. They are still working to isolate the rain inflow and infiltration (INI) issue. We know of issues on Tidewater Ave. and Lunenburg Ave., but do not know where they are. Mr. Newton advised all of our flow sensors are focused around the old railroad bed on 13th Street and how its fed to the area around Vaughan's Grocery and Nottoway Blvd. The next rain we should be able to narrow down the problem and location.
- b) Mr. Newton advised not a lot has been done at the west plant as far as demolition. We did receive the corrosion settlement control plan and have sent in for our permit. In the past few weeks, we have been trying to get it pumped back down from all the rain we've had. This project is still ongoing.
- c) Mr. Newton and Mr. Grayson Townsend have a meeting on Thursday, September 19th with DEQ to discuss the closure plan progress and ammonia issue we have been having at the east facility. Mr. Newton advised with the leachate we are taking in from Lunenburg Landfill, this is affecting the ammonia levels. They are still trying to balance things out and have changed the chemical we use to adjust the hardness of the water from a powder to a liquid. Also, working with Meridian Waste with the leachate coming in. At present, they take in two loads (16,000 gals) a day. Mr. Newton advised with the agreement we have with Meridian Waste, we can pass on the costs to breakdown the ammonia. Hopefully, when we meet with DEQ they will have a plan so we won't have to lose leachate and revenue coming in.

- d) Mr. Newton discussed the discoloration of the water recently. We posted an article on our website, Facebook and the local newspaper. Unfortunately, this is a recurring problem they are experiencing, especially during the hottest part of the year and with slow flow. The manganese levels in the river increase causing the water to have discoloration and a little odor to it. However, treatment doesn't start until it comes into the plant which is a short contact time. Mr. Newton reached out to Moonshot Missions who helped us with our copper issue at the sewer plant. They have now been granted funds to help on the drinking water side. They are looking at setting up a time in mid-to-late October when they will be able to come spend a couple of days with us to see the process and come back with some recommendations. Initially, Moonshot Missions recommends we look at beginning the manganese treatment at the river verses at the plant. This is something they are definitely going to look at. Mr. Newton advised some other things he recommended was the PH overall process of the water because this affects how the treatment works and looking at some other processes at the plant to improve the overall water process.
- e) Mr. Newton advised we will be flushing hydrants on Monday, September 16th and if needed Tuesday, September 17th beginning around 6:00pm. This should help with the water discoloration and odor. Mr. Newton updated on hydrants out of service. There is one at Monroe St. that has been out of service for many years. It's on a 4" line and the DOH does not allow hydrants on a 4" line. Also, the hydrant at Timmy's Grocery is out of service and we're planning to replace in mid-October 2024. We have replaced the hydrant on Norfolk Avenue and Court Street.
- f) Mr. Newton updated on the Blighted Properties from last months meeting. He has had no responses from the homeowners. They have until September 20th. If we do not hear back from them, we will move forward with the process even further.
- g) Mr. Newton discussed a wish list for the sewer pumpstations that he received several years back from Councilmember Brame. He reported the concrete was poured for the generator at the Brick Park Avenue pumpstation. Once that is installed, it will only leave the Jenkins Pumpstation without a generator. Most of them have been funded through grants or severe weather funds.
- h) Mr. Newton provided council an invitation to the ribbon cutting on Friday, October 11th at 10:00am and open house at the 300 Court Street facility. Both Smith's Glass Shop and Victoria Antiques have moved in. Victoria Antiques is planning their first auction on September 28th. Mr. Newton advised both businesses are doing very well. He has contacted the Chamber of Commerce and they are planning to handle the ribbon cutting. The IDA is planning to have some displays set-up of the building prior to the renovations.
- i) Mr. Newton discussed the Caddis Bldg. on Court Street. Fellowship Chair is leasing the building to purchase. They are doing a million dollar plus renovation and have already done a lot of work there.
- j) Mr. Newton advised the CRC Foyer training is set for Thursday, September 26th in Keysville. If you have not registered, please contact Lauren Pugh at the CRC. Mr. Newton forwarded the information by email to all councilmembers.
- k) Mr. Newton advised the Autumn Days Festival will be Saturday, October 12th. Mr. William Pernell, who was present, gave a brief update on the status of planning the Autumn Days Festival. He advised we have a lot of food and craft vendors signed up already. We will have a lot of games, pet parade, petting zoo, pony rides and J.B. and the Get Down Browns will be the featured band. The event is from 9:00am until 3:00pm.
- l) Councilmember Jones inquired about the land at the Industrial Park off old Court Street on behalf of a citizen inquiring about using for developing affordable housing for its citizens. Mr. Newton advised it is still on the market, however, there are some small issues with it. One is the size as it is approximately 27 acres and most of your state agencies now are looking for 100 acres or more. There are also a lot of wetlands. Mr.

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Newton advised what a lot of industries are looking for now, this doesn't fit their requirements unfortunately.

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

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

Vickie McDaniel, Clerk

Allen D. Smith, Mayor

Approved October 8, 2024

Rodney Newton, Town Manager