

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2011
7:00 PM

Mayor Moore-Present
Vice-Mayor Greer-Present
Councilman Ward-Present
Councilman Massey-Present
Councilman Doughty-Present
Councilman Metz-Present
Councilman Scanlan-Present

STAFF PRESENT: Arthur Miles, Ethel Parks, Connie Doughty, Chief Angelo DiMartino.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Exmore Town Council was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Moore. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Vice-Mayor Greer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REQUESTED FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2011, THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 10, 2011, THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2011, AND THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 24, 2011:

The Minutes of the October meetings were omitted from the packets. Mr. Miles apologized. Councilman Scanlan made the Motion to table the Minutes of the October meetings until the next regular Council meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz. Discussion-None. The Motion was passed unanimously.

SHERIFF DAVID DOUGHTY AND OFFICER MINDY ELLIOTT REGARDING TOWN POLICE COVERAGE AND COUNTY DOG ORDINANCE AS IT RELATES TO EXMORE:

Mr. Miles informed the Mayor and Council that Sheriff Doughty could not attend the meeting due to the election tomorrow. He said that Sheriff Doughty told him that the Sheriff's Office does not have the man-power to assign an officer to patrol Exmore, but would assist when called upon. Mr. Miles said that 1st Sgt. Koushel, Virginia State Police, told him that their policy will not allow them to assign a trooper to any town with a police force, but will assist if called upon. Mr. Miles noted that Officer Mindy Elliott was asked to attend to talk to the Council regarding the County Dog Ordinance, what they can enforce and how they can help Exmore.

CITIZEN REMARKS:

Donald E. Kellam, Jr. encouraged the Town to go forth with the audit by the Attorney General's Office to get the Town's finances up to date.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICERS-CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino noted that in the packets are schedules with the officer's cell phone numbers. He asked them to feel free to call at any time to report anything suspicious or to interact with them. Chief DiMartino briefly explained the calls for service. He informed the Council that the Police Department has picked up more foot patrol in businesses and that the businesses are very happy for the officer's presence. He stated that the County has had to answer a few calls for Exmore due to the shortage of officers. Chief DiMartino said that he has assigned officers to 24 hour coverage on the weekends. He stated that they need more help in order to provide better coverage and protection for the Town and more traffic control.

Councilman Massey stated that he appreciates the reports and now realizes they cannot offer 24 hour coverage with only five officers. Councilman Ward asked if one additional officer would help. Chief DiMartino said that one additional officer would help, but would like to have a full crew in order to put pressure on the problem areas. After some discussion Councilman Scanlan made the Motion to amend the budget to reflect the addition of one officer. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Ward. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Deputy Mindy Elliott stated that she would answer any questions that the Council may have. Mayor Moore asked her the best way to protect themselves against nuisance animals. Deputy Elliott said that people have to learn how to defend themselves to a certain extent. She noted that even with leashed or penned animals there is always the chance of the leash breaking or the animal digging out of a pen. She said that the animals should be vaccinated to be protected from rabid animals. She noted that with biting animals, she has to work with the Health Department, stating that it is up to them whether or not to quarantine the animal. Deputy Elliott said that the County licenses the animals but that is only a tax. Councilman Scanlan asked if a vaccination is needed to obtain a license. She told him that it is, but the vaccination can expire before the license expires. Councilman Doughty asked if a kennel license was required. She stated that it is not. Councilman Massey asked Deputy Elliott if she could pick up a dog with no license that is running at large. She informed him that she can. Councilman Scanlan asked her if she could she could find out if a dog has a license and rabies vaccination. She said she could if she could find the rightful owner. Councilman Ward stated that the Town has a leash law. Deputy Elliott stated that she can pick up a dog if it is running at large, but the leash law has to be renewed annually. She noted that domestic animals are not much different from wild animals; they will attack. Councilman Scanlan asked Deputy Elliott what law they need to enact to protect citizens from vicious dogs. She said that the law states that a dog on its own property cannot be declared dangerous for protecting its own property. Councilman Ward asked if the Town could require dogs to be kept in pens. Deputy Elliott stated that some of the

pens are worse than the runs. She recommended that the Council look over the State laws before adopting a new leash law ordinance and then to adopt an ordinance that coincides with the County ordinance.

POSITION OF COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY REGARDING EXMORE'S AUDIT SITUATION:

Mr. Miles stated that he has talked to the Commonwealth's Attorney regarding the audit situation. He said that the Mr. Jones told him that he is not an auditor and could not take it on and that he did not think the State Police or Attorney General's office would either unless there was suspicion of wrong doing. Mr. Miles stated that he does not know of any wrong doing. He said that the audits are on schedule. Councilman Massey asked what year the auditor is working on. Mr. Miles stated that the auditor is working on fiscal year 2009 and the accountants are working on 2010. Mayor Moore noted that we are trying to get the Town's books on a modern accounting software system. Mr. Miles stated that the accountant has told him that we would be before the end of the year. He said that we would be using Quickbooks and the accountants will help set it up.

Councilman Metz asked when the taxes would go out. Mr. Miles told him that they were being stuffed today and will go out this week.

EXMORE WAS NOT SELECTED FOR GRANT FUNDING BY VDH FOR OUR PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY WELL PROJECT:

Mr. Miles noted that there were numerous applicants for the grant and that fifteen other localities were selected to receive the grant.

LISTING OF SALEABLE TOWN OWNED LAND (8 OUT OF 24 PARCELS):

Mr. Miles noted that eight of the twenty-four parcels of Town owned land are saleable. Councilman Scanlan said that the two lots on the corner of Washington and Lee have a sewer connection. Mr. Miles said that there is a small piece, leaving Belle Haven returning to Exmore that is just a small paper road and not saleable. After much discussion, Councilman Scanlan made the Motion to advertise the eight parcels listed for auction with a minimum bid of the tax assessed value. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz. Discussion-None further. The Motion was passed unanimously.

SANTA TRAIN STOPS IN EXMORE ON DECEMBER 3, 2011 AT 12:05 PM:

Mr. Miles noted that the Santa Train will stop in Exmore on December 3, 2011 at 12:05. He said that there was a \$35.00 fee that he authorized the clerk to pay.

EXMORE FIRE DEPARTMENT PARADE WILL BE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2011:

Mr. Miles stated that the Exmore Fire Department Parade will be on Saturday, December 10.

EXMORE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2011:

Mr. Miles noted that the Exmore Christmas Luncheon will be on Wednesday, December 21.

EXMORE FINANCIAL REPORT (AVAILABLE MONDAY):

Mr. Miles said that the Exmore financial report was made available this evening. He said that the revenue is approximately \$20,000 ahead of expenditures year-to-date.

Councilman Scanlan stated that several citizens have donated trees in memory or honor of loved ones and asked if we could find somewhere to order plaques to put on the trees for those individuals.

OLD BUSINESS:

THE EASTERN SHORE PSA CONTINUES TO HAVE OPENING(S) ON ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS. NOMINATIONS WELCOME!

Mr. Miles stated that the PSA continues to have openings.

POSITIONS ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION, ZONING APPEALS BOARD AND FAÇADE COMMITTEE REMAIN OPEN.

Mr. Miles noted that he has recently advertised again for these positions, but there has been no response.

EXMORE FIRING RANGE ZONING IS NO LONGER AN ISSUE. ZONING APPROVED UNDER PRIOR ORDINANCE:

Mr. Miles stated that the firing range zoning is no longer an issue. He noted that the County has lifted the cease to operate, but is still open to appeal. He said that he was able to get enough information together to satisfy the County, including a letter from the Zoning Official in place at the time.

MUSSO PROPERTY-SOME PROGRESS BUT NEEDS DEMO PERMIT AND ASBESTOS INSPECTION:

Mr. Miles stated that Mr. Musso is showing some progress, but he needs to obtain a demo permit and an asbestos inspection for the County.

GLADSTONE LANE DEBRIS PILE WILL BE BURNED DURING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 14-18, DOUGHTY FISH MARKET WILL ALSO BE DEMOLISHED AS WILL THE HOUSE OWNED BY THE BAPTIST CHURCH ON WESTFIELD AVENUE AND THE TOWN BARN AT THE WASTEWATER PLANT PROPERTY. FORCE MAIN EASEMENTS AND DRAINAGE DITCHES WILL ALSO BE CLEARED:

Mr. Miles noted that the Gladstone Lane debris pile will be burned next week. The Doughty Fish Market, the house on Westfield Avenue that is owned by the Baptist Church and the town barn on the Wastewater Plant will be demolished also. Mr. Miles said that the forcemain easements and drainage ditches near Virginia Street will be cleared to help drainage during heavy rains.

FARMER'S MARKET LETTER SENT. NO RESPONSE:

Councilman Scanlan said that with the condition of the building, the cost of repairing the building is more than the committee can afford. He noted that they are looking at other possibilities.

DISCUSSION-COUNCIL/CITIZEN INPUT:

Councilman Scanlan noted that the codes and ordinances need to be looked at and updated. Guns are being shot and luckily nobody has been hit yet.

Mayor Moore said that the gun and dog ordinance can be looked at during a regular Council meeting.

Mr. Miles stated that he has been approached by someone interested in purchasing the little shed at the Wastewater plant. The Council all agreed to sell it. Councilman Scanlan mentioned selling the golf ball dispenser and the golf ball picker upper also.

Councilman Scanlan stated that the Golf Cart Ordinance was enacted nearly a year ago and we still do not have the signs. Mr. Miles noted that the signs are being made.

Councilman Scanlan said that the Star Transit stand looks nice.

Mr. Miles informed the Mayor and Council that he and the Clerk recently attended a tax collection seminar in Richmond. He said that he is hopeful that we can team up with the County to charge for the decals on tax bills.

Councilman Massey asked Mr. Miles if Seaside restaurant has been making payments on their meals tax. Mr. Miles told him that they are.

Councilman Scanlan noted that the door on the old laundry mat has been kicked open again. It was recommended to tear it down along with the old drive-in movie screen.

Councilman Metz noted that the Street Sweeper is going again.

SUGGESTED DATE FOR REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING (DECEMBER 5, 2011):

Mayor Moore announced that the next regular Council meeting will be December 5, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Massey made the Motion to adjourn. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Ward. The Motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

William M. Moore, Jr. Mayor

Ethel Parks, Town Clerk