

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
JUNE 5, 2023
7:00 PM

At the regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Exmore, Virginia, held in the Meeting Room of the J. Guy Lawson Municipal Building, 3305 Main Street, Exmore Virginia, on the 5th day of June 2023 at 7:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE:

— Mayor Douglas Greer-Present
Vice-Mayor Thomas Lewis-Present
Councilman G. W. Adkins-Present
Councilman Bradley Doughty-Absent
Councilman Bryon Heaster-Present
Councilman John Metz-Present
Councilman Chase Sturgis-Present

STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Robert Duer, Ethel Parks, Taylor Dukes, Chief DiMartino, Capt. Zieger, Sgt. Gonzalez, Officer Hinman.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Town Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Greer.

PLEDGE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the majority in attendance.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Mayor Greer.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION:

— Councilman Sturgis read aloud the Resolution of Appreciation presented to Gregory DeYoung. The resolution was presented to Mr. DeYoung. (Copy attached to Minutes)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING & TOWN COUNCIL MEETING– MAY 1, 2023:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the May 1, 2023, Budget Public Hearing and regular Town Council meeting. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously with Councilman Doughty being absent.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Emily Hines addressed the Mayor and Council regarding concerns about her neighbor's drain fields. She stated that her neighbor's sewage drain fields have failed and the sewage is running onto her property causing a serious health concern. Mrs. Hines noted that this has been going on for 5 weeks. She has notified the Town and the Health Department, but it continues. After a brief discussion, Mr. Duer said that Mr. Dukes would address this issue during his report.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER:

— Mr. Duer noted that there are 2 anniversaries this month: Brandon Parks-5years and Caleb Shrieves-2years. The Juneteenth celebration will be held on Monday, June 19th. There will be a parade through Main Street followed by several events at the Park. Chief DiMartino has good news regarding funding, and he will speak about it in his report. Mr. Duer commended Chief DiMartino on his hard work in securing the grant. Mr. Duer said that we have 5 persons interested in serving on the Planning Commission and we still need a Councilman to serve as well. The 5 members are Dixie Greer, Claudia Andrews, Matt Rhodie, Tim Wilson and Kathleen Kenyon.

The Fall Festival is scheduled for September 30th and the band has been booked.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

MAY FINANCIALS:

Income for the month of May was \$310,388 and expenses were \$225,244, which gives us a net income of \$85,143.

YTD FINANCIALS:

The year-to-date income is \$3,301,519 and expenses are \$2,063,820 for a year-to-date net income of \$1,237,699.

NEW BUSINESS:

VIRGINIA TOURISM RESOLUTION:

Mr. Duer explained that the Resolution to Designate DMO (Destination Marketing Organization) could help the Town be eligible for funding for tourism. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to adopt the Resolution to Designate DMO. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously with Councilman Doughty being absent.

2023 TRAFFIC ORDINANCE:

Mr. Duer noted that Ordinance No. 215 is an ordinance that enables our officers to issue traffic summonses. He said that it must be updated every year. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 215, Section 2, line 6, changed to readin force July 1, 2023. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously with Councilman Doughty being absent.

COBANK RESOLUTION:

Mr. Dukes explained that the CoBank Resolution will enable the Town to receive interim financing for the new sewer project. Mr. Duer said that this resolution allows the Town to borrow up to 3,200,000. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt the CoBank resolution. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously with the Roll Call Vote of Councilman Sturgis-Aye; Councilman Adkins-Aye; Councilman Metz-Aye; Councilman Heaster-Aye; Vice-Mayor Lewis-Aye; Councilman Doughty-absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

JULY 2023 – JUNE 2024 BUDGET PASSAGE:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt the FY2023-2024 operating budget. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously with Councilman Doughty being absent.

UPDATE ON SEWER PROJECT – MR. DUER & MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that DEQ wants us to spend the principal forgiveness funds first. He said that they have started sending out letters to homeowners who have signed the easements. If all the easements are not signed and recorded, VRA will not close the loan with us.

There will be a pre-construction meeting at the Town Office on June 8th and several funding groups will be attending as well.

PLANNING COMMISSION CANDIDATES – MR. DUER:

Mr. Dukes stated that Dixie Greer, Claudia Andrews, Matt Rhodie, Tim Wilson and Kathleen Kenyon have been nominated to serve on the Planning Commission. He noted that he needs the Council to vote for them to become members. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the 5 named individuals to serve on the Planning Commission. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously with Councilman Doughty being absent.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino noted that all the officers are doing well. There were no reportable crashes in May. He said that they are assisting with ordinance pertaining to the sewer. There are a few streets in Town that do not have a posted speed limit and they are working to get those streets posted so they can enforce the speed limit. The 2nd new police car has been delivered. Chief DiMartino stated that they have been awarded the ARPA Law Enforcement grant. He said that once he receives the statement of award letter, he can file for reimbursement for the cars and get the remainder of the cameras needed in Town. He noted that the cameras in the New Road area are audio and video and are working great. He thanked the Mayor and Council for

their support. Chief DiMartino was applauded for his hard work and for securing the grants that help tremendously in purchasing equipment and vehicles for the Police Department and the Town.

PUBLIC WORKS/ WATER/SEWER REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that they have received a grant from Northampton County for tourism. He said that they have purchased 5 metal picnic tables, 1 ADA compliant picnic table and 1 bench for the Park.

Mr. Dukes addressed Mrs. Hines' concerns. He noted that there is a food truck in front of the residence that has failed drain fields. There has been little to no help received by the Health Department to this point. Mr. Dukes said that the Fire Marshall condemned the food truck for safety concerns. He said that a few weeks ago a police officer was called to the residence, and they found that sewage was being pumped from the house and it was running onto the Hines' property. The Health Department has issued a notice of violation, but there is no deadline to comply with the notice. Mr. Dukes stated that the Town has an old ordinance, with a fine of \$25 per day. The ordinance has been sent to the Town's attorney to be re-written with a more substantial fine. Mr. Duer noted that this is clearly a Health Department issue.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that he will do his best to have an ordinance ready for the July meeting that will make food trucks strictly mobile, a stiffer fine on violations and not dumping their waste into Town sewer.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Donald E. Kellam, Jr. asked how a business can be allowed to turn into a residence. Did the County or Town allow it? Mr. Duer said that it has been this way for many years, and he is not sure who allowed it.

Ken Dufty thanked the Mayor and Council for their role in how well the Town is doing. He noted that the old Telegraph office is under contract and the new owners would like to open a take-out service for gourmet food. Mr. Dufty said that the individuals that have rented the old record shop on Main Street have, what he feels is the best antique store he has ever been in. Spring Custis has purchased the Antique Emporium and her shop at 3280 Mian Street is now empty. Mr. Dufty praised the Police Department for making Exmore the safest Town on the Shore.

Donald E. Kellam, Jr. asked if the BZA was up to date. Mr. Dukes told him the BZA is next to be brought up to date.


SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, JULY 3, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED – TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2023 – INDEPENDENCE DAY

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Adkins made the Motion to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.



Douglas Greer, Mayor



Ethel Parks, Town Clerk