

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022
7:00 PM

At the Public Hearings and 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 12th day of September, 2022 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, 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.

— Councilman Heaster made the Motion to amend the agenda to delete #8, Approval of August Minutes. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously with Councilman Doughty being absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – AUGUST 1, 2022:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to approve the Minutes of August 1, 2022, regular Town Council meeting as presented. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE NO. 223 WATER CONNECTION FEES:

Mayor Greer opened the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to close the Public Hearing. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously, with Councilman Doughty being absent.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING – RESOLUTION FOR INTERIM FINANCING OF SEWER PROJECT & USDA FUNDING:

— Jesse Bausch, of Sands-Anderson, explained that the interim financing is a short-term loan that is required by USDA in order for them to finance the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brandi Drummond addressed the Mayor and Council, saying it does not make good financial sense to require residents to hook up to the sewer system, especially when they have a system that works. She said that many residents cannot afford an additional payment every month. Mr. Duer stated that state and federal funding agencies are willing to help with funding, but only if all homes and businesses connect to the system.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to close the Public Hearing. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously, with Councilman Doughty being absent.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Ann Beatty commended the Police Department for all they do. She said that speeding on Jackson Street and Roosevelt Ave has become a problem. She said that drivers are also running the stop signs. Ms. Beatty noted that the streets are narrow, and she feels that 25 mph is too fast. Chief DiMartino told the Mayor and Council that they could ask VDOT for a speed study for those streets.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT – MR. DUER:

HAROLD DUKES – SEPT. 24 – 10 YEARS

DONTRELL LEWIS – SEPT. 29 - 4 YEARS

Mr. Duer noted that Mr. Dukes has been with the Town for 10 years and Mr. Lewis for 4 years this month. He said that the new benches have been set on Main Street and the Memorial Bench has not been installed yet. The announcement board has been put up on the north side of the Municipal Building. He mentioned that the Park continues to be vandalized.

Mr. Duer stated that we have hired Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates for our auditing services and they will be here in October to perform the audit. He also said that we have hired Jack Wescott as the Town Attorney. Water leaks continue to be an issue.

Mr. Duer stated that he has bids for 2 new police cars. He said that the price has increased significantly. It was the general consensus of the Council to move forward with purchasing the cars.

The Fall Festival is scheduled for September 24th. Mr. Duer said that the H. M. Johnson Band will be here to perform. He said that he feels this will bring a lot of people in Town.

Mr. Duer noted the sewer easements are slowing coming in. he urged residents that have not sent them back to return them as soon as possible.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

AUGUST FINANCIALS:

The income for the month of August was \$213,402 and expenses were \$171,246. The net income was \$42,156.

YTD FINANCIALS:

Year-to-date income is at \$1,132,598 and expenses are at \$408,571 for a year-to-date net income of \$724,027.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION: INTERIM FINANCING OF SEWER PROJECT & USDA FUNDING:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt the Resolution for interim financing of the sewer project and USDA funding. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed by the roll call vote of: Councilman Sturgis-Aye; Councilman Adkins-Aye; Councilman Metz-Aye; Councilman Heaster-Aye; Vice-Mayor Lewis-Aye; Mayor Greer-Aye; Councilman Doughty-Absent.

WATER HOOK-UP FEE INCREASE – ORDINANCE NO. 223:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 223, reflecting the changes in the water hook-up fees. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously, with Councilman Doughty being absent.

SPEED STUDY FOR ROOSEVELT AVENUE:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to request VDOT to do a speed study on Roosevelt Avenue, from Broad Street to Lee Street. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously, with Councilman Doughty being absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

CAMPERS AS RESIDENCES:

No report.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Previously reported.

UPDATE ON SEWER PROJECT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes stated that the state budget passed for the Town to receive 3.5 million dollars through the DEQ. He said that the application has been submitted. He noted that the federal government has approved an ARPA infrastructure fund. He said that they will apply for funding through the ARPA infrastructure fund to help connect homes to the system.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino stated that all the officers are doing well and staying busy. He noted there was 1 reportable crash last month and 30 arrests. He said that they have been awarded a grant for a camera system for the New Road Community and grants for other equipment. They have purchased ballistic blankets through grants as well.

Chief DiMartino recommended that the Town hire an attendant to monitor the Park and bathrooms. After brief discussion about closing the bathrooms, Councilman Heaster made the Motion to close the Park bathrooms except for special events. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

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

No report.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT – MR. DUKES:

No report.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

No report.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

None.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND CLOSINGS:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022 @ 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

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



Douglas Greer, Mayor



Ethel Parks, Town Clerk