

TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
7:00 PM

At a public hearing 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 11th day of September 2023 at 7:00 pm.

— **ATTENDANCE:**

Mayor Douglas Greer-Present
Vice-Mayor Thomas Lewis-Present
Councilman G. W. Adkins-Absent
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, Cpl. Hinman, Sgt. Gonzalez.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Greer established a quorum and called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PLEDGE:

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

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Mayor Greer.

— **OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON VRA FUNDING:**

PUBLIC COMMENT (VRA FUNDING):

Mr. Dukes read the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Up to \$3,994,700 Principal Amount of a General Obligation and Utility Revenue Bond of the Town of Exmore, Virginia, and Providing for the Form, Details and Payment Thereof.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to close the Public Hearing on VRA funding. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously with Councilmen Adkins and Doughty being absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING— AUGUST 7, 2023:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the August 7, 2023, regular Town Council meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously with Councilmen Adkins and Doughty being absent.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

— Savannah Vera asked the Mayor and Council if they would consider adding 2 soccer nets to the Park. After brief discussion, it was the general consensus of the Council to add the soccer nets to the Park.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer noted that he has sent the letter to VDOT regarding the parking spaces. The Children at Play signs have been received and should be installed this week. He said that there are 2 anniversaries this month; Taylor Dukes, 11 years on September 24th and Dontrell Lewis, 5 years on September 29th. The Fall Festival is September 30th, the Car Show is October 21st and the CBES Bike Tour is October 28th.

Mr. Duer stated that he had to make 2 emergency hires, John Lassiter in the water department and Doug Colburn, who will be locating and marking water and sewer lines for the sewer project. Caleb Shreives has taken over the Public Works department. Mr. Duer stated that we will be paying 100% of Doug Colburn's salary, and 75% of Pam Ward's salary out of the ARPA funds. Clarice has written a grant for holiday lights and a holiday festival. We should soon be hearing back from that. Kevcor Corporation has donated and installed the new lights at the Parks. Mr. Duer suggested writing a Resolution recognizing Kevcor Corporation for their donation.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

AUGUST FINANCIALS:

Mr. Duer noted that the income for the month of August was \$200,691 and due to the large reimbursement from USDA Rural Development, expenses are showing \$16,400. Net income for August was \$184,291.

YTD FINANCIALS:

Year-to-date income is \$435,272 and expenses are \$122,445 for a net income of \$312,827.

Mr. Duer asked that the agenda be amended to allow for voting on the VRA funding Resolution. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to amend the agenda to add subsection (a.) to section 10, to adopt the Resolution for VRA funding. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously with Councilmen Adkins and Doughty being absent.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION – VRA FUNDING:

Mr. Dukes noted that adopting the VRA funding Resolution will allow VRA to close on the loan with the Town for the sewer project. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt the VRA Funding Resolution. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously with Councilmen Adkins and Doughty being absent.

SEWER LEGAL FEES:

Mr. Duer noted that we have spent, to date, over \$11,000 chasing property owners who refuse to sign the sewer easements. If this ends up in court, we will spend a significant amount more. Mr. Duer asked the Council if they should absorb the legal fees or file suit against the property owners to recover the legal fees. After brief discussion, it was the general consensus of the Council to absorb the fees incurred by having the property owners served and to sue for the recovery of future fees incurred through having to go to court to get the easements signed.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

Mr. Duer noted that the budget amendments include 2 appropriations and 2 income. The first appropriation is for Kevcor Contracting's mobilization costs in the amount of \$200,765.00 on August 24, 2023 and the second one is for John Maynard's project inspection cost in the amount of \$6,250. On the income side there is a reimbursement from USDA/CoBank in the amount of \$200,765 and the \$6,250 from John Maynard is to be reimbursed from the ARPA Funds. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to accept the income amendment. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously with Councilmen Adkins and Doughty being absent.

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to accept the appropriations as provided. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously with Councilmen Adkins and Doughty being absent.

Mr. Duer asked the Council for approval to pay Kevcor Contracting \$200,765. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to pay Kevcor Contracting \$200,765 on the next business day. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously with Councilmen Adkins and Doughty being absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMERCIAL SEWER RATE, HIGH STRENGTH OR UNUSUAL WASTE CHARGES AND RESIDENTIAL FLAT RATE:

Mr. Duer said that they are waiting to hear back from HRSD on the rate agreement.

FOOD TRUCK APPLICATION – UPDATE:

No report.

SEWER ORDINANCE UPDATE:

Mr. Duer stated that progress is moving forward very quickly. He said that the grinder pumps are being installed and the Grinder Pump Agreements need to be signed. Councilman Heater made the Motion to adopt the Grinder Pump Maintenance Agreement. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously with Councilmen Adkins and Doughty being absent. He noted that the sewer ordinance addresses grease, oils and fats, raw sewage, fees, and rates. The ordinance states that the sewer system is for household waste not commercial or restaurants. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to accept Ordinance No. 227. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was unanimously with Councilmen Adkins and Doughty being absent.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino noted that all officers are doing well. He had one applicant for the police officer ad and we are currently waiting on his background check. We had another new police car delivered last week. Absolute Security has installed cameras throughout town. The cameras include 6 license plate readers. The system cost approximately \$157,000 which was made possible with the ARPA grant. The DMV grant of \$20,000 includes 2 new lasers. Chief DiMartino said that they have been working with Mrs. Pittman on the Fall Festival and are prepared. He said that several businesses have mentioned that they would like to have a traditional Halloween and set up in front of their stores. Chief DiMartino remarked that the Town could close Main Street from Occohannock Road to Willis Wharf Road for families to enjoy the displays and treats.

Chief DiMartino reported that there were no crashes in August. He said that Broadwater Academy contacted him regarding the speed limit in front of the school. He noted that ‘School Zone’ signs are there, but there are no speed limit signs.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that the public works crew are doing well and staying busy.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes said that the new sewer system is moving forward much quicker than he had anticipated.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

No report.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):


Brenda Bailey asked Chief DiMartino if the cameras covered her area (south of Tru-Blu). He told her they did not.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously with Councilmen Adkins and Doughty being absent.


Douglas Greer, Mayor


Ethel Parks, Town Clerk