

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
MAY 2, 2022
7:00 PM

At a 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 2nd day of May, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Attendance:

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

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Robert Duer, Ethel Parks, Taylor Dukes, Chief DiMartino, Capt. Zieger.

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 Sturgis made the Motion to amend the agenda to add '4. Public Hearing-Mandatory Sewer Hook-ups'. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously.

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to amend the agenda to include '7.c. Revision of Ordinance No. 217 Public Nuisance'. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS- APRIL 4, 2022:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the Minutes of April 4, 2022, regular Town Council meeting and Public Hearings with the correction of the date. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously with Councilman Doughty abstaining.

PUBLIC HEARING – MANDATORY SEWER HOOK-UPS:

Mr. Dukes explained that USDA & DHCD requires all homes in Exmore to hook up to the sewer, provided the line runs to or by your property. He said that the revision of Ordinance No. 147 states that it is mandatory to hook-up if the line runs by your property.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brenda Bailey asked for clarification. Mr. Dukes stated that even if you have a perfectly good sewer system, you still will have to hook-up to the Town system.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to close the Public Hearing. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Carolyn Small addressed the Mayor and Council, saying that she recently purchased a home on Carolyn Avenue. She noted that the Town owns a lot next to hers and asked if they would consider selling the lot to her. Mr. Duer explained that we have advertised this lot in the past and there was no one interested. He said we will need to advertise selling the property at auction or closed bid. He said that we can not sell it for less than appraised value.

Damien Giest thanked the Mayor and Council for the caboose. He said that the crane operator should be in the area in the next couple of weeks and he is hoping to have the caboose moved at that time.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer noted that the only anniversary this month is Officer Tyler Hinman. He said that Mr. Hinman will reach 3 years of service with the Town.

We continue to receive high marks for the new Town website. We will be training to have the ability to update most portions of the website.

We received the last audit today. Mr. Duer noted that he will distribute copies to the Council once we receive them.

Kathy Wert officially retired last Tuesday.

The State budget is anticipated to pass this week. Once it passes, we will hear if and how much funding Exmore will receive.

The Town election is in November this year. Forms are available in the Clerk's office for anyone who has not received them yet and if anyone from the public is interested in running for Mayor or Council.

Mr. Duer noted that the letter addressing the ARPA Funds is asking us to share the funds. He said that he feels that we are not in the position to share the funds at this time due to the \$18 million sewer project. Sunday was the last day for Mr. Rowan as Town Attorney. Mr. Duer noted that he and Mr. Dukes will be meeting (virtually) this week with an attorney from Kaufman and Canoles.

On behalf of the Town, Clarice has submitted grant application to the Tourism Commission. One grant is for benches (to be placed throughout Town) and the other is for trash cans.

Mr. Dufty has purchased the Custis building and plans to keep it as retail space.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

APRIL FINANCIALS:

Revenue for the month of April was \$187,198 and expenses were \$211,062. This gives us a net loss of \$23,864. Mr. Duer explained that a large expense for engineering contributed to the loss.

YTD FINANCIALS:

Year-to-date revenue is \$2,051,745 and expenses are \$1,936,127 for a net income of \$115,618.

NEW BUSINESS:

2021 EASTERN SHORE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:

Mr. Duer explained that the A-NPDC has developed a regional Hazard Mitigation Plan that includes Exmore. He noted that we need to adopt a Resolution affording the Town the opportunity to receive aid in the event of a natural hazard. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

REVISION OF ORDINANCE NO. 212 - ADDRESSING INOPERATIVE VEHICLES:

Officer Little noted that the original Ordinance addressing inoperative vehicles was unenforceable in court. He noted that he has rewritten several sections and added a section that makes the ordinance clear and enforceable.

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to adopt the amended Ordinance No. 212. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Duer noted that there 2 lots on the corner of Houston Street and Carolyn Avenue that Ms. Small is interested in. Mr. Dukes said that Lot 7 is assessed at \$8,800 and Lot 6 is assessed at \$9,900. He said that the auction or closed bid has to open at the assessed value of the lots. They agreed on selling the lots by closed bid. Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to advertise the lots. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.

REVISION OF ORDINANCE NO. 217 – PUBLIC NUISANCE:

Officer Little explained that he made several changes to Ordinance No. 217. He changed the height of the grass from 12 inches to 10 inches and/or going to seed, right-of way violation, repeated nuisance violations, and other sections. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to adopt the amended Ordinance No. 217. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

TOWN ATTORNEY:

Previously reported.

VOTE ON TRASH COLLECTION INCREASE – ORDINANCE NO. 219

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 219 in reference to the trash collection rate increase. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

VOTE ON FY 2022-2023 BUDGET:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt FY 2022-2023 budget as presented. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

REVISION OF ORDINANCE NO. 147:

REQUIRING WATER AND SEWER HOOKUPS – MR. DUER & MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes commented that mandatory sewer hook-ups are a requirement for funding from USDA and DHCD. He asked that the Council approve the amended Ordinance No. 147. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt amended Ordinance No. 147 – requiring water and sewer hook-ups. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

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

LOAN/GRANT STATUS:

Mr. Dukes noted that another requirement to receive the DHCD Block Grant is to adopt the Town of Exmore, Section 3, Business and Employment Project Area. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt the Town of Exmore, Section 3, Business and Employment Project Area as it relates to the sewer project. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Dukes stated that they have applied to Senator Warner and Congresswoman Luria 's office for an additional \$3 million.

They met with Peggy Jordan and her supervisor (USDA) and they informed Mr. Dukes that in order to go to bid with the project, we have to have an engineering agreement. He said that he has reached out to Bowman for the agreement. Once the agreement has been approved, we can go to bid and it could be as early as June.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino said that all the officers are doing well and staying busy. He reported that there was some vandalism at the Park, costing approximately \$600. The cameras worked well, and they were able to identify 6 juveniles.

Chief DiMartino noted that there were 7 reportable crashes last month, with the majority of them happening at the traffic lights. He said that speeds are up and he reported 30 reckless speeds last month. There was some discussion about installing red light cameras.

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

Mr. Dukes noted that the electric powered golf cart is not being used and is costing the Town by having to replace the batteries. He asked the Mayor and Council for authorization to sell it. They were in agreement.

Mr. Dukes stated that there are 83 customer accounts scheduled to be turned off this month.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

No report.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Ken Dufty urged the Councilmen who are up for re-election to please apply to run again. He said that the businesses are doing well and he thanked the Police Department for their building checks.

Brenda Bailey said that she has previously asked for a memorial to be placed in Town for Mike Johnson, Guy Lawson Steve Elliott and Johnny Alaniz. She asked about the status of the memorial to be placed. Mr. Duer told her that he will take care of this.

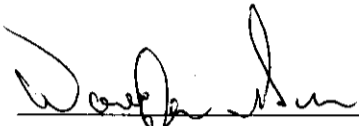
SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND CLOSINGS:

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED – MONDAY, MAY 30, 2022 – MEMORIAL DAY


TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, JUNE 6, 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