

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
APRIL 3, 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 3rd day of April 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, Officer Diaz.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

— **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MARCH 6, 2023:**

Councilman Adkins made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 6, 2023 regular Town Council meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously with Councilman Heaster abstaining and Councilman Doughty being absent.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Mr. Dufty commended Mayor Greer and the Town Council, Chief DiMartino and his officers, Mr. Duer and his staff, and Mr. Dukes and his workers for keeping our town safe, clean and running smoothly. Mr. Dufty gave a business update stating the old telegraph office on Bank Avenue is under contract and the sale is expected to go to closing in June. On the corner of Front Street and Commercial Avenue, a specialty beauty shop has opened and is doing very well. The old Custis record shop opened 2 weeks ago as Exmore's newest antique shop. Mr. Dufty read a letter from the Harper's, (the new owners of the antiques shop), thanking Mayor Greer, the Town Council and staff for welcoming them to our community.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER:

— Mr. Duer noted that there are no anniversaries this month. He said that there is no interest on the financial report from the Investment Pool but remarked that interest came in late this afternoon at \$21, 244.85. The audit should be complete sometime next week. We have received the police computers and will pay for them with a budget amendment. Mr. Duer said that there is a family who wishes to use the Park for a family reunion on a Friday until approximately 10:00 pm. It was the general consensus of the Council to deny night-time use of the Park.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

MARCH FINANCIALS:

Mr. Duer reported net income for the month of March was \$224,932 and expenses were \$198,659 for a net income of \$26,273 plus the \$21,000 in interest, that was not recorded at the time of the report, which gives us a net income total of \$47,273.

YTD FINANCIALS:

The year-to-date income is at \$2,751,540 and expenses are at \$1,568,451, for a net year-to-date income of \$1,183,090.

Mr. Duer stated that all the major banks want to abolish the bank franchise tax, which is approximately \$65,000 of our budget. He urged the Mayor and Council to contact Representative Bloxom and Senator Lewis and let them know that abolishing the bank franchise tax would have an extremely negative effect on Exmore.

NEW BUSINESS:

SEWER CONTRACT AWARD:

Mr. Dukes reported that we received 5 bids for the sewer project. The lowest bid came in at \$18,400,000 and the highest bid was \$74,999,999. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to award the construction contract for Town of Exmore Sewer Collection System contract to Kevcor Contracting Corp, that apparent low bidder with total bid value of \$ 18,452,370 with following contingency:

1. Contingent upon the Engineer, Bowman, successful evaluation of the bid and subsequent Engineer’s recommendation award letter to the Town.
2. Contingent upon the bid acceptance by the USDA and DEQ Bid Review Process.
3. Value engineering session will be conducted between Town, Contractor, and Engineer. Following items will be evaluated as a cost reducing measures:
 - a. Jack and Bore to be replaced with Horizontal Direction Drill
 - b. DIP fitting to be replaced with HDPE fittings.
 - c. Curb stop to move adjacent to the PS to eliminate the 3rd connection.
 - d. Potential changes to the grinder pump station specification and reducing the scope.

After brief discussion, the Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously with Councilman Doughty being absent.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Mr. Duer noted that he has 3 individuals, Dixie Greer, Claudia Cronin and Kathleen Kenyon, interested in serving on the Planning Commission and 1 Council member can serve. He said that we still need at least 3 more members.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED, “AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE JOINT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY AND TOWNS”:

Mr. Duer noted that the County has changed the name of the Industrial Authority and needs Exmore’s recorded vote, with the ordinance to legally change the name. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to adopt the “Ordinance Creating the Joint Industrial Development Authority of Northampton County and Towns”. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously with Councilman Doughty being absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

2024 BUDGET:

Mr. Duer stated that the budget included in tonight’s packet is balanced with a surplus of \$745. He said that we need approval to advertise for a Budget Public Hearing in the Eastern Shore Post.

SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE:

Mr. Duer suggested holding the Public Hearing on May 1, 2023, at 7:00 pm before the regular meeting. It was the general consensus of the Council to advertise the Budget Public Hearing for May 1, 2023, at 7:00.

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

Mr. Dukes noted that they have applied for phase 2 of the sewer project, which pays for the connections from the pump station to the house. He said that they requested \$4,200,000. We were not fully funded, but very close. Mr. Dukes commented that they can either hook up all homeowners to the system or hook up half of the homes and half of the businesses. After brief discussion, it was the general consensus of the Council to hook up all homeowners before businesses. He noted that there is no guarantee that all of the hook-up fee will be paid, but a good portion of it will be.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino informed the Mayor and Council that Officer Little resigned in March. We have placed a help-wanted ad in the Eastern Shore Post in hopes of filling the position. He said that he has submitted the necessary paperwork for 2 grants. DCJS has awarded \$9,500 for the electronic door locking system and we will not know about the grant for 4 cars and the camera system until May 11th. Chief DiMartino stated that spring cleaning will soon go into effect regarding the junk cars in resident’s yards. He noted 1 reportable crash in March. The 2 cars that were ordered, 1, a year ago and the other, 2years ago, have come in. He said our other cars are getting some age on them and we do not have a spare. We need to soon order the other cars before we sustain major break downs with one or more of the older cars. It was the general consensus of the Council to order 2 more cars.

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

No report.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

MCCALED LETTER:

Mr. Dukes referenced the letter from David McCaleb to make the point of the need for a Planning Commission. The decision to allow the billboards cannot be reversed. A Planning Commission would be able to review the zoning ordinance to know what is or is not allowed.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

None.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

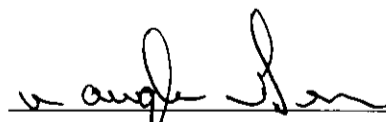
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING – MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023 @ 7:00 pm


TOWN OFFICE CLOSED – MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023 – MEMORIAL DAY

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Adkins made the Motion to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously, with Councilman Doughty being absent.



Douglas Greer, Mayor



Ethel Parks, Town Clerk