

TOWN COUNCIL
BUDGET WORK SESSION
6:15 PM
MEETING
MARCH 4, 2024
7:00 PM

At a Budget Work Session and 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 4th day of March 2024 at 6:15 pm and 7:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Douglas Greer-Present
Vice-Mayor Thomas Lewis-Present
Councilman G. W. Adkins-Present (Meeting Only)
Councilman Bryon Heaster-Present
Councilman John Metz-Present (Meeting Only)
Councilman Chase Sturgis-Present
7th Member Seat – Vacant

STAFF ATTENDANCE:

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

BUDGET WORK SESSION:

Mayor Greer opened the budget work session.
Mr. Duer discussed the revenue and expenditures of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. He noted a slight increase for most departments with revenue and expenses. The wastewater revenue shows a significant increase due to all residents in Town being hooked up to the new sewer system. The wastewater expense also shows an increase due to the payments on the loans for the new system. Mr. Duer said that there is \$60,000 for the Capital Improvement Fund.

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

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION:

The Resolution of Appreciation, for Tankard Bradley Doughty, for 14 years of service to the Town, was read by Councilman Sturgis. Mayor Greer presented the Resolution to Mr. Doughty's son, Kevin Doughty.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – FEBRUARY 5, 2024:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the February 5, 2024, regular Town Council meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

J.R. Bishop addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the Airbnb's in Town. He asked them to consider allowing only a set amount of Airbnb's and they could regulate the noise by pulling permits if problems arise.

Brenda Bailey noted that her home is currently on well water and its own septic system. She said that she is interested in hooking up to the new sewer system, but she needs more information about it.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer said that there are no anniversaries this month. He noted that Northampton County received a letter on January 31st regarding the Luria funds. He said that he has not heard anything from the County regarding the funds and urged the Mayor and Council to call Northampton County administration to find out about the funds.

There are 13 remaining properties in Town that we have not received signed easements for.

The shade structure that has been installed at the Park was paid for by a grant. Shore Little League will hold their annual Oyster Roast at the Park on March 16th.

Mr. Duer stated that, according to the State Code, the Mayor and Council may choose to fill the vacant Council seat, or they may choose to wait until November's election. It was the general consensus of the Council to wait until November's election so that the citizens can vote for a new Council member.

We have received Northampton County's reassessments. Mr. Duer noted that the reassessments increase every piece of property in the county. Mr. Duer said that the increases will inevitably drive everyone out of Exmore.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

FEBRUARY FINANCIALS:

Income for the month of February was \$263,214 and expenses were \$264,708. This gives us a net loss of \$1,494.

YTD FINANCIALS:

The year-to-date income is \$2,024,579 and expenses are \$2,080,340 for a net loss of \$55,761.

NEW BUSINESS:

KEVCOR FEBRUARY BILL FOR SEWER PROJECT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that Kevcor's invoice for February is \$1,576,744.48. He said that the detailed invoice has been reviewed by our consultant. Councilman Sturgis stated that he would like to attend the next progress meeting in order to get better clarification of the materials being ordered and work being performed. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to accept Pay App # 7 to Kevcor, in the amount of \$1,576,744.48. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: EXPENDITURES AND APPROPRIATIONS – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer said that the expenses for February include John Maynard, Salaries and James Cornwell. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the budget amendment expenditures. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously. Income includes 3 payments from DEQ and 1 from USDA. Councilman Sturgis noted that according to the income vs the expenditures for February, we are short by \$288,022.87. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to accept the income in the amount of \$1,288,721.61. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously. Income from the ARPA funds include payment for salaries, John Maynard, and James Cornwell. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to accept the income for \$2,644, \$6,250, and \$1,120, for salaries, John Maynard and James Cornwell. The motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

FOOD TRUCK APPLICATION

No report.

SEWER ORDINANCE:

No report.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino noted that all the officers are doing well, and Officer Hipple is doing well in the academy. There were 2 reportable crashes in February. The cameras at New Road picked up the driver that fled one of the crashes and the officers were able to identify the subject. Chief DiMartino stated that he has applied for a \$25,000 grant that will enable them to purchase more cameras. He said that since the cameras have been in operation, the serious crime rate has dropped by 50%. Northampton and Accomack Counties, along with the Eastern Shore Drug Task Force have utilized Exmore's camera system many times.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. DUKES:

No report.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes reported that they have spent 50% of the funds on the sewer project and have used 28% of the time that was allotted. There are 361 basins installed at homes or businesses. He said that as of February 27, 184 basins have been installed and are connected and operational.

Mr. Dukes said that we have been awarded a \$250,000 grant by the EPA to hire a contractor to dig up services to every home in Town. He noted that they need to know what type of lines are running to the meters and from the meters to the homes. It was the general consensus of the Council to proceed, not to exceed \$250,000.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes remarked that he would like to hold a Planning Commission meeting on March 18th at 7:00 pm. He said that we have a business in Town that is currently zoned residential and they would like a Special Use Permit to have it rezoned as commercial to have an office on the property. Mr. Dukes noted that the surrounding properties are zoned commercial.

Mr. Dukes noted that we need to hold a public hearing and meeting for the Chesapeake Bay Resource Management and Protection Area in our zoning and comp plan. DEQ has helped to rewrite it and it needs to be presented to the Planning Commission, citizens and the Mayor and Council.

There is a prospective development coming to Exmore. Mr. Dukes said that the permit has been pulled for an auto parts store on Route 13.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Joe Andrews thanked the Mayor and Council for the soccer net at the park. Mr. Duer noted that he plans on purchasing a second one.

Brenda Bailey asked if an owner of an abandoned house would be billed for water and sewer. Mr. Duer said that if a pump has been installed, they are being billed. Mr. Dukes noted that if a home is connected to sewer but not connected to water, their rate would be \$40.00 plus \$12.00 per person living in the house.

David Hines asked if the Town would consider installing a water meter to a well pump. Mr. Dukes said that the owner would have to pay for the meter.

Mr. Duer commented that there will be no vote once they return from Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to enter into Closed Session and read:

Conduct Closed Session in accordance with Section 2.1-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended:

Paragraph 1: Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body.

Paragraph 3: discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or the disposition of publicly held real property.

Paragraph 5: Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business's or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously with the roll call vote of : Councilman Sturgis-Aye; Councilman Adkins-Aye; Mayor Greer-Aye; Councilman Heaster-Aye; Councilman Metz-Aye; Vice-Mayor Lewis-Aye.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION:

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 4th day of March 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion and read the Certification of Closed Session.

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Exmore has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.2-3712 (D) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act: and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Council that such a closed meeting was conducted in conformity with the Virginia Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Town of Exmore hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully EXEMPTED FROM OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS BBY Virginia law were discussed and (II) only such business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered.


The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed by the roll call vote of: Councilman Sturgis-Aye; Councilman Adkins-Aye; Mayor Greer-Aye; Councilman Heaster-Aye; Councilman Metz-Aye; Vice-Mayor Lewis-Aye.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS & CLOSINGS:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

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