

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
MARCH 1, 2021
6:00 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 1st day of March 2021, at 6:00 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, Sgt. Gonzalez.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Town Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Greer.

READ INTO TO CLOSED SESSION:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to consider entering into closed session in accordance with Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended:

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

The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed by the roll call vote of Councilman Sturgis-Aye; Councilman Adkins-Aye; Councilman Heaster-Aye; Councilman Metz-Aye; Vice-Mayor Lewis-Aye; Mayor Greer-Aye; with Councilman Doughty-Absent from opening of Closed Session (arrived shortly thereafter).

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION:

MOTION TO CERTIFY CLOSED SESSION:

Councilman Sturgis read the Motion to certify the Closed Session. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed by the roll call vote of Councilman Adkins-Aye; Councilman Doughty-Aye; Councilman Heaster-Aye; Councilman Metz-Aye; Councilman Sturgis-Aye; Mayor Greer-Aye; Vice-Mayor Lewis-Aye.

RECESS MEETING:

Mayor Greer recessed the meeting until 7:00 pm.

RECONVENE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 pm

RECONVENE MEETING:

PLEDGE:

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

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Mayor Greer.
Mayor Greer established a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING– JANUARY 4, 2021:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the minutes of the regular Town Council meeting and the Public Hearing of January 4, 2021. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Connie Simpson addressed the Mayor and Council about drainage issues in her neighborhood during the recent rains. She noted that water is standing under her house and her yard is flooded. Ms. Simpson asked if the Town could clean the ditches to help them drain the standing water. Councilman Doughty told her that the ditches belong to VDOT. Councilman Adkins recommended that she purchase flood insurance. Mr. Dukes noted that VDOT is responsible for maintaining the ditches to assure proper drainage.

Christina, (*last name inaudible*), stated that she does not live in Exmore, but works in Town. She said that her vehicle has gotten stuck in a driveway, on two occasions, due to the recent rains. She suggested sending letters to Exmore residents urging them to contact VDOT regarding the drainage issues.

Councilman Adkins read a letter from Debbie Kirby. Ms. Kirby applauded the Town employees for their hard work in keeping the Town clean. She mentioned a ditch that runs beside her property that is not being maintained by the property owner. Ms. Kirby is asking the Town for assistance in having the owner clean the ditch out, to help prevent flooding on her property.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer noted that Joshua Killmon reached one year in February with the Town and Kathy Wert will reach 9 years at the end of March.

The moratorium on utility bills remains in place. Mr. Duer noted that we have been granted approximately \$30,000 in COVID Relief Funds and approximately \$11,000 has been submitted to help residents with utility bills.

The new phones have been installed and we should soon start seeing the savings.

Kerry Binard has volunteered to serve on the EDA. We need a nomination and a vote to approve the nomination for her to fill the vacant seat for Exmore.

Business License taxes are coming in and sales tax income has increased since last year.

Mr. Duer stated that due to Mr. Dukes’ efforts, the Town has received a \$15,000 grant to make improvements to the Park and playground.

Mr. Duer said that, pending authorization from Governor Northam, we hope to open the office lobby on April 5th and return to normal business hours.

Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to amend the agenda to include the EDA nomination under New Business. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SUMMARY:

Mr. Duer reported that COVID relief given to utility customers, to date, is close to \$38,400. Net income for the month of January was \$75,422 and February was \$19,455.

YTD SUMMARY:

The year-to-date net income is \$224,123.

Mr. Duer made the recommendation to transfer \$30,000 to the Capital Improvement Fund in this years’ budget to purchase a police car in the upcoming budget year. It was the general consensus of the Council to transfer \$35,000. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to authorize Mr. Duer to transfer the funds for the purchase of a police car as he sees fit. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

NOMINATION FOR EDA:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to appoint Ms. Binard to fill the vacancy on the EDA to represent Exmore. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

USDA LOAN ON STREET SWEEPER:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to adopt the Loan Resolution to close the loan on the street sweeper. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously.

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

PENDING AGREEMENT FOR TREATMENT SERVICES:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion authorizing Mr. Duer to enter into an agreement with HRSD. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously

UPDATE ON VDEQ LOAN:

Mr. Dukes explained that the Town has been approved for the VDEQ loan for over \$17,000,000. He noted that it is a 100% loan at this time, and we will be notified soon as to what portion will be principle forgiveness and grant funds.

GRINDER PUMP AGREEMENT, SYSTEM PROTECTION MEASURES:

No Report.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino noted that all officers are doing well and staying busy. He said that Officer Diaz will graduate from the academy on March 15th and will be on his own in April. There were no reportable crashes and calls are down. Chief DiMartino said that he is pricing cameras to purchase on a grant. He noted that installing cameras throughout Town will help in some of the bad areas.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes said that the weather has been holding the Public Works crew back from their normal scheduled tasks. He noted that he applied for the Virginia Get Outdoors grant and received 100% which is \$15,000 for Park improvements.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT – MR. DUKES:

No Report.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that Officer Little is doing an excellent job with compliance on cleanup.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

None.


SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND CLOSINGS:

BUDGET WORK SESSION – MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

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



Douglas Greer, Mayor



Ethel Parks, Town Clerk