

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 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 7th day of February, 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-Absent
Councilman John Metz-Present
Councilman Chase Sturgis-Present

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Robert Duer, Ethel Parks, Taylor Dukes, Chief DiMartino, Capt. Zieger, Officer Parks, Susan Branch, Pamela Ward.

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 – JANUARY 10, 2022:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to approve the Minutes of January 10, 2022, regular Town Council meeting with corrections to reword two sentences in the Town Manager's Report and, also the agenda date. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously, with Councilman Metz abstaining.

Mr. Duer asked that the agenda be amended to correct the date and to add 7-B, Approve Employee Handbook under New Business. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to amend the agenda to correct the date of the agenda from January 3 to February 7, 2022, and to add 7-B under New Business to Approve Employee Handbook. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER:

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES:

— Mr. Duer introduced Susan Branch, Utilities Clerk and Pam Ward, Sewer Clerk.

GLIMPSE AT NEW WEBSITE:

Mr. Duer gave a brief introduction to Exmore's new website. He said it should go live on February 11th. Mr. Duer noted that there is one anniversary this month. Joshua Killmon will be with the Town for two years on the 18th.

Both trash trucks are now operational.

There is no official word on the sewer funds.

The approximate time of arrival for the new police car is May 2022.

Shore Little League will hold an Oyster Roast at the Park on March 19th.

Mr. Duer noted a few changes to the proposed budget. Employee raises are the same as last year. He said that the Council has not had a pay increase in close to 10 years and asked them to consider increase of \$500. There should be a rate increase for trash pick-up. The ARPA funds can be used for the engineer fees and Mrs. Ward's salary.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

JANUARY FINANCIALS:

Income for the month of January was \$194,984.47 and expenses were \$167,352.41 leaving a net income of \$27,632.06.

YTD SUMMARY:

Our year-to-date income is \$1,495,016.70 and expenses are \$1,295,241.28 which gives us a year-to-date net income of \$199,775.42.

NEW BUSINESS:

REVISION OF ORDINANCE NO. 147: REQUIRING WATER AND SEWER HOOKUPS:

Mr. Duer stated that the ordinance makes it mandatory for residents to hook up to town water and sewer provided there is a line for them to hook up to. He said that it also gives the Town the option to exempt any account from mandatory hook up if they are too far from other water and/or sewer lines. Mr. Duer noted that we will need to hold a Public Hearing before the ordinance can be approved.

EMPLOYEE MANUAL:

Mr. Duer stated that there are no changes in the employee manual this year. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt the employee handbook, with no changes, for the calendar year of February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

LOAN/GRANT STATUS:

Mr. Duer stated that we have 6 million dollars from the USDA, 3 million dollars from DEQ, a 3 million Dollar loan, 3 ½ - 5 million dollars in the new budget and 1.4 million dollars from the ARPA funds.

GRINDER PUMP AGREEMENT:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt the Grinder Pump Agreement as presented. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Dukes said that he needs six pumps for the New Road project. He noted that the cost of each pump is approximately \$4,231 with an additional \$1,100 per house for installation. Mr. Dukes said that there are three tanks at New Road that belong to the Town and the cost to remove them will be approximately \$10,000 or they could have them filled in. It was the general consensus of the Council to have them removed.

He said that they are currently working on a letter to send out to the existing sewer users to acquire the property easements. Once the mandatory hook up ordinance has been approved, they will send out the remainder of the letters to property owners.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino noted that all the officers are doing well and staying busy. Although there were no reportable crashes in January, our crashes are steadily increasing. He said that for the calendar year of 2018 there were 22 crashes, in 2019 there was a decline in crashes to 14. In 2020 they suspended traffic enforcement for approximately 1 ½ months due to COVID and the crashes increased to 30 and in 2021 there were 31 crashes. Chief DiMartino noted that speeds have increased.

Officer Hinman was involved in a high-speed pursuit recently, which he suspended when the suspect reached 100+ mph. He said the roads were still a bit slushy and it became too dangerous to keep it going. He said that the suspect ended up crashing somewhere in Accomac County. Chief DiMartino noted that they are having some issues with their firearms. They are currently researching other firearms to obtain.

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

Mr. Dukes noted that the Public Works crew is doing well and working hard on trying to repair several water leaks.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that DEQ has been urging the Town to revisit the Zoning and Comp Plan. He said that the consultant that DEQ had found for us, is no longer interested. DEQ has \$5,000 to use for a consultant to rewrite the Comp Plan. Mr. Duer stated that we need to be proactive in rewriting the Zoning Ordinance to include food truck parking, Airbnb's, signs and other issues.

The Zoning Commission is in need of one Councilman to be appointed to the Commission.

Mr. Dukes said that Officer Little has shown interest in becoming a part-time building inspector for Exmore.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Brenda Bailey asked when they would get sewer to their house. Mr. Duer said that once they begin to lay the sewer lines, her house would be included also. She commended the Police Department for the great job they are doing.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND CLOSINGS:

TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION – FEBRUARY 15, 2022 @ 7:00 pm

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022 – PRESIDENT'S DAY

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, MARCH 7, 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