

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2020
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 5th day of October 2020, at 7:00 pm.

Attendance:

Mayor Douglas Greer-Present
Vice-Mayor Thomas Lewis-Present
Councilman G. W. Adkins-Absent
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 Councilman Greer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2020:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the September 14, 2020 regular Town Council meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Linda Rogers asked the Mayor and Council for their assistance in demolishing a structure on her property on Leaf Lane. She also asked if they could help in trimming the trees back. Mr. Duer noted that there are funds in the budget to assist in having the structure removed but we cannot trim the trees. Mr. Dukes informed her that he will call VDOT to take care of trimming any trees that are on the road.

Ken Dufty said that Bowman Consulting has done outstanding work on the P.E.R. and encouraged the Council to stay with them. He commended the Council, Mr. Duer, Mr. Dukes and the Police Department for their hard work. Mr. Dufty noted that he is happy to be a part of Exmore.

Mr. Geise spoke briefly to the Mayor and Council about a prospective Rails to Trails project for the railroad property through Exmore.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer noted that there are two anniversaries this month. Christian Blue marks two years and Officer Jonathan Gonzalez marks three years of service to the Town.

Exmore businesses can still apply for COVID-19 Care Relief Funds, from the County on their website. Mr. Duer stated every business that applied for the first \$5,000 has received it and the ones that apply for the second \$5,000 will be approved as well. Mr. Duer recommended that Exmore return the COVID-19 Care Relief Funds to the County for distribution to the businesses. Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to return the COVID-19 Care Relief Funds to the County. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Doughty and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Duer stated that today is the last day of the moratorium for utility bills. He said that there are 48 accounts that will be turned off tomorrow morning. We cannot charge penalty and interest and there is approximately \$30,000 in penalty and interest that will have to be written off.

Northampton County has petitioned the court for HRSD to provide services. Mr. Duer noted that we are not mandated to be a part of HRSD and we will not be certain of anything until we know if we can get the RIB System.

Mr. Duer said that Exmore needs a rental code, building code inspector and code enforcement officer. He said that he plans to work it in to next year's budget.

Mr. Duer mentioned transferring all utilities to the property owners name in the near future.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

SEPTEMBER SUMMARY:

The total income for September was \$143,769 and the total expenses were \$189,473 for a net loss of \$45,704. Mr. Duer explained that we are experiencing a decrease in Transient Occupancy Tax, Meals Tax, Police Fines and we cannot collect the penalties and interest on the utility accounts. Large expenditures include engineering services to Bowman Consulting, liability insurance, a water bond payment and body repairs to a damaged vehicle.

YTD SUMMARY:

The total year-to-date income is at \$420,629 and the total year-to-date expenses are at \$505,628, which shows a net loss of \$85,000.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SEAT:

Mr. Duer noted that we need someone to fill the vacant seat on the Industrial Development Authority. He asked the Mayor and Council to think about recommendations.

UPDATE ON WELL PROJECT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes reported that we have received our permits from the Office of Drinking Water. We are in line with the contractor for sealing the old wells.

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

UPDATE ON VDEQ LOAN:

Mr. Duer noted that we are being considered for a loan through DEQ. Mr. Dukes said that we are in the process of applying for a grant/loan through USDA and DEQ. He said that the process is stalled due to the discussions of the treatment of effluent. Mr. Duer and Mr. Dukes explained that the prior agreement with the EDA, that was a promise to pay up to \$400,000 needs to be increased to \$600,000 in order to qualify for \$4,500,000. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to increase the promise to pay, in regards to a loan, in the amount of \$600,000. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

GRINDER PUMP AGREEMENT – DRAFT:

Mr. Duer said that the grinder pump agreement will remain on the agenda for the Mayor and Council's review.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino noted that Officer Diaz begins the academy this month. Mapp and Jody Cullen have scheduled a Patriot's for Trump Parade this Saturday. He said that they will start in Tasley, travel south on Rt. 13, through downtown Exmore and end at Shore Plaza.

Capt. Zieger and Officer Hinman recently completed their CIT Training. Chief DiMartino stated that all of Exmore's officers are now CIT trained except Officer Diaz who will receive the training in the academy.

The department will be patrolling the streets on Halloween for the trick-or-treaters and assisting Exmore Baptist Church with traffic control for their drive-thru trunk-or-treat.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. DUKES:

No report.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes reported that we pumped 3.8 million gallons of water in September. He has been training Mr. Killmon on how to collect samples, work the chlorine injection system and filtering system. Mr. Dukes stated that the majority of the sewer calls that he gets are because of diapers, paper towels and other items being flushed, which burns up the pumps.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that the Town attorney has sent a letter to the owner of a house on Lee Street with busted windows and collapsing roof. He noted that it is an unsafe structure. If the house is not repaired or torn down in the time frame given, the Town will advertise to have it demolished and the lot cleaned up. He continues to work with citizens to keep their grass cut and trash picked up.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

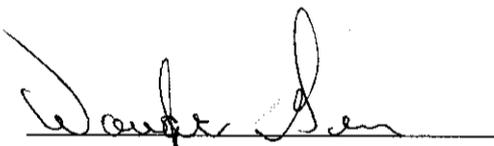
Ken Dufty noted that if the Town chooses HRSD for the sewer system, he will stand behind the Town's decision. He informed the Mayor and Council that HRSD will not work with anyone on delinquent bills, they will discontinue their service.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

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



Douglas Greer, Mayor



Ethel Parks, Town Clerk