

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2024
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 2nd day of December 2024 at 7:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE:

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

STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Robert Duer, Pam Ward, Taylor Dukes, Ethel Parks, Chief DiMartino, Sgt. Hinman.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – NOVEMBER 4, 2024:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the November 4, 2024, regular Town Council meeting as presented. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER): None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER: Mr. Duer noted that the 3 Councilmen that were re-elected and the newly elected Councilwoman need to be sworn in by January 1, 2025, at the Clerk's office in the courthouse in Eastville. Mr. Duer stated we need a date for the holiday decoration contest. The council agreed to have the contest on December 20th. Trash day will have to be Monday December 23 for the week of Christmas. Mr. Duer noted that the Personal Property Tax bills won't be in until January, so we need to move the due date. The council agreed to a due date of March 5th. Also, our Capital Improvement fund has about \$245,000 and last month we got \$1.90, and we should move \$200,000 of it to the investment pool. Mr. Duer mentioned that Chief DiMartino retires in August and the academy runs January to June and we should work on hiring someone.

Mr. Duer discussed his tenure with the town.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

NOVEMBER FINANCIALS:

Income for the month of November was \$236,481.31 and expenses were \$151,675.35. The net income for November was \$84,805.96.

YTD FINANCIALS:

The year-to-date income is \$1,306,362.36 and the expenses are \$210,914.25. The year-to-date net income is \$1,095,448.11.

NEW BUSINESS:**KEVCOR BILL FOR SEWER PROJECT – MR. DUKES:**

Mr. Dukes noted that the total due for pay app 16 is \$473,273.26. Mr. Dukes stated there are 130 homes and businesses left to make the final connection. 30 of these are having a problem with electric. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to accept pay app no. 16. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: EXPENDITURES AND APPROPRIATIONS – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer asked that the council approve sewer expenses for Kevcor Contracting, John Maynard, Salaries, James Cornwell and Sands Anderson. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to accept the budget amendment expenses for November which include John Maynard, salaries, James Cornwell, and Sands Anderson. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously. Mr. Duer also asked for approval of water expenses for Bowman Consulting, John Maynard and Ferguson Waterworks. Councilman Sturgis made the motion to accept water expenses for Bowman Consulting, John Maynard and Ferguson Waterworks. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously. Income includes payments from DEQ, USDA and DHCD. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to accept payments. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously. Mr. Duer stated there was also income from the water meter survey. Councilman Sturgis made a motion to accept income from the water meter survey. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously. Mr. Duer asked that John Maynard, salaries, James Cornwell, and Sands Anderson for sewer project and water repair and repair kit be paid with ARPA money. Councilman Heaster made a motion to pay the requested expenses with ARPA money. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously. Mr. Duer requested permission to sign a new Spectrum cable agreement through March of 2036. Councilman Sturgis made a motion to accept the signing of the Spectrum agreement. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Dukes stated that we have approximately \$900,000 of ARPA funds available. He proposed ARPA expenditures for the approved trash truck, a water line from Tru-Blu to Royal Farms, more Police cameras (making one at each stop light), a sewer service truck, a Police vehicle, steam cleaner and trailer, a second police speed sign, a Hydro excavator at an expense of \$717,000 and the balance for salaries. Vice-Mayor Lewis made a motion to accept the requested ARPA Expenditures. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously. Mr. Dukes stated the property in town by the railroad tracks has been appraised at \$51,000. He asked the council if he could negotiate the purchase. Vice-Mayor Lewis made a motion to accept negotiating the purchase of the land not to exceed \$55,000 with ARPA funds. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes mentioned that for the approved trash truck, he went back to the previous vendor, and they came down to \$243,000 instead of \$250,000.

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE UPGRADE – PAM WARD:

Mrs. Ward stated in-house training starts tomorrow so we should up and running by the end of the month.

PROBLEMATIC SEWER CONNECTS – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes said that he has court on December 13th for 2 connections. RH has sent in a bill for the problematic connections for less than approved. They have connected all but 1 house, because the homeowner connected themselves.

BELLE HAVEN SEWER EXPANSION, EASEMENTS, ETC – MR. DUKES:

Nothing

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino noted that all officers are doing well. A few officers used vacation during November and training. We still had 24-hour coverage. Tickets are down a little. TREDs was down so no accident information was available. Secret Santa drawing is this week. The academy starts January 22 through June 11th. Then 160 hours of training will be needed before a new officer can be on their own.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that the Christmas tree and lights are up. The street sweeper is in the shop.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT – MR. DUKES:

The old buildings have been torn down and the old well has been capped off by Mr. Maynard.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Nothing

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Joe Andrews of Fourth Street – just wanted to thank Robert.

Eil Kirkwood of Lincoln Avenue – Wanted to know about heavy metals and why we can't use some of the money to replace the pipes. Mr. Dukes explained the testing process and that the water is safe to drink. Mr. Duer explained that the pipes need to be blown out more often because water is sitting in the lines too long. Mr. Dukes explained that funding is being worked on to replace galvanized pipes from homes to the road.

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.

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 2nd day of December 2024 at 7: 43 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:

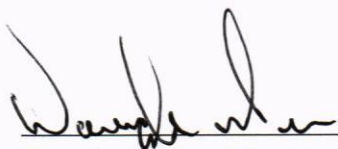
OFFICE CLOSED -TUESDAY, WENDSEDAY & THURSDAY & FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 25 & 26, 2024 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

WENDSEDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025 – NEW YEARS DAY

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Greer', written over a horizontal line.

Douglas Greer, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pam Ward', written over a horizontal line.

Pam Ward, Town Clerk