

TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARINGS  
DECEMBER 7, 2020  
5:00 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020, at 5:00 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.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Town Council meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Mayor Greer.

MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to Conduct 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 or 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 Adkins-Aye; Councilman Doughty-Aye; Councilman Heaster-Aye; Councilman Metz-Aye; Councilman Sturgis-Aye; Mayor Greer-Aye; Vice-Mayor Lewis-Absent from opening of Closed Session (arrived shortly thereafter).

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:

Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to recess the meeting until 7:00 pm. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – NOVEMBER 2, 2020:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the November 2, 2020 regular Town Council meeting with corrections. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Ken Dufty noted his gratitude for the way Exmore is being run, saying it is a privilege to do business in Exmore. He continues to speak in opposition of HRSD and feels that Exmore should not have to pay any portion of HRSD's future improvements in other areas. He said that the Eastern Shore would not have a resident on the commission.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON DHCD/CDBG FOR SEWER PROJECT:

Mayor Greer opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Dukes explained that the purpose of this public hearing was to inform the citizens that the Town is applying to the CDBG and DHCD for funding to build a new wastewater treatment facility and to demolish the existing building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to close the Public Hearing. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR SEWER PROJECT:

Mr. Dukes noted that the purpose of this Public Hearing is to seek permission from the public to apply for grant funds to assist in the building of the new sewer facility.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to close the Public Hearing. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer noted that there are no anniversaries this month. He has been notified by some businesses in Town that they have received their COVID CARES ACT Relief funds. Governor Northam has, once again, placed a moratorium on utility cut-offs and as of this afternoon, we have 80 delinquent accounts. We have applied to the State Corporation Commission for approximately \$35,000 in relief funds to help our customers.

There will be no Holiday Party at the office this year due to the risk of COVID. The judging for the Holiday Lights Decorating Contest will be on December 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

The audit is expected at any time.

Mr. Duer noted that he is looking into replacing the phone system in the office. The bill currently runs approximately \$900 per month and the new system would cost \$196 per month.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

NOVEMBER SUMMARY:

Mr. Duer reported that the net income for the month of November was \$282,816 and the expenses were \$156,007 which gives us a net income of \$96,809.

YTD SUMMARY:

Our year-to-date income is at \$854,834 and expenses are at \$680,402 for a net income of \$174,432.

NEW BUSINESS:

PURCHASE OF A STREET SWEEPER:

Mr. Duer noted that due to the amount of sand on the streets that eventually ends up in the ditches, we are in need of purchasing a street sweeper. The USDA will have grant/loan funds, up to \$50,000, available in the spring, to help with the purchase. They have found a 2013 Freightliner Elgin Crosswind sweeper for \$73,000.

FENCE AT WATER PLANT:

Mr. Duer stated that during an inspection at the water plant, we were told that we had to install a fence around the plant. Mr. Dukes noted that Accomack Fence can install the fence for \$10,113 and Anderson Fence can install it for \$8,159. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to install the fence at the water treatment plant, per the Town Manager's decision on the funding. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously. Mr. Duer made the suggestion to forego the Capital Improvement Fund deposits (\$4,500 per month) for the next 2 months to pay for the fence. The Council was in agreement.

OLD BUSINESS:

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SEAT:

Mr. Duer noted that he has heard nothing from the County to report.

UPDATE ON WELL PROJECT – MR. DUKES:

The well project is complete, other than capping the old wells and installing the fence.

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

HRSD OPTION (IF NUMBERS OBTAINED IN TIME)

Mr. Duer noted that they talked about an option with HRSD earlier during Closed Session.

UPDATE ON VDEQ LOAN:

The VDEQ loan will close in a few days and we will know then if we are able to obtain funds from them.

GRINDER PUMP AGREEMENT:

No new reports.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino stated all the officers are doing well. Officer Diaz is doing very well in the academy. Chief DiMartino reported 3 crashes last month. The collected fines have increased, and the projected fines have been taken from each officers' court docket. He applauded the officers for their hard work.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Duer noted that the Christmas lights have been put up, including new banners.

Mr. Dukes showed photos and a video of the street sweeper that they are considering for purchase. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing Mr. Duer to execute the necessary documents for financial assistance. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to withdraw \$73,000, but not to exceed \$75,000, from the Capital Improvement Fund budget and to be repaid by the end of the fiscal year. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes reported that we pumped 3.5 million gallons of water last month. Engineering for running the sewer pipe from Holiday Inn to the New Road entrance would cost \$12,000 plus an additional \$100,000 to run the pipe. Mr. Dukes noted that he received an email from the fire department stating that there is a fire hydrant behind the Plaza that is leaking. He said that this is on private property and would cost approximately \$2,000 to repair it. It was the consensus of the Council not to repair the hydrant with town funds.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Rowan is addressing the homeowner of an unsafe structure on Lee Street. The time frame given has expired and if they do not clean it up, it will be the responsibility of the Town.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

None.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND CLOSINGS:

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED – WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY,

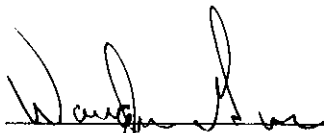
DECEMBER 23, 24 & 25, 2020 – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED – FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021 – NEW YEAR'S DAY

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Adkins made the Motion to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis. The Motion was passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.



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Douglas Greer, Mayor



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Ethel Parks, Town Clerk