

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
JULY 12, 2021
7:00 PM

At a regular meeting and Public Hearing 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 12th day of July 2021, 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-Present
Councilman John Metz-Present
Councilman Chase Sturgis-Present

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Robert Duer, Ethel Parks, Taylor Dukes, Chief DiMartino, Capt. Zieger, Officer Hinman.

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 Adkins.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON COMP PLAN REVISION:

Mayor Greer opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Dukes explained that the revision to the Comp Plan is in reference to the Chesapeake Bay Overlay District and the revision is necessary to remain in compliance with the DEQ.

There were no comments from the citizens.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Greer closed the Public Hearing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS – JUNE 7, 2021:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the minutes of the regular Town Council meeting and Public Hearings of June 7, 2021. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (Limit of 3 minutes per speaker):

Greg DeYoung, Fire Chief of the Exmore Community Fire Company, addressed the Mayor and Council, stating that the fire company is struggling with staff shortages. He noted that they are strictly volunteer and are understaffed. Mr. DeYoung said that there are times that they do not have enough staff to cover the calls as they come in. He noted that in the future, they may come back to the Mayor and Council to discuss funding to assist in supporting part time paid personnel.

Ken Dufty thanked the Mayor, Council and staff for their hard work and support.

Mr. Rhode thanked the Mayor and Council, Mr. Duer and Mr. Dukes for their assistance in helping to get their business up and running.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer noted that Chief DiMartino will reach 16 years with the Town this month. He said that Chief DiMartino has solved a cold case for Exmore.

The moratorium for cut-offs ended at the end of June but has been extended for 60 days. There is a small amount of the Covid relief funds remaining that will help with a few utility bills.

The Juneteenth celebration was a success. Mr. Duer thanked Mr. Dukes and the Police Department for helping during the parade and celebration.

Mr. Duer noted that there is an uptick in people waiting to invest in Exmore.

Ava Wise continues her efforts to improve the New Road Community. Later this month, Ms. Wise will be constructing several 3-D printed houses. This is the largest project on the east coast, which will bring a large amount of publication to Exmore.

Ron Matthews and other business owners met with VHA to discuss funding opportunities for the downtown area.

Clarice MacGarvey is working to improve the Town's website.

Shakespeare in the Park is scheduled for September 24th.

Mr. Duer informed the Mayor and Council that Cloudserver Tech has recommended that we purchase ransomware protection. He said that it is not budgeted, but at \$6.50 per month per computer, it will be well worth the added cost to be protected. It was the general consensus of the Council to move forward with the ransomware protection.

Mr. Duer said that Northampton County is more financially able to fund a part time paid employee for the fire department. He noted that the only way Exmore can fund this is through a significant tax increase.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

JUNE FINANCIALS:

Income for June was \$876,546 and total expenses were \$128,096 which gives us a net income of \$748,450.

2020-2021 YEARLY FINANCIALS:

The year end total income was \$2,939,774 and expenses were \$1,639,923. The total net income for FY 2021 is \$1,299,851. This total includes \$711,736 in ARPA Funds.

Mr. Duer said that overall, we spent \$410,000 less than what was budgeted.

NEW BUSINESS:

NEW ROAD DEVELOPMENT - SEWER

Mr. Dukes reported that the New Road Development includes demolishing 5 structures and replacing them with 6 new structures. He said that the cost of installing sewer to the new houses would be approximately \$25,000 per tank and an additional \$10,000 for connecting them. He noted that a portion of the ARPA Funds can be used to help fund this project. DEQ requires the Town to own and maintain the pump stations. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to use up to and not to exceed \$55,000 of the ARPA Funds for the New Road Community Development collection system. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

UPDATE ON SEWER PROJECT

VDEQ LOAN

OTHER LOANS – MR. DUER & MR. DUKES:

Mr. Duer noted that we have been approved for a \$1,000,000 grant from the CDBG for the sewer system.

He said that to date we have been approved for \$11,500,000 plus \$2,000,000 of Town funds and we need \$16,000,000.

GRINDER PUMP AGREEMENT, SYSTEM PROTECTION MEASURES:

Mr. Duer said that the grinder pump agreement and sewer bills will have to be in the property owners' names.

COMP PLAN UPDATE – MR. DUKES:

VOTE ON COMP PLAN REVISION:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the Comp Plan revision. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino stated that all the officers are staying busy and doing well. There were 4 reportable crashes in June. He commended Officer Little for his role in solving the stolen fuel card case.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. DUKES:

WATER AND SEWER REPORT:

Mr. Dukes noted that they are all doing well. They are working hard to keep up with the grass. Caleb Shrieves started with the Town last month and is operating the sweeper during late night and early morning hours. He said that they have received more than usual sewer calls lately.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Officer Little is doing very well with code enforcement. Mr. Dukes noted that there has been great interest from potential businesses coming to Exmore. He said that he is working with HRSD's attorney on the closing of the property that was conveyed to them. Mr. Rowan is working on the sale of the property on Blue Jay Lane.

There will be a grand opening for the new Bakery/Deli on Occohannock Road on Saturday, July 10th.

Mr. Dukes noted that HRSD is planning to break ground on January 1, 2022, with a 12 month build out period.

CITIZEN COMMENT (Limit of 3 minutes per speaker):

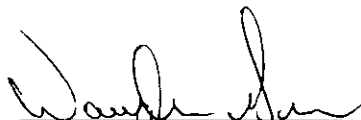
Ken Dufty asked who will be responsible for the sewer accounts that are not being paid. Mr. Duer said that the Town is HRSD's customer, not the citizen. Mr. Duer said that the Town will manage the non-payers.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND CLOSINGS:


TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 @ 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

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



Douglas Greer, Mayor



Ethel Parks, Town Clerk