

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2011
7:00 PM

Mayor Moore-Present
Vice-Mayor Greer-Present
Councilman Ward-Present
Councilman Massey-Present
Councilman Doughty-Present
Councilman Metz-Present
Councilman Scanlan-Present

STAFF PRESENT: Arthur Miles, Ethel Parks, Chief Angelo DiMartino.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Exmore Town Council was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Moore. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Vice-Mayor Greer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REQUESTED FOR THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2011, THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 10, 2011, THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2011, AND THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 24, 2011 AND NOVEMBER 7, 2011:

The Clerk stated that it would be less confusing if the Minutes were voted on separately.

Councilman Massey made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the October 3, 2011 meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Ward. Discussion-None. The Motion was passed unanimously with Councilman Scanlan abstaining.

Councilman Metz made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the October 10, 2011 meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Doughty. Discussion-None. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Councilman Scanlan noted an error in the Minutes of the October 19, 2011 meeting. Councilman Ward made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the October 19, 2011 meeting with the correction made. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Massey. Discussion-None further. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Councilman Metz made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the October 24, 2011 meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Doughty. Discussion-None. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Councilman Scanlan noted an error in the Minutes of the Minutes of the November 7, 2011. Councilman Ward made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the November 7, 2011 meeting with

the correction. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Doughty. Discussion-None further. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor Moore asked Mark Henry if Sheriff Doughty could speak first.

Sheriff David Doughty spoke to the Mayor and Council supporting Chief DiMartino's request to re-fund the officers to the Police Department. He stated that the County has been covering calls for Exmore in the early morning hours because Exmore is not covered 24 hours. Sheriff Doughty stated that he only has one deputy on duty that time of morning and they cannot respond as quickly as the citizen's of Exmore are use to. He said that the Town has their complete support and that they will help cover the Town as best as they can when needed. Sheriff Doughty thanked the Town's police department for their response when they are called to assist the County. He again, stated that he is completely supportive of Chief DiMartino's request to re-fund the vacant officers' positions.

Councilman Ward asked Sheriff Doughty if the County would be hiring additional officers. Sheriff Doughty stated that there is no funding for additional officers. He said that the Commonwealth Attorney is currently looking at a mutual aid agreement between the County and the Town of Cape Charles.

WELCOME RONALD VAN GEIJN OF TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS RE: WIRELESS BROADBAND TEST IN EXMORE:

Mark Henry, of Eastern Shore Communications, spoke to the Mayor and Council about installing an antenna on the Town Office for trial wireless services. He noted that they currently offer trial services in Parksley and Onancock. Mr. Henry stated that it the initial trial services would be at no cost to the Town. After some discussion, Vice-Mayor Greer made the Motion to allow for the allotted time that is necessary for the trial of the wireless service. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Massey. Discussion-None further. The Motion was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN REMARKS:

Chad Saunders informed the Mayor and Council that he is a resident of Willis Wharf but has recently purchased property on Westfield Avenue in Exmore. Mr. Saunders thanked the Council for demolishing the house on Westfield for the Baptist Church. He noted that there is a duplex near to the house that he just purchased that he feels is structurally unsafe and appears to have illegal activities going on there. Mr. Saunders asked the Mayor and Council for their support in having the owner repair the house or demolish it.

Mr. Miles noted that he has previously been in contact with the owner, Randy Butler. He said that Mr. Butler told him that he was attempting to get a building permit. Mr. Miles stated that he will continue to urge Mr. Butler to make the necessary repairs.

Resident Seth Parks stated that he is in agreeance with Mr. Saunders.

NEW BUSINESS:

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – ADOPTION PROCESS AND NECESSARY ACTION:

Mr. Miles explained that the Hazard Mitigation Plan has been submitted to FEMA for final review. He noted that each locality needs to adopt the plan before the end of the 2011 calendar year to be eligible for FEMA grant funding should a disaster occur. Mr. Miles asked the Council to give Mayor Moore the authority to sign the Hazard Mitigation Plan once it is approved. Councilman Doughty made the Motion to give Mayor Moore the authority to sign the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Motion was seconded by Councilman Ward. Discussion-None. The Motion was passed unanimously.

PHASE III OF REVITALIZATION PLAN READY TO RECOMMENCE. COUNCIL GUIDANCE AND PERMISSION TO PROCEED REQUESTED:

Mr. Miles noted that he feels the Town is ready to recommence Phase III of the Revitalization Plan, which is the parking lot. He said that is a \$250,000 phase and our portion of 20% of that. He stated that one source of funding will be once this building is paid for in June (\$2,500). He said that VDOT has extended the deadline until December of 2012. Vice-Mayor Greer noted that he would like to see in writing where the money is coming from to fund the project.

Councilman Massey said that New Ravenna did not want to contribute to the parking lot but their workers will be using it. Mr. Miles stated that they have contributed some property that can be used for a rain guard.

After much discussion, it was the general consensus of the Council to find out the cost and know for sure where the funding is coming from.

THE TOWN OF BELLE HAVEN EXPLORING POLICE PROTECTION, STREETSWEEPING SERVICE, WATER SERVICE AND GARBAGE PICKUP:

Mayor Moore noted that he had an informal conversation with a resident of Belle Haven who expressed the need for services that Exmore could help them with. After brief discussion, Councilman Scanlan recommended that they wait for the Belle Haven Town Council to address.

EXMORE FIRING RANGE ZONING ISSUES CONTINUE! PRIOR ZONING DESIGNATIONS CLOUD THE ISSUE:

Mr. Miles noted that the firing range fell under a previous zoning ordinance, which was two zonings; the old dump site was zoned Industrial General and the rest was zoned Residential 20 not Agricultural as previously stated. According to Bruce Jones this is a problem that needs to be addressed. Mr. Miles said that he has been in contact with the zoning office at the County and they suggested that they apply for a Zoning Map Amendment, which will cost \$500 and a Minor Special Use Permit, which will cost \$400 and there are no guarantees. Councilman Metz stated that he is behind the firing range and does not mind spending the \$900 but he knows she will appeal it. Mr. Miles informed him that the appeal would be with the County, not with Exmore.

Councilman Massey made the Motion to proceed with the Zoning Map Amendment and the Special Use Permit. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Ward. Discussion-Vice-Mayor Greer asked if the Motion was to free up the \$900 for Mr. Miles to move forward with the permits. Councilman Ward said it was. Councilman Scanlan stated that he feels our Town is saturated with poverty. Ms. Kirkwood's development is a higher end community and he feels those people will shop in Exmore, which will help our Town. Councilman Scanlan said that if the firing range stays, the development will not take place and that will hurt Exmore even more. The Motion was passed by a vote of Councilman Ward-Aye; Councilman Massey-Aye; Councilman Doughty-Aye; Vice-Mayor Greer-Aye; Councilman Metz-Aye; Councilman Scanlan-Nay.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SEALED BID OPENING FOR FARMER'S MARKET SHED:

Mr. Miles stated that he received two sealed bids for the old farmer's market building. One bid was for \$251 and the higher bid was for \$600.

EXMORE FIRE DEPARTMENT PARADE WILL BE ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2011:

Mr. Miles noted that the parade is scheduled to start at 6:00 pm Saturday, December 10, 2011 and they will start lining up at 5 pm. The rain date and time will be on Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 4:00 pm with line-up starting at 3 pm.

EXMORE CHRISTMAS DECORATION WILL BE JUDGED ON THE EVENING OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011.

Mayor Moore announced that the Exmore Christmas Decoration Contest will be judged on the evening of Monday, December 19, 2011.

EXMORE FINANCIAL REPORT (AVAILABLE MONDAY)

Councilman Scanlan noted that in the past the Council received a detailed expenditure listing (more detailed than the Clerk is preparing now) and they would vote to accept it. He said that he would like to see that report back again to know where the money is going.

Vice-Mayor Greer noted that he feels the Council needs to take the old wells seriously and put aside a minimum for new wells.

OLD BUSINESS:

GLADSTONE DEBRIS HAS BEEN BURNED BUT CONTINUES TO SMOLDER. THE OLD TOWN BARN AT THE WASTEWATER PLANT HAS BEEN DEMOLISHED AND BURNED AND DEBRIS REMOVED. FORCE MAIN EASEMENTS HAVE BEEN CLEANED. THE OLD FISH MARKET HAS BEEN DEMOLISHED AND REMOVED WITH GUY DOUGHTY'S HELP. THE EXMORE BAPTIST CHURCH PROPERTY DEMOLITION HS BEEN STARTED AND WILL BE FINISHED NOW THAT THE EXCAVAROR IS REPAIRED:

Mr. Miles noted that the Gladstone Lane debris has been burned but continues to smolder. He said that they will put out the fire tomorrow and clean up the site. Mr. Miles stated that the old Town barn at the wastewater plant has been demolished and the debris has been removed. He said that some of the force main easements have been cleaned and more will be cleaned tomorrow. Mr. Miles said that the old Fish Market has been demolished and removed with Guy Doughty's help. He noted that the demolition of the house on Westfield Avenue for the Baptist Church was finished today.

Councilman Massey said that he noticed that work has continued on the old railroad cars.

THE EASTERN SHORE PSA CONTINUES TO HAVE OPENING(S) ON ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS. NOMINATIONS WELCOME!

There was no discussion.

POSITIONS ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION, ZONING APPEALS BOARD AND FAÇADE COMMITTEE REMAIN OPEN. RECOMMENDATIONS ARE WELCOME AND NECESSARY:

There was no discussion.

THE APPLICATIONS FOR POLICE OFFICER CLOSE ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011 – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino noted that he and Mr. Miles have been working on a firearms ordinance. He stated that he met with Deputy Elliott to discuss animal control in Exmore. Chief DiMartino said that is costly to have our own animal control. He noted that the Police Department can issue summons for dogs running at large. He informed the Council that Town Ordinance No. 106 needs to be updated now and every year thereafter. Chief DiMartino Stated that he has had the officers working different stores in Town and that they have caught some shoplifters. He reported on multiple other calls for service and arrests, noting that crime is only going to get worse. Chief DiMartino asked the Mayor and Council for authority to hire two officers. He said that they do not have to send them to school for certification for one year. Vice-Mayor Greer said that he supports the Chief and his efforts 100% but feels they need to wait until they have better figures and know where they stand financially.

Councilman Scanlan thanked Chief DiMartino for a job well done. He stated that he has not had a detailed report from a police chief since his time on the Council.

DISCUSSION-COUNCIL/CITIZEN INPUT:

Councilman Scanlan asked if the web page has been updated. He stated that he has heard from citizens saying that it has not been. Mr. Miles said that it should have been updated last week and would check into it to make sure.

Councilman Scanlan asked about the lots to be liquidated. Mr. Miles noted that this is not a good time of year to try to sell property.

Councilman Scanlan said that individuals have come to him concerning the regional sewer system. Mr. Miles noted that the Town is in but that they have to find a grant/loan provider that will work for everybody.

Councilman Scanlan asked if they were going to continue with an Interim Town Manager for an indefinite amount of time or look for a Town Manager. Mayor Moore feels Mr. Miles has done a good job. Councilman Massey said that Mr. Miles is happy in an interim position. Councilman Massey said that the Town was in bad shape when Mr. Miles came here and has done a great job of putting it back on its feet. Councilman Ward agreed. Councilman Scanlan stated that they need a job description of the position.

Councilman Scanlan passed out a newsletter from Northampton County Treasurer Cindy Bradford which tells what she is doing to collect delinquent taxes. Mr. Miles noted that the book he ordered entitled “*Brass Tax*” arrived and it describes several avenues we can take to collect delinquent taxes.

SUGGESTED DATE FOR REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING (JANUARY 9, 2012):

Mayor Moore announced that the next regular Council meeting will be January 9, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Massey made the Motion to adjourn. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz. The Motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

William M. Moore, Jr. Mayor

Ethel Parks, Town Clerk