

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
MAY 2, 2011
7:01 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, Connie Doughty, Chief Tom Potts, Sergeant Angelo DiMartino, Officer Jason Campbell.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Exmore Town Council was called to order at 7:01 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.

Mayor Moore stated that they would hold off on the approval of the Minutes until Councilman Scanlan arrives.

CITIZEN REMARKS:

David Kabler addressed the Mayor and Council regarding OpSail 2012. He stated that he has been appointed spokesperson for Northampton County to represent the community in OpSail 2012. Mr. Kabler said that these events happen only every 10-15 years and this is the first since 2000. He explained that the event brings navy vessels and tallships from around the world to the Hampton Roads area and that Norfolk has invited Northampton County to be a part of the event. He informed the Mayor and Council that the only thing that Exmore needs to do to participate is to adopt a Resolution in support of OpSail 2012. After some discussion, Mayor Moore and the Council expressed their full support of participating in the event.

Donald E. Kellam, Jr. stated that he has noticed a Church in front of Willis Wharf Road and said that he did not think Churches were allowed to operate in downtown without a special use permit.

Mr. Miles said that the Church and the realty company that rented the building to them have been contacted. He noted that it is in Downtown Business and is currently not allowed by zoning.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES REQUESTED FOR THE COUNCIL MEETINGS OF MARCH 7 (NO QUORUM OF THOSE PRESENT) AND APRIL 4, 2011:

Councilman Scanlan noted two errors in the March 7 Minutes. Councilman Metz made the Motion to approve the Minutes of March 7, 2011 with corrections made. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Massey. Discussion-None further. The Motion was passed unanimously. Councilman Massey made the Motion to approve the Minutes of April 4, 2011 as presented. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Doughty. Discussion-None. The Motion was passed unanimously with Councilman Scanlan abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS:

2012 PRELIMINARY BUDGET:

Mr. Miles noted that it is only a preliminary budget. He said that the Town is in a little better shape this year than last year. He stated that we have spent more but also have had more revenue. Mr. Miles discussed a pay rate increase stating that employees have not had a cost of living increase in three years. He suggested that they adjust the sewer rate to be closer to the suggested USDA-RD minimum if a grant becomes available.

Mayor Moore stated that he is not in favor of raising fees but is in favor of giving a pay increase to employees. He noted to look into where we can make cuts internally. Mayor Moore also stated that we are in no position to use the reserve to balance the budget.

After some discussion Mayor Moore asked to schedule a worksession to work more on the budget. Mr. Miles said that two weeks will be May 16. Vice-Mayor Greer asked that all department heads submit ways to cut spending in their departments.

Mr. Miles stated that the money promised from FEMA is still available and will be coming soon. He said that there is money available for law enforcement from the Byrne Justice Grant.

Councilman Massey asked if bonuses were included in the budget. Mr. Miles informed him that they are not but he will add them.

THE EASTERN SHORE PSA HAS OPENING(S) ON ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS. NOMINATIONS ARE WELCOME!:

Mr. Miles informed the Council that Scott Walker, Rusty Gowan and Robert Meyers have resigned from the PSA Board of Directors. He noted that there is a person to fill Scott Walker's seat, but two other seats remain open and nominations are welcome.

EXMORE YARD SALE CAN BE ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2011 SO AS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH ONANCOCK HARBORFEST ON SEPTEMBER 10 AND THE CAPE CHARLES FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 24. COUNCIL DIRECTION REQUESTED:

Mr. Miles stated that September 17th the best day to hold the yard sale so not to interfere with Onancock and Cape Charles's events. The Mayor and Council agreed that the third Saturday (September 17) is good for the yard sale.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT RIGELL WILL STOP IN NASSAWADOX AT LITTLE ITALY FOR A TOWN MEETING/GREETING ON TUESDAY MAY 17th AT 7:30-8:30 PM. COME OUT AND SHAKE HANDS!

Mr. Miles informed the Council that he attended an office opening party in Virginia Beach for Representative Scott Rigell last week. He stated that he spoke to Representative Rigell about our water system (two new wells). He said that Representative Rigell told him who to contact for his support. Mr. Miles noted that we also have Delegate Lewis and Senator Northam's support. Mr. Miles informed the Mayor and Council that Representative Rigell will be in Nassawadox for a meet and greet at Little Italy on May 17th from 7:30-8:30 pm and all are invited to attend.

REQUEST FOR TAX RELIEF FOR SHORE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY PROPERTY ON OAKLAND PARK DRIVE:

Mr. Miles stated that Shore Christian Academy has asked for tax relief from property taxes for the property they own on Oakland Drive. He noted that he has been in contact with the County and that the Academy is eligible for tax relief but only after they have begun construction. He feels the Town should follow in the same direction as the County.

YEARLY AMENDMENT (TRAFFIC, TICKETS) TO ORDINANCE #112:

Mr. Miles noted the Town's Traffic Ordinance needs to be updated and amended for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Councilman Doughty made the Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 189, which amends Ordinance No. 112. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Ward. Discussion-Councilman Metz asked why the Ordinance could not be permanent. Chief Potts noted that some laws change from year to year. The Motion was passed unanimously.

REVENUE/EXPENDITURE REPORTS AND PAYABLE AND RECEIVABLES NOT YET AVAILABLE DUE TO LACK OF APRIL BANK STATEMENTS:

Mr. Miles stated that the payables and receivables are in the packet. There was no discussion regarding the revenue and expenditure.

RESOLUTION TO ALLOW THE TOWN TO HIRE FULL TIME EMPLOYEES WHO ARE RETIRED FROM VRS PROVIDED THEY DON'T PARTICIPATE IN VRS AND THAT ASSOCIATED BENEFITS ARE TOWN RELATED ONLY:

Mr. Miles informed the Mayor and Council that the Resolution refers to him because he is retired from VRS. He noted that the Town needs a Resolution stating that an employee can work full time with the Town as a retired VRS employee and that the employee will participate only in Town related benefits and not VRS benefits.

Councilman Massey made the Motion to amend the Town's current policy to allow the hiring of full time employees who are retired under the Virginia Retirement System with the provision that they will not currently participate in the Virginia Retirement System and that associated benefits will be Town related only. Councilman Ward seconded the Motion. Discussion-None. The Motion was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

EXMORE (DRAFT) PERSONNEL POLICY REVIEW AND DISCUSSION/INCLUSION OF ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES:

Councilman Scanlan stated that he does not have a problem with the Personnel Policy. He said that employees cannot be evaluated without job descriptions. Mr. Miles noted that he will develop the job descriptions. Vice-Mayor Greer said that evaluations should be done at least once a year. Mayor Moore agreed that we need job descriptions and evaluations.

Vice-Mayor Greer made the Motion to adopt the Personnel Policy as it is written, understanding that it is a living document and that it can be changed at any time. Councilman Massey seconded the Motion. Discussion-None further. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor Moore made mention that the Personnel Committee should work on the job descriptions and evaluation process.

ANEC LETTER RECEIVED REGARDING THE GLADSTONE LANE DEBRIS. FINAL PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE:

Mr. Miles told the Council that the ANEC letter has been received and he will be coordinating with the fire department to burn the debris.

PAT MUSSO HAS REMOVED CONTENTS FROM BUILDING ON CATHEY AND ADRON STREETS. TOWN HAS OFFERED TO HELP WITH DEMOLITION WITH THE LOAN OF AN EXCAVATOR:

Mr. Miles informed the Council that Mr. Musso called today and told him that he has started moving the contents out of his building. Mr. Miles stated that he has offered to help with the demolition of the building.

VIRGINA PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT HAS COMPLETED THE REQUESTED WORK ON THE STREET SWEEPER. THE UNIT HAS BEEN RETURNED TO EXMORE BUT WITH PROBLEMS. THE COMPANY PLANS TO CORRECT THE DEFICIENCIES:

Mr. Miles said that the street sweeper has been returned but the work is inadequate. He noted that he has taken pictures of the way it is and has called them but has not received a return call yet. Mr. Miles stated that payment will not be made until the work has been done to his satisfaction.

THE TRAFFIC ISLAND IN FRONT OF PEEBLES WILL BE REPAIRED WHEN WEATHER PERMITS. CONCRETE FORMS ARE IN PLACE:

Mr. Miles informed the Mayor and Council that he has received a fair price from a concrete contractor to repair the island.

EXMORE'S WASTEWATER PLANT CONTINUES TO GET SPORADIC AND SLIGHT EXCEEDANCES:

Mr. Miles noted that the wastewater plant continues to get sporadic and slight exceedances but they are striving to get better results. Councilman Doughty asked if we have received our license yet. Mr. Miles told him that J.R. took the test again but did not pass.

DISCUSSION-COUNCIL/CITIZEN INPUT:

Councilman Ward stated that Jim Bailey and his crew need to cut the grass at the Gladstone House and bill the owners. Mr. Miles said that he has contacted the foreclosure company and they agreed to have the grass cut.

Councilman Massey asked about the status of the audits. Mr. Miles stated that he talked to Roger Hamilton has everything he needs and is working on it.

Vice-Mayor Greer voiced his concern about the vandalism at the park. Mr. Miles informed him that they are installing a new light at the park.

Councilman Ward spoke about the condition of the Farmer's Museum stating that it looks bad with the windows boarded up. He noted that they have not received any report on the status of the Museum. Councilman Scanlan reported that an attorney is working on obtaining their tax exempt status so they can start fund raising. He said that they have repaired the roof that was caving in, purchased new windows and fixed the walls in the back of the building.

Mr. Miles noted that the duplex on Westfield has a building permit for the necessary repairs.

Councilman Scanlan asked how things were going with Seaside Restaurant's delinquent meals tax. Mr. Miles explained that they are paying \$500 per month.

Councilman Scanlan asked Mr. Miles if there has been an advertisement for the Façade Committee and the Planning Commission. Mr. Miles stated that it they have not been advertised yet.

Councilman Scanlan stated that the graffiti is still on the Broad Street Laundry building and neighbors are complaining. Mr. Miles noted that he was told the graffiti was not offensive but will have it cleaned up.

Councilman Scanlan asked if the former Brennan's Gift building and the Gladstone House is being charged for sewer. Mr. Miles told him that there may be a potential business going in the Brennan's Gift building and that the foreclosure company is paying for the Gladstone House.

Councilman Ward asked if Ms. Kirkwood and Bill Prettyman were paying for sewer on their lots. Mr. Miles assured him they are.

DATE FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING (MAY 2, 2011)

Mayor Moore announced that a Worksession will be held on May 16, at 6:30 and that the next Council meeting is June 6 at 7:00 pm.

Mayor Moore spoke to the Council about streamlining our goals. He said that the Comp Plan needs to be updated, the audits brought up to date, obtain the Groundwater Withdrawal Permit, issues to be resolved with the decals, evaluations, job descriptions, etc. He asked the Council to write down five things that they wish to see accomplished and bring the list back to the worksession and they could develop a system chart the progress of their goals.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Massey made the Motion to adjourn. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Scanlan. The Motion was passed unanimously.

William M. Moore, Jr., Mayor

Ethel Parks, Town Clerk