

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2012
7:00 PM

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

STAFF PRESENT: Arthur Miles, Ethel Parks, Connie Zahn, Chief Angelo DiMartino, Officer Kevin Doughty, Officer Jason Campbell.

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 DECEMBER 5, AND THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 2011:

Councilman Scanlan noted an error on page 1 and on page 5 of the Minutes of the December 5, 2011 meeting. Councilman Metz made the Motion to accept the Minutes of December 5, 2011 with corrections. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Ward. Discussion-None further. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Councilman Ward made the Motion to accept the Minutes of the December 19, 2011 meeting. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Greer. Discussion-None. The Motion was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN REMARKS:

Donald E. Kellam, Jr. stated that he has had problems with his neighbors' dogs. He said that after talking with Mr. Miles the problem has been resolved. Mr. Kellam thanked Mr. Miles for his help.

NEW BUSINESS:

FINANCIAL INFO TO SUPPORT REGARDING HIRING OF A NEW OFFICER:

Mr. Miles noted that there are several supporting documents to show where the police department stands financially to support hiring the seventh officer. He said that the difference from this time last year there were outstanding bills whereas this year there are just the routine month-to-month

bills. Mr. Miles stated that the police department is \$79,000 ahead in their budget to date for this fiscal year and feels the ability is there to hire another officer. Councilman Scanlan said that he would like to see the year to date figures for the other departments before he can make a decision. Councilman Metz mentioned using the money for a trash truck or a backhoe. Councilman Ward said we need to set aside funds for the new wells. Vice-Mayor Greer stated that Chief DiMartino is doing a great job and is not asking for anything more than is already in the budget. Councilman Ward stated that he is in favor of another officer but that we need to put away money for new wells and maybe ask for an extension for the parking lot. Councilman Metz asked if an additional officer would increase the revenue stream. Chief DiMartino told him it would. Mayor Moore voiced his support for the seventh officer. Vice-Mayor Greer made the Motion to allow Chief DiMartino to hire the seventh officer. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Doughty. Discussion-None further. The Motion was passed by a majority vote of 4-1 as follows: Councilman Ward-Aye; Councilman Doughty-Aye; Vice-Mayor Greer-Aye; Councilman Metz-Aye; Councilman Scanlan-Nay; with Councilman Massey absent.

FINANCIAL INFO NECESSARY FOR THE DECISION TO PROCEED WITH PHASE III OF REVITALIZATION PLAN READY. COUNCIL GUIDANCE AND PERMISSION TO PROCEED REQUESTED:

Mr. Miles stated that the Town will save approximately \$50,000 this year which is enough to cover the Town's portion of Phase III of the Revitalization Plan. He said they will save an estimated \$6,000 per year in fuel tax, the Town Hall building will be paid off in June, saving \$2,411 per month, the Sludge Mate will be paid for in June saving \$36,000 per year, and we are saving \$6,000 per year by cleaning the office ourselves.

Councilman Scanlan spoke in favor of going through with Phase III, stating that the parking lot is a one-time expenditure and will help a lot of people. After much discussion, Mr. Miles asked the Council for authority to pursue Phase III of the Revitalization Plan.

Mayor Moore stated that, although he does not have a vote, but by being in the parking lot business, he is removing himself from any further discussion regarding the matter of the parking lot. Councilman Scanlan made the Motion to allow Mr. Miles to pursue Phase III of the Revitalization Plan. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Ward. Discussion-None further. The Motion was passed unanimously.

BROADBAND WIRELESS TEST ANTENNA HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE ROOF OF THE TOWN OFFICE. FIBER HAS BEEN INSTALLED. MORE TEST PARTICIPANTS WELCOME. SHOULD THIS TEST PROVE TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE TOWN MAY WISH TO ENTER INTO A TRIAL AGREEMENT WITH ESVBA FOR THE FIRST YEAR AT A DISCOUNTED RATE. A TRIAL AGREEMENT COVERING SUCH AN EVENTUALITY IS INCLUDED. SHOULD THE TOWN WISH TO CONTRACT OUT WITH A THIRD PARTY TO MANAGE THE TOWN'S ALLOCATION OF BANDWIDTH UNDER THE TRIAL AGREEMENT. A SAMPLE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS IS INCLUDED:

Mr. Miles noted that Broadband has installed a test antenna on the Town Hall roof. He said that the hardware is not yet installed. Mr. Miles stated that Broadband is giving Exmore one year's worth of service for free and if we wish to continue then we would contract with a third party. The agreement included in the packets is only a sample agreement.

THE EXMORE FIRING RANGE HAS BEEN SURVEYED TO CONFIRM OWNERSHIP AND PROPERTY LINE LOCATIONS IN RELATION TO ADJACENT PROPERTY. ZONING MAP AMENDMENT PROCESS CONTINUES:

Mr. Miles noted the firing range has been surveyed to confirm ownership. He said that part of what the Town thought they owned was not mapped correctly on the County website. Mr. Miles stated that Barry Long owns property that borders Town property and that he is willing to give the Town an easement for whatever is necessary for the use of the range.

EXMORE FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Miles stated that it is difficult to get a correct bank balance when all of the bank statements have not been received yet. Councilman Scanlan said that the expenditure report is okay, but he would like to see it broken down by vendors. He also asked for a list of delinquent taxes, water, sewer, trash, business licenses every month. Councilman Metz asked if the bank franchise tax has been received. The Clerk advised him that the bank franchise tax is usually received in June.

OLD BUSINESS:

EXMORE'S CHRISTMAS DECORATION WINNERS AND CHRISTMAS PARADE WINNERS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON EXMORE'S WEBSITE:

Mr. Miles noted that Greg DeYoung was the first place winner of the Christmas decoration contest, David and Martha Moore were second, and George and Norma Lewis were third. He said that Penn Ventures was the business winner. Mr. Miles stated that pictures of the winners houses are on Exmore's website.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN HAS BEEN SIGNED AND FORWARDED AS DIRECTED BY COUNCIL:

Mayor Moore stated that the Hazard Mitigation Plan has been sign and has been forwarded.

EASTERN SHORE PSA CONTINUES TO HAVE OPENINGS ON ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS. NOMINATIONS WELCOME:

Councilman Scanlan recommended that the openings for the seats on the PSA Board of Directors as well as the Planning Commission, Zoning Appeals Board and the Façade Committee be advertised on Exmore's website.

POSITIONS ON EXMORE'S PLANNING COMMISSION, ZONING APPEALS BOARD AND FAÇADE COMMITTEE REMAIN OPEN. RECOMMENDATIONS ARE WELCOME AND NECESSARY: (See comments under Easter Shore PSA.....)

Mayor Moore asked Chief DiMartino if he would like to address the Council before the Discussion portion of the agenda.

Chief DiMartino's report to the Council included the departments' calls for service, arrests, summons issued, parking tickets, etc. He informed them that Officer Doughty recently taught a class at the elementary school on bullying. Chief DiMartino thanked the Council for allowing him to hire the seventh officer.

Councilman Scanlan asked Chief DiMartino about the status of the dog ordinance and the gun ordinance. The Chief told him that he hoped to have them dog ordinance ready by the next meeting. Councilman Doughty addressed Chief DiMartino regarding the problems at the Sage Diner over the weekend. Chief DiMartino informed the Council that he and his officers were polite but stern and had to arrest five. Councilman Scanlan stated that there has always been trouble at that particular business since the bar has been opened.

Chief DiMartino noted that Officer Doughty is an excellent officer, stating that he has been with the Town for five years, he helps out at the school a lot, helps the Chief and other officers with any task asked of him, is highly motivated and dedicated to the department and asked that Officer Doughty be promoted to Sergeant. There was no discussion. Mayor Moore congratulated Sgt. Doughty.

DISCUSSION-COUNCIL/CITIZEN INPUT:

Mayor Moore asked Mr. Miles about the duplex on Westfield. Mr. Miles noted that he has tried communicating with Mr. Butler, but there has been no response. Councilman Scanlan said that the Northampton County Building official should investigate the matter.

Mr. Miles stated that he corresponded with a dog owner on Atlantic Avenue by registered mail. The letter was returned unclaimed and he had Sgt. Moyano hand deliver the letter. Councilman Doughty said that he has not heard the dogs in the last week.

Councilman Scanlan updated the Council on the Exmore Railroad Station. He stated that the Friends of the Railroad have made an estimated \$15,000 in improvements, which includes underground electrical service, restored brick walkway using the original bricks, removal of the boxcars, dirt has been brought and will be leveled and smoothed, bathroom and running water, and central air and heat. He said that they plan on having a new roof put on as well. Councilman Scanlan asked the Council to consider having security lights installed on the two poles behind the railroad station. After brief discussion, it was the general consensus of the Council to have the security lights installed for the railroad station.

Councilman Ward asked about the old Center Chevrolet property. Councilman Scanlan reported that the Farmer's Museum has basically abandoned the idea of the museum at that location. He said that the railroad has stored some stuff in the building and there may be a tractor in it.

SUGGESTED DATE FOR REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING (FEBRUARY 6, 2012):

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Mayor Greer made the Motion to adjourn. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Ward. The Motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

William M. Moore, Jr. Mayor

Ethel Parks, Town Clerk