

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2013
7:00 PM

Mayor Greer-Present
Vice-Mayor Lewis-Present
Councilman Ward-Present
Councilman Massey-Absent
Councilman Doughty-Present
Councilman Heaster-Present
Councilman Metz-Present

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Duer, Ethel Parks, Chief DiMartino, Officer Zieger, Taylor Dukes, Mike Johnson.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Greer. Mayor Greer established a quorum.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Mayor Greer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 4, 2013, SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 14, 2013, AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ON 26, 2013:

Councilman made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the regular Council meeting on November 4, 2013, the special Council meeting on November 14, 2013 and the special Council meeting on November 26, 2013. Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the regular Council meeting on November 4, 2013 and the special Council meeting on November 14, 2013. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Ward. The Motion was passed unanimously. Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to approve the Minute of the special Council meeting on November 26, 2013. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Ward. The Motion was passed with Councilman Metz abstaining because he was absent for the meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Tim Gray informed the Mayor and Council that he is opening the Eastern Shore Beauty Academy next to Food Lion. He said that he feels it is a win-win situation for everybody by bringing commercial business to Exmore. He thanked the employees for their help.

Mayor Greer noted that he would like to amend the agenda to move the appointment of Karla Clark to the Planning Commission up to next on the agenda. Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to amend the agenda to move the appointment of Karla Clark to the Planning Commission up to next on the agenda. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster. The Motion was passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF KARLA CLARK TO PLANNING COMMISSION:

Councilman Metz made the Motion to appoint Karla Clark to the Planning Commission. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis. The Motion was passed unanimously.

GREATER EXMORE BUSINESS & COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION:

Ken Dufty noted that the Santa Train will arrive at the train station this Saturday. He said that John Fogle, who is a juggler and comedian, will be there to entertain the children and also the Youth Chorus from Occohannock Elementary School will be here to sing carols. Mr. Dufty said that the next event will be the Parade on the 14th with Mr. Fogle performing, the Town lighting the tree, the Occohannock Elementary Youth Chorus singing prior to lighting the tree, and the Mount Calvary Choir. Mr. Dufty stated that the Washington Post covered the story of Warren Bailey's Community Store opening. He said that Wachino Co. had the best Black Friday weekend sales ever since they

have been in business. Mr. Dufty reported that GEBCA is finalizing its membership drive and is soliciting quotes for painting the mural on the Quonset hut.

Mayor Greer told the Business Association that he is delighted in what they are doing for the Town.

OLD BUSINESS:

PROGRESS ON NEW WELLS:

Taylor Dukes reported that Mr. Duer signed the contract with Draper Aden to resubmit the permit. He said that they will be asking for 10 million gallons more than we are currently permitted to withdraw. Mr. Dukes noted also that a soil disturbance study will have to be done on the old Center Chevrolet building before it can be demolished. He said that Mr. Rowan is working on a contract for Broadband.

UPDATE ON BROADBAND:

Mr. Dukes previously reported that Mr. Rowan is working on a contract.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Dukes reported that the Planning Commission met and on their agenda was the Taco Truck located beside Tru-Blu, David Jensen asking for a variance for his house and Mark Sinclair who asked for a variance to make an apartment on the second floor of his building, a laundry area on the first floor and a private entrance on the back side of the building to access the apartment. He stated that tonight the Council can vote only on Mr. Sinclair's request for the variance and the Planning Commission's recommendation to the Council is to grant Mr. Sinclair the variance he is asking for to allow him to build the apartment, laundry room and private entrance to the apartment. Mr. Dukes noted that there is a public notice out for two text amendments. One is to allow meat processing in business downtown and the other is to allow churches in business downtown. Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to allow the variance for Mark Sinclair's building. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Dukes said that there will be a Public Hearing on December 12 to hear public comment on the two text amendments.

Mr. Dukes reported that Mr. Jensen submitted a different set of plans to the County than he submitted to the Planning Commission. He said that the set Mr. Jensen submitted to the County included putting a double-wide trailer on his property and Town zoning does not allow double-wides. Mr. Jensen will have to withdraw his plan and application with the County that includes the double-wide and submit a new plan to the County and the Planning Commission.

Mr. Dukes informed the Mayor and Council that by the end of November we have pumped approximately 4 million gallons of water over our permitted amount. He noted that the biological activity at the wastewater plant is not working that well due to the cold weather.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST DECEMBER 18, 2013:

Mrs. Parks noted that Councilman Massey asked her to schedule the Christmas Decorating Contest for December 18th and that he usually takes care of getting the judges.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Duer reported that the General Fund balance is \$437,861 along with some CD's in the amount of \$388,206 which puts the Town in a cash position of over \$800,000. He noted that the accounts receivable in water and sewer is \$45,000, outstanding real estate taxes is \$103,371 and personal property taxes is \$38,188. He said that the Town's total liabilities are approximately \$975,000 and over all, the Town is in good financial shape. Mr. Duer pointed out several expenditures that were not budgeted, and we are still \$278,136 to the good five months into the budget.

Mayor Greer thanked the Council for the hard decisions they have had to make and also the employees for the sacrifices they have had to make. He noted that we have gotten this far because we have pulled together. Mr. Duer noted that we have extremely engaged employees that need more credit than they get.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief DiMartino noted that the check for the fines has not been received this month yet. He explained that the fines collected are sent from the County to the State Comptroller, back to the County then to the localities. He said that he gets a report of the fines collected each month and

November's fines were \$37,818. He explained to the Mayor and Council that the report he submitted this month shows the department's performance compared to last year with the number of officers. Chief DiMartino stated that Marc Marshall, our newest officer, is doing a good job. He noted that he is aggressive and is a good officer. Chief DiMartino said that the new cars are expected at anytime. He said that the department was short handed for a brief time while Sgt. Campbell was out sick. Chief DiMartino reported that calls for service are up, theft is up and two people were shot at the Sage Diner Saturday morning, which is still under investigation, and shoplifting is a problem this time of year.

Chief DiMartino noted that the \$16,039 that was paid out for vehicle equipment actually comes out of the \$61,000 USDA loan/grant money and the \$1,467 for uniforms was grant money as well. Councilman Metz commended Chief DiMartino and the department for the good job they are doing.

PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES REPORT:

Mike Johnson reported that from October 20th to present, public works has marked water and sewer lines for twelve Miss Utility calls, they have had four sewer calls, they have conducted pressure tests on water lines for customers, they have been called on weekends,. He noted that they have been installing new meters throughout Town. Mr. Johnson said that they repaired a six inch water main break and a four inch water main break, both within two weeks. They have picked up between 16,000 and 20,000 pounds of trash, read 720 water meters and put up the Christmas decorations throughout Town. Mr. Johnson noted that they would be picking up trash on Christmas Eve day and take off Friday for the other holiday. Mayor Greer commended Mr. Johnson and the public works department for doing a good job while being under staffed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Lois Spotten asked how the Council chose who would participate in the parade. Vice-Mayor Lewis told her that the fire department handled the parade not the Town Council and anyone is welcome to join in the parade.

SCHEDULED CLOSINGS & COUNCIL MEETINGS:

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING: DECEMBER – DECEMBER 12, 2013 7:00pm

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 6, 2014 7:00pm

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED – DECEMBER 23, 2013 @ 12pm & WILL REMAIN CLOSED THROUGH DECEMBER 27, 2013

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Metz made the Motion to adjourn. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Douglas Greer, Mayor

Ethel Parks, Town Clerk