

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2014
7:00 PM

At a regular meeting 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 4th day of August, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Mayor Douglas Greer-Present
Vice-Mayor Thomas Lewis-Present
Councilman G. W. Adkins-Present
Councilman Charles Massey-Absent
Councilman Bradley Doughty-Present
Councilman Bryon Heaster-Present
Councilman John Metz-Absent

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Duer, Ethel Parks, Chief DiMartino, Sgt. Zieger, 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 –REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – JULY 7, 2014:

Councilman Adkins made note of errors on pages 3 and 5 of the draft Minutes. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to accept the Minutes with corrections. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

There was no one signed up to speak.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT – ROBERT G. DUER:

Mr. Duer informed the Mayor and Council that Mr. Dukes is not present tonight because he is in Blacksburg attending a Water Operator's School. Mr. Dukes received a scholarship through the Virginia Department of Health for the training. He reported that we have one new business in Town, Munchkins Boutique is now open at the Plaza. Eastern Shore Tent Rentals building is up and almost occupied. He mentioned that our public works employees are now wearing their Town supplied ANSI III shirts/uniforms. Mr. Duer noted that the roof should be finished this week. The conversion of our taxes into Southern Software is moving forward and we have had some success on the collection of delinquent BPOL taxes. He said that we were approved for the VML Safety Grant. We have purchased the items at \$2,582 and will be reimbursed \$2,000. The playground equipment is almost complete and the bathroom is being made. Mr. Duer stated that the Quonset Hut will be painted this week and mentioned that an Open House with hot dogs would be nice once it is complete. He said that the Town has 84 fire hydrants and they have started painting them. The Town website and Facebook are being updated every week. He commented that the Livability Forum was a success and greatly appreciated the citizens' comments on how well the Public Works and Police departments perform for the Town. Mr. Duer stated that we have signed the documents to move some money from the checking account to a Money Market account. He said that the account will draw some interest, the same as a CD, but would be accessible if we need it.

FINANCIAL REPORT – ROBERT G. DUER:

Mr. Duer stated that he prepared only the Profit and Loss since we are just one month into the budget year. He pointed out that the Police fines are \$67,349 because we received 2 months of fines in one month. The interest income of \$388 is from the interest paid to us on the three \$25,000 CD's that were cashed in to purchase one \$75,000 CD as collateral on the roof. The Sale of Assets was the police car that we sold. He said that the Public Works Vehicle Lease/Purchase for \$27,592.23 is for the tractor and implements and is grant/loan money. The \$75,000 in parenthesis is an influx of cash from the bank to pay for the roof. At the end of the month we have a gross income of \$195,290, total expenses of \$81,565 which gives us a net income of \$113,724 and we still have to take the \$75,000 away from that, leaving us with \$39,191. Our checking account stands \$668,200 at the end of the month and total checking, savings, CD's and all combined is \$1,093,937. Mr. Duer noted that our A/R is \$63,264 but \$44,000 of that is less than 30 days because the water bills just went out and \$9,640 is over 90 days.

OLD BUSINESS:

UPDATE ON TOWN HALL ROOF:

Mr. Duer reported that the roof should be finished this week. He stated that he asked for \$112,000 to repair the roof and it will cost \$123,824 due to having to replace one air conditioning unit and having to rebuild the roof on the drive-thru with plywood. Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to authorize Mr. Duer to spend \$123,824 for the roof. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON SEWER – DRAPER ADEN:

Mr. Duer noted that they will receive a \$30,000 study grant from the USDA to help with the sewer study, provided the audit is finished by December 31.

UPDATE ON WELL PROJECT – DRAPER ADEN:

Mr. Duer reported that the land for the new wells has been cleared and the project is moving forward. He said that the Health Department has granted the Town a Categorical Exclusion, which will save us approximately \$15,000 on the project.

POTENTIAL SALE OF TOWN OWNED PROPERTY:

Mr. Duer asked the Council if they wanted to sell the property. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to sell the lots on the corner of Washington Street and Lee Street, lot No. 10A1-4-46B and lot No. 10A1-4-45 for a minimum bid of 80% of the assessed value by sealed bid. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

Councilman Doughty made the Motion to sell the lots on Houston Street, lot No. 10A-2-2-B-6B and lot No. 10A2-2-B-7 for 50% of the assessed value by sealed bid. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESIGNATION OF A COUNCILMAN:

Mayor Greer stated that Charlie Massey has resigned by letter due to health reasons. He said that Mr. Massey has given 24 years to the Town and he would like to recognize him by Resolution as they did for Charlie Ward. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to accept Mr. Massey's letter of resignation. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Duer noted that they have 45 days to appoint another Council member without holding a special election. Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to advertise for a Council member. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino reported that the Officers are doing well. Officer Marshall has three weeks left in the Academy before he graduates. On the days that he is not in school, he is here working, on patrol, writing tickets and making arrests. He is an asset to the department. Chief DiMartino stated that Officer Rippon, who is a general instructor, helped him with a safety meeting at the Franktown

Medical Center. He noted that he received a letter from a retired police officer from Prince George County who was stopped by Officer Rippon while traveling through Exmore. The retired officer commended Officer Rippon on how he approached the vehicle and handled the traffic stop. Since hiring the sixth officer, calls for service are down due to higher officer visibility. Motor Assistance calls are up because of lockouts. He said that officer Bell had 8 lockout calls last week. He stated that before they touch their vehicles, they require citizens to sign a waiver stating that if any damage is done to the vehicle while trying to unlock it, the department is not held responsible. Chief DiMartino noted that there has been only one report of vandalism with property damage so far this summer and feels the nine o'clock curfew has helped. Kids walking in the roadway have been a problem but after charging two of them with playing in the roadway, word got out and it has gotten better. Public Works can get the medians cut in 30-35 minutes now with the Police Department slowing traffic down. He conveyed that morale is fantastic and thanked the Mayor, Council and Mr. Duer for the cars and equipment that they have received in the department.

UTILITY REPORT – ROBERT G. DUER:

Mr. Duer reported that they have turned off one well and pumped only 4.1 million gallons of water last month, which is significantly less than what we have been pumping. We had 23 sewer calls, mostly due to the pumps being clogged. Virginia Municipal League came and made a safety visit to our sewer plant and we are waiting for the report from them.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. JOHNSON:

Mr. Johnson reported 24 services calls that included 12 turn offs and 12 turn ons. There were 16 Miss Utility calls, a new service hook-up for water and sewer on the corner of Occohannock Road and Lee Street, fire hydrants were flushed, and they started trimming the trees at the south end of Town. The playground equipment is near completion and the office at the Quonset Hut is approximately 85% complete. He noted that they have received a few complaints about the furniture and appliance pickup. He said that they are not picking up all the items that they have in the past. It is only for furniture and appliances. Mr. Johnson said that they read 740 water meters and they are picking up 18,000 – 20,000 lbs of trash.

Councilman Adkins mentioned the house on Monroe Street that appears to be abandoned. He said that it is an eyesore and asked if there was anything that we could. Mr. Duer said that it is a zoning issue and Taylor would handle it.

Mayor Greer commended Mr. Johnson and his department for getting the Playground together and keeping the Park maintained and looking good. Mr. Johnson thanked the Mayor, Council and Mr. Duer for their support and giving them the equipment they need to get the job done.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Brenda Bailey commented on adults and older kids utilizing the playground equipment. Chief DiMartino said that parents sometimes have to help the small children on the equipment and they have, at times asked older kids to get off of the equipment and leave the Playground.

Donald E, Kellam, Jr. said he noticed that there was a \$2,000 difference between the expenses and the income on the sewer system and asked if we were doing anything special to make that difference. Mr. Duer told him that we were not.

Donald P. Kellam, Sr. suggested that the Council write a policy dealing with the absence of Council members at meetings. Mr. Duer told him that the Charter would have to be rewritten and then approved by the General Assembly. Mr. Duer noted that it is not a simple or easy process, it is a major undertaking.

Mr. Duer stated that they are looking into putting up some fence at the Playground/Park along Main Street and down towards where the bathroom is going in an effort to help keep children from running into the street.

Melissa Potter asked if anything could be done about all the stray cats in Town. Sgt. Zieger informed her that the Town does not have any cat ordinances and she would have to call the Northampton County Animal Control.

Councilman Adkins thanked everyone who attended the Livability Forum.

Carroll Taylor asked what was being done about the drainage problem by New Ravenna on Westfield Avenue. Mr. Duer said he would check with Taylor.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS & CLOSURES:

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 (LABOR DAY)

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2014 @ 7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Adkins made the Motion to adjourn. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis. The Motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Douglas Greer, Mayor

Ethel Parks, Town Clerk