

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 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 1st day of December, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Mayor Douglas Greer-Present
Vice-Mayor Thomas Lewis-Present
Councilman G. W. Adkins-Present
Councilman Bradley Doughty-Present
Councilman Bryon Heaster-Present
Councilman John Metz-Present
Councilman Chase Sturgis-Present

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

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 the majority in attendance.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Mayor Greer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – NOVEMBER 3, 2014:

Mr. Duer informed the Mayor and Council that Administration has changed the “Pledge of Allegiance” section of the December 1, 2014 Minutes to read “...majority in attendance”. Councilman Metz made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of December 1, 2014 as amended. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Ken Dufty stated that business is very good in Exmore and that it was the best Black Friday ever. Mr. Dufty said that he and some others will be going door-to-door with flyers pertaining to the County’s re-zoning to raise awareness of the effects it could have on Exmore and other incorporated Towns. Next week they will have a Courthouse Rally in front of the administration building. He thanked the Mayor and Council for the Resolution they adopted opposing the County’s rezoning.

Smith James spoke to the Mayor and Council on behalf of the Exmore Rotary. He thanked them for their support and allowing the Rotary to hold their annual Oyster Roast at the Town Park. He also thanked the employees who came out to help. Mayor Greer noted that he has heard nothing but good things about the Oyster Roast and asked Mr. James if they would be returning next year. Mr. James told him that they will be returning next year.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT – ROBERT G. DUER:

Mr. Duer informed the Mayor and Council that January’s Town Council meeting may extend 30 minutes longer than usual. He said that he will be presenting the mid-term budget, a representative from Draper Aden will be here to discuss the sewer project and Mr. Dukes will be addressing the water meter project.

Mr. Duer reported that things are going well in Town and the employees seem to be happy and content.

Mr. Duer noted that the Oyster Roast went well and the only cost to the Town to host it was for hauling out the trash. He commented that in the future there will be an application process to hold events in the Park along with a fee to haul out the trash.

Mr. Duer said that since Mr. Dukes has been appointed as our Code Enforcement Officer we will begin enforcing our Town ordinances and begin levying fines for trash in yards, a \$10.00 per day fine for businesses without a license and other ordinances. He noted that they will begin this process January 1, 2015.

Mr. Duer asked them to choose judges for the Holiday Decorating Contest and set a date to judge the homes and businesses.

ZONING/BZA - MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes reported that the Board of Zoning Appeals met on November 17, 2014 and they approved the Delp family to keep the chickens that they currently have (app. 20) until they expire. Mr. and Mrs. Delp agreed not to acquire any more chickens. Mr. Dukes noted that this decision applies only to those who live in the R20 zoning district. If the same situation with chickens came up in any other zoning district, it would have to be addressed if there's a problem. Mr. Dukes stated that he will investigate all complaints.

PSA UPDATE – MR DUKES:

Mr. Dukes reported that the PSA voted 4-2 to approve the sewer project in Cheriton. He said that he and Cheriton Councilman Greg Hardestry voted against the project. Mr. Dukes noted that if the Board of Supervisors approves a special tax district to pay for the project, it will cost all Northampton County taxpayers 2½ -7½ percent increase on their Real Estate Tax. He said that it is projected to cost 2.3 to 2.6 million dollars to complete the sewer project and it only covers 27 lots. County residents in the northern end of the county may have to foot the bill for Cheriton. He said that Cheriton residents are against it. Councilman Adkins asked the citizens how they feel about it. Several citizens voiced their disapproval. Mayor Greer and Vice-Mayor Lewis urged everyone who is against paying for the sewer project in Cheriton to call Larry Trala who is Exmore's representative on the Board of Supervisors.

FINANCIAL REPORT – ROBERT G. DUER:

Mr. Duer explained that the 30-60-90 day water and sewer billing report shows \$10,880 over 90 days. He said that \$5,200 of that is in seven accounts and that \$2,600 has been sent to our attorney for collection, others are inactive accounts. The \$49,000 on the 0-30 days is current bills. The tax report shows over \$225,000 owed to us. This figure includes 1989 to present. He said that any taxes that are still delinquent at June 30, 2015, they will be submitted to the DMV Stop program. Mr. Duer stated that Kathy is happy with the tax program and is doing a good job with collections.

Mr. Duer reported that our cash position is \$1,120,046. The gross profits at the end of the month were \$962,004, gross expenses were \$813,887, with a net income of \$148,116. He noted that the Town is doing well financially.

OLD BUSINESS:

ANPDC AND THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer mentioned that the survey results can be viewed on the Town website. The Planning Commission will meet on January 12, 2015 at 7:00pm to review what has already been written on our Comprehensive Plan.

TOWN PARK UPDATE:

Mr. Duer said that they will be bringing in topsoil at the Park behind the bathrooms to bring it up to grade. He and Taylor will be formulating a cost list for those who wish to rent the Park for events. The sidewalk leading to the bathrooms is complete but needs a little landscaping.

UPDATE ON SEWER PROJECT – DRAPER ADEN – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes stated that a representative from E-1 Pumps came over and showed him the type of pump that will work with our system. Mike Larson from Draper Aden will be at the January Council meeting to discuss our options on correcting the sewer problems.

UPDATE ON WELL PROJECT – DRAPER ADEN – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that he is waiting on Shore Engineering to send the Town property plat to Draper Aden. This will enable them to map where the wells will be and they can then start drilling. Drilling should start sometime in March.

CHICKEN ORDINANCE:

Mr. Duer stated that the Planning Commission does not want chickens in Town but the Board of Zoning Appeals has overridden them. It is now up to the Council to approve or not approve an ordinance that will allow chickens and also give administration and code enforcement control over the chickens. After some discussion, Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to approve Ordinance No. 204 to allow chickens. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Doughty. The Motion to approve Ordinance No. 204 was denied by the vote of 2 for and 4 against it.

NEW BUSINESS:

HOLIDAY HOME/BUSINESS DECORATING CONTEST:

Mayor Greer and Vice-Mayor Lewis volunteered to judge the Home/Business Decorating Contest on Friday, December 19, 2014.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. JOHNSON:

Mr. Johnson reported 52 service calls for the month of November which included turn-offs due to non-payment, turn-ons, sewer calls and pressure tests. He said that they will be flushing hydrants on December 3rd. They repaired a water main break on Belle Haven Road and one on Occohannock Road. Mr. Johnson stated that they collected 18,000-20,000 pounds of trash, furniture and appliances will be picked up on December 11th and brush and limbs will be picked up on December 18th. They read 710 water meters. Christmas decorations and lights are up and working. Mr. Duer said that the men who delivered the bathrooms remarked that Exmore is one of the cleanest and prettiest towns east of the Mississippi and also have the friendliest people they have ever encountered.

POLICE REPORT-CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino stated that Officer Brady is doing very well since joining the Police Department. He reported that their numbers are good and accidents are down with only 3 reportable accidents in November. They have received complaints about metal and debris piled up at T&K Dutch Barns. He and Taylor investigated the complaint and will send them a letter to clean it up.

Chief DiMartino told the Mayor and Council that the Police Department appreciates everything Robert Duer does and thanked the Council for the assistance with our health insurance and for the Holiday Bonus.

Chief DiMartino noted that they are patrolling the stores on foot and will continue through the holidays.

UTILITY REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes stated that the town pumped 2.8 million gallons of water during the month of November which was 500,000 gallons less than October. He predicted that by the end of the year we should be approximately 20 million gallons under the permitted amount. Mr. Dukes noted that testing at the Wastewater Plant will be bad during the winter due to the cold weather.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Ken Dufty said that he attended the County meeting when the County was uncertain about entering into a contract with Capes Charles regarding the sewer project. He noted that they are moving forward with the project with very little public knowledge.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS & CLOSINGS:

SANTA TRAIN – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014 @ 12:05pm (TRAIN STATION)

CHRISTMAS PARADE – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014 @ 6pm

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015 @7:00pm

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING – THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015 @ 6:00pm

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING – MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015 @ 7pm

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED - WEDNESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, DEC.24-26, 2014

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED – THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2015

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Douglas Greer, Mayor

Ethel Parks, Town Clerk