

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
APRIL 6, 2015
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 6th day of April, 2015, 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, Sgt. Zieger, Cpl. Marshall, Officer Brady.

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 – MARCH 2, 2015:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of March 2, 2015. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously. JOINT PUBLIC HEARING – March 23, 2015: Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the Joint Public Hearing of March 23, 2015. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

There was no one signed up to speak.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT – ROBERT G. DUER:

Mr. Duer informed the Mayor and Council that the 2013 audit is complete. He told them that we have not received the hard copies as yet. Documents for the fiscal year ending 2014 are in the auditor’s hands. Business license deadline was March 31st. Most businesses have paid on time and we will be notifying those who have not. Lynn has done a good job with the business license process. Water turn offs are tomorrow. Due to the cold weather, we did not turn anybody’s water off last month for non-payment. Representatives from the Board of Supervisor’s have come back to the Town and asked what we want in our Town Edge. They will be contacting us to talk about it further. Landfill fees are increasing from \$68.00 to \$70.00 per ton. We may have to increase our trash fees next year. Our replacement backhoe was delivered and paid for on April 2nd. The Park restrooms are scheduled to open Friday, April 24th. The DMV STOP Program has collected over \$4,000 in back person property taxes.

FINANCIAL REPORT – ROBERT G. DUER:

Mr. Duer reported that our cash balance was \$901,450 last year at April 1st and \$1,338,693 this year at April 1st. Considering equipment and vehicles we have bought and other purchases we have made, we are doing very well financially. The Water Sales from February have been added. Lynn

has done a good job with the collection of BPOL taxes. We had a net income of \$58,727 for the month of March. Police salaries are over budget for the year due to the 48-hour program and the Sanitation salaries are over budget due to one employee being under budgeted. Our year-to-date net income is \$363,822.

OLD BUSINESS:

UPDATE ON SEWER PROJECT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes reported that Mr. Larson has done a Hydraulics System Capacity calculation and will bring a proposal back to the Council. He said that they are considering upgrading the sewer line to have the capability of extending the sewer line south to Royal Farms, out to El Maguey and over to County Line. An equalization tank would have to be built at the Wastewater Plant. Funding may be available through a grant or a grant/loan combination.

UPDATE ON WELL PROJECT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that the pre-construction meeting for the new wells will be held here at the Town Office tomorrow morning. The engineers, contractor and DEQ will be here and they can start on Wednesday. Construction must be completed in sixty days. Mr. Duer said that the reimbursement on the \$192,000 could take several weeks. The funds have already been appropriated for the project.

Mr. Duer added that the 30/60/90 day report on the Utility Billing is increasing in the 90 day range even though a residents' water service is turned off the sewer and penalties are steady climbing. Kathy's efforts on the tax collections have brought in 83% of 2014 taxes. Any unpaid personal property taxes are going to the DMV STOP program and the unpaid real estate taxes will go to our attorney.

JULY 2015-2016 DRAFT BUDGET REVIEW:

Mr. Duer explained the total proposed 2016 budget is \$1,911,973 with a surplus of \$93,984. The estimated revenues for Taxes and Fees are \$1,306,595, Water income is \$308,700, Wastewater income is \$140,000, Trash sales is \$96,500, Investment Income is \$1,806, Grants is \$56,872 and Sale of Assets is \$1,500. Estimated expenditures for Public Works are \$309,908, Public Safety is \$500,445, General Government is \$399,832, Wastewater is \$232,881, Water is \$256,367, Sanitation is \$109,140, the Fire Program Fund is \$9,416 with a surplus of \$93,984.

Councilman Adkins made the Motion to advertise the proposed Budget Summary in the Eastern Shore Post. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously.

The Mayor and Council briefly discussed the Railroad Museum and the Farmer's Market.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 205 – ADDRESSING TOWN DECALS:

Mr. Duer explained that Ordinance No. 205 amends Ordinance No. 156 which addresses Town decals. He noted that we no longer issue decals but charge the decal fee on our personal property tax bill and the ordinance needed to be rewritten. After some discussion Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to table Ordinance No. 205 until the next Town meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 206 – ADDRESSING ELECTRONIC SUMMONS:

Chief DiMartino discussed adopting the Electronic Summons System with the Mayor and Council. He explained that the e-ticket system is designed to be more efficient and easier for officers and courts. There will be an extra \$5.00 added to the offenders' fine which is allocated specifically for the purchase and maintenance of the e-ticket system. They will need laptops and printers for each car and software. Mr. Duer commented that Ordinance No. 206 has been written according to the Code of Virginia to assess the fee solely to fund software, hardware, and associated equipment costs for implementation and maintenance of an electronic summons system. Councilman Heaster was concerned about the e-ticket system generating a surplus of funds that could not be disbursed in the future on the purchase or maintenance of the system. He made the recommendation to add "or any

use the Town Council deems necessary” at the end of Ordinance No. 206. After some discussion the Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 206 as amended. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Duer informed the Mayor and Council that he has included a Capital Acquisition Plan with the budget. It outlines the replacement of police vehicles, public works vehicles, mowers, etc. every two years.

ZONING – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes reported that Dollar Tree is moving forward with their plans to relocate. They have been acquiring the necessary easements from adjacent property owners and VDOT.

A landscaping company will be opening a business on Broadwater Road to provide services in and around Exmore.

Mr. Dukes noted that he is sending letters to property owners to clean up their properties.

PURSUIT OF BUILDING DEMOLITION:

The trailer on Willis Wharf Road will soon go up for a tax sale and it will be up to the new owner to clean up the property.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer stated that there were 37 service calls last month which included 8 turn-offs and 8 turn-ons. They have installed 40 new meters. Mr. Duer announced the Open House for Public Works at the Quonset Hut on April 17th from 11:00am to 1:00pm and invited all to attend. Virginia Rural Water will be here tomorrow to assist in locating a leak on Willis Wharf Road. We are waiting on a bid from Branscome for the road repairs on Occohannock Road. Mr. Duer stated that Mike Johnson has taken over the bulk of Johnny Alaniz’s job duties while maintaining his own. He pointed out how nice the Town looks and commended Mr. Johnson for his hard work.

Mr. Dukes discussed the process of having the derelict house on Jefferson Avenue demolished. He said that it is owned by the bank of New York Melon c/o Bank of America. He noted that he has sent a letter to the bank and they have responded saying there is no mortgage on the house. We first have to run ads for the demolition, ads for the property owner to clean up the property and give them ten days to clean it up before we demo it and apply the charges to a tax lien. The house needs to be condemned. Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to allow Mr. Duke to move forward with the demolition of the house on Jefferson Avenue. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Doughty and was passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT-CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino stated that all the officers are doing very well. The warm weather has brought people out. He urged everyone to report any suspicious activity immediately and obtain all information as possible. We are collecting 92% of the fines imposed. He noted that they are not writing more tickets but speeds are higher which means higher fines. More than half the tickets that are being written are for reckless driving. There have been a few fender benders but only two reportable crashes last month. Chief DiMartino praised his officers for doing a great job. Mayor Greer and the Council thanked Chief DiMartino and the department for all they do.

UTILITY REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes stated that we pumped 4.3 million gallons of water last month and some of that is due to the water leaks in homes from the cold winter. We have pumped 13 million gallons of water during last quarter. He said that he has spoken with a company out of Charlottesville to obtain an estimate for repairing the inoperable water valves and cleaning some of the water lines in Town.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Donald E. Kellam, Jr. asked what we would do with the old wells once the new wells are in service. Mr. Dukes told him that the old wells would be taken off-line.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS & CLOSINGS:

PUBLIC HEARING – 2015-2016 BUDGET, MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015 @ 5:00pm

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015 @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