

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
JANUARY 5, 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 5th day of January, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Mayor Douglas Greer-Present
Vice-Mayor Thomas Lewis-Present
Councilman G. W. Adkins-Absent
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, Officer Marshall, Officer Brady, Carroll Taylor

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:

Mayor Greer asked for a moment of silence for Johnny Alaniz. He commended Johnny for giving 17 years to the Town. Johnny was an inspiration to all who knew his situation and he overcame it by showing up for work every day. The Invocation was given by Mayor Greer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – DECEMBER 1, 2014:

Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of December 1, 2014. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Donald E. Kellam, Jr. disagreed with the way the water main break was handled when the entire Town's water supply was shut down for four hours. He commended Public Works for working hard to get it repaired and the water turned back on. Mr. Kellam noted that the article in the Co-op Magazine was a positive article and was happy to see it.

Mayor Greer commended Public Works for working diligently in freezing water to repair the broken water line. He noted that they gave 110% to make sure water service was restored to Town residents. He thanked Mr. Kellam for his comments.

Stevon Sample announced that publication on his newspaper and comic book will launch on January 24, 2015.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – ROBERT G. DUER:

Mr. Duer noted that Mike Larson is our guest tonight and will be discussing our sewer system. Mr. Duer stated that in losing Johnny we did not lose just an employee. Johnny's knowledge base is irreplaceable. We lost a good friend as well. Even though we knew he did not feel well, he never said it and he did not complain. Johnny gave everything he had to give every day. He will be missed by each of us.

Mr. Duer thanked the Mayor and Council, on behalf of all employees, for the holiday luncheon. It was enjoyed by all who attended.

Johnny's truck will be sold by sealed bids and the bidding will close at 5:00pm on January 26, 2015.

Mr. Duer spoke highly of the article in the Cooperative Living Magazine, despite a few typos. Our website continues to be updated weekly.

Mr. Duer noted that Kathy continues to work with the DMV STOP Program for the collection of Personal Property taxes.

Mr. Duer said that he and Taylor are seeking funding sources to help develop a parking lot and green spaces at the Park. The bathrooms are closed for the winter. He mentioned that Angelo has served No Trespassing notices on several citizens for fighting, cursing and poor behavior at the Park.

Water meter replacement has begun. We are purchasing the Neptune T10 meter at cost of \$65 per meter. Mr. Duer stated that it will cost approximately \$47,000 to replace every meter. We will order 120 at a time because there are some meter boxes and setters that need to be replaced as well. The entire project will cost the Town approximately \$52,000.

Mr. Duer commented on the water main break that occurred on December 21. He thanked Sgt. Campbell and Mayor Greer for their help and support along with Public Works to ensure that water service was restored as quickly as possible. He said that there are valves to turn off sections of Town but they do not work. Mr. Duer stated that they followed guidelines and laws and notified the Health Department, tested the drinking water, the tests were negative and all is well.

OLD BUSINESS:

HOLIDAY DECORATION WINNERS – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer announced the winners of the Holiday Light Home and Business Decoration Contest as:

1st Place - DeYoung

2nd Place – Tilghman

3rd Place – Parks/Shelton

Business – Exmore Diner

UPDATE ON SEWER PROJECT – MR. DUKES, MR. LARSON:

Mr. Larson noted that our current system is a septic tank effluent system and for several reasons, the original information on the system is not available. He said that they are looking into replacing this system with grinder pumps because they would work more efficiently. Mr. Larson commented that some of the pipe sizes are deficient and will have to be replaced. He said that keeping the system that we have with some modifications is the best way to go. Mr. Dukes added that our goal is to provide sewer to every property in Town.

UPDATE ON WELL PROJECT – MR. DUKES, MR. LARSON:

Mr. Larson stated that the Health Department has informed him that they are in the process of approving the bid packets. We will have to solicit advertisements to minority/women owned businesses, which is a requirement then the project will be advertised. We will then receive bids for the drilling of the wells.

ZONING/BZA - MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes reported that the Planning Commission will meet on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7:00pm to discuss the Comp Plan. Connie Morrison (ANPDC) will be here with the draft Comp Plan available for review. He stated that the Zoning Department has started sending letters to those who are in violation of Town and State codes.

PSA UPDATE – MR DUKES:

Mr. Dukes had nothing new to report.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – MR. DUER:

Mr. Dukes reported previously during the Zoning report.

NEW BUSINESS:

PURCHASING NEW PATROL CAR FOR JULY 2015:

Mr. Duer noted that they are going to budget for a new patrol car in the 2015-2016 budget. He asked the Council for their permission to allow Chief DiMartino to price a new car and order it for delivery in mid July. Mr. Duer said that this car will not be financed. We will pay cash for it. The white Impala will be sold. After brief discussion, Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to purchase a new patrol car during the 2015-2016 budget year. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT – ROBERT G. DUER:

Mr. Duer reported that we have made progress with the collection of utility bills. We are at \$43,600 now which is down from \$49,000 previously at 30 days, at 60 days we are at \$9,959 which is down from \$12,200 previously, at 90 days we are at \$35,000 which is down from \$48,070 previously and staying the same at over 90 days. Several accounts over 90 days have been sent to our attorney for collection. Our cash position at the end of the month was \$1,220,044. Total income was \$237,806. Mr. Duer pointed out that out of the \$16,071 spent in Water Repairs, \$15,872 was for the annual maintenance on the water tower. Total expense for the month was \$149,459 for a total income for the month of \$88,353. Gross profits for the year-to-date are \$1,199,939 and the year-to-date net income is \$238,008. Personal Property taxes are approximately \$3,400 under budget, Police Fines are approximately \$79,000 over budget, Water sales are \$44,000 over budget, Wastewater sales are about \$7,800 over budget and Trash sales are over budget as well. Our total income is \$183,000 above budget. Our largest expense is salaries but they are within or just above budget in all departments. Year-to-date expenses are \$961,939.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. JOHNSON:

Mr. Johnson reported 37 service calls, 12 turn-offs, 2 sewer calls, 5 Miss Utility calls, 12 turn-ons, 4 pressure tests and 1 emergency call. Fire hydrants are scheduled to be flushed on January 12th. Furniture and appliances will be picked up on January 8th and brush and limbs will be picked up on January 15th. He noted that they trash collection remains at 18,000 to 20,000 pounds each month. They read 710 water meters. Mr. Duer informed the Mayor and Council that there is one account that has been pirating water by rigging the water connection on two different occasions. He stated that this individual will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

POLICE REPORT-CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino reported that all is well within the Police Department. Marc and Keith attended Intox school in December and we will be reimbursed for the cost DFS. He noted that calls for service are down other than B&E's. Wash City was broken into, there was an attempt to break into the Verizon store and the Hospice Thrift store has been broken into as well as H. W. Drummond's in Belle Haven.

Chief DiMartino stated that a fight broke out at the Park. There was a fight in Cape Charles the night before and was posted on Facebook. He said that there were multiple charges handed out as a result of the Facebook posts, attending the fight, and participating in the fight.

There were three accidents in December but none involved speed and neither of them were on Route 13. He said that two of the accidents were stop sign violations and the third one was the night of the Parade when a vehicle rear ended a tractor.

Chief DiMartino informed the Mayor and Council that Robert's 48 Hour Program ended at the end of December. There were 336 hours spent issuing 466 summonses in the program.

UTILITY REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes reported that the Town pumped 3.5 million gallons of water during the month of December, bring the yearly total to 38,850,000 gallons. This is 22,000,000 gallons below the permitted amount. He noted that George Duer has taken over Johnny's responsibility of taking the daily water tests. Three bacterial samples were taken in December and all three were absent of ecoli and total chloroform.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Donald E. Kellam, Jr. asked if we know where the bad water valves are and if we had plans to replace them. Mr. Duer said that we know where some of them are and they are so far under the roadway that we would have to turn the water off to the entire town again in order to get to them and replace them. Mr. Dukes noted that all the valves are not bad. There could be a small pebble in the valve causing it to be stuck open.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS & CLOSINGS:

OFFICE CLOSED–MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY–MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2015
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING – THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015 @ 6:00pm
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING – MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015 @ 7:00pm
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2015 @7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Heaster 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