

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
MARCH 2, 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 2nd day of March, 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, Mike Johnson, Sgt.
Zieger, Cpl. 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 – FEBRUARY 2, 2015:

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

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Donald E. Kellam, Jr. commented on how nice the new blinds in the lobby look.

Connie Taylor commended the Police and Public Works Departments for the excellent job during
the inclement weather during the past few weeks

Chief DiMartino commended Marc Marshall for his hard work. He noted that Marc has taken on
extra tasks as well and as a result of his diligence and efforts he has been promoted to Corporal.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT – ROBERT G. DUER:

Mr. Duer reported that there have been multiple pipe breaks during the severe cold weather but the
majority of the breaks have been in homes. He noted that the Public Works crew worked diligently
to make sure Town residents did not experience prolonged periods without water due to a water
break. He also noted that Joe Sommers went the extra mile by coming out at 3:00am on Sunday
morning to look for a leak when the pressure dropped. Mr. Duer asked the Mayor and Council to
give the crew a day off with pay or paying them for a snow day. It was the consensus of the Council
to give them an extra day pay.

Top soil has been spread at the Park and grass seed will be sown when the weather allows.

Mr. Duer stated that four bids were received for the Well Project and that two of the four were
disqualified by the State. He said Taylor will elaborate on the bids during his report.

Water bills did not go out because they could not read the meters due to the snow and ice. The bills
should be going out this week.

The blinds are hung and the ceilings in the foyers have been repaired.

Business license renewal applications are coming in. Mr. Duer commended Lynn Sherwood for a job well done.

Mr. Duer noted that new water meters have arrived and they will soon be installing them.

There has been no news from the pipe lining company or news on our Park building.

Mr. Duer stated that FEMA has accepted our Ordinance.

FINANCIAL REPORT – ROBERT G. DUER:

Mr. Duer reported that our cash position at the close of February was \$1,275,409 and we have received \$10,000 in Business License. There was no income for Water, Sewer or Trash because the bills did not go out. We spent approximately \$3,200 in topsoil (68 loads) at the Park. He commented that we lost \$585 for the month. Gross profit for the year is \$1,459,504 with a total expense of \$1,203,170 for a net income of \$256,334.

OLD BUSINESS:

UPDATE ON SEWER PROJECT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes reported no update or new business on the sewer project.

UPDATE ON WELL PROJECT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that the bids were opened on Friday. There were two acceptable bids. One bid was from Somerset Well Drilling Company of Maryland and the other was from A. C. Schultes of Delaware. Somerset Well Drilling's bid came in at \$192,270 and A. C. Schultes' bid came in at \$259,896. Mr. Duer reminded the Council that the Town is responsible to pay for this portion of the Well Project and that it covers only the two holes in the ground and the aquifer test if it is required. Mr. Dukes made note that staff is recommending Somerset Well Drilling. Vice-Mayor Lewis highly recommended Somerset Well Drilling stating that they are a top notch company. Councilman Sturgis said that they go above and beyond their duties. Mr. Dukes said that Pocomoke City is happy with them as well. Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to hire Somerset Well Drilling for the Well Project. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously. Mr. Dukes said that he feels sure that the Town will be reimbursed once the wells are up and running.

NEW BUSINESS:

JULY 2015-2016 DRAFT BUDGET:

Mr. Duer explained that the only income changes for the next year will be in sales tax in the amount of \$65,000. There will be no increase in Police Fines. Water sales may increase due to the new meters and water penalties have been budgeted at \$20,000. Wastewater sales have been budgeted at \$140,000 and trash sales at \$96,500. Total income is budgeted at \$1,905,282.

Mr. Duer explained that the employee benefits may seem confusing but it is only because employees pay a share of their benefits. He noted that Public Works expenses include \$8,000 for Building Maintenance and \$5,000 of that is to continue the fencing at the Wastewater Plant. The tractor payments are in the Lease/Purchase section. Professional and Consultant fees cover spraying the weeds at the Park and this year we have increased it to cover sidewalks. The total budgeted expense for Public Works is \$253,008 which is \$26,955 less than this year. In the Police Department there is \$6,000 budgeted for the loan on the Municipal building. Public Relations is for Neighborhood Watch decals, badge stickers, etc. There is \$37,300 budgeted for the loan on the three Impala's and the replacement of one additional car. The total budgeted expense for the Police Department is \$479,645 which is an increase of \$64,225 over this year. Mr. Duer explained that \$20,000 of the \$21,000 for Public Relations in Administration has been set aside for business development. He also noted that the administration's share of the Town Hall Improvement Loan is \$14,040. The total budgeted expense for Administration is \$1,130,435 which is \$43,000 less than this year. Mr. Duer pointed out that the Wastewater plant is in need of a cat walk for safety reasons and he has increased Repairs to \$26,000 to cover the cost of having one installed. He said the cost should be between \$12,000 and \$13,000. Professional and Consultant fees in the amount of \$40,000 has been budgeted for Draper Aden Engineering. Total expense budgeted for the Wastewater

Department is \$232,881 which is \$47,545 less than this year. Mr. Duer explained that he has estimated the debt repayment at \$60,000 per year for the New Well Project Debt Service and \$30,000 for the Consultant fees. Total expense for the Water Department for next year is estimated at \$257,067, compared to \$293,992 this year, which is \$37,924 less than this year. There is very little change in the Sanitation Department. This year's budget is \$105,445 and next year it is budgeted at \$107,226. Mr. Duer noted that total expense is budgeted at \$1,735,244 for a net profit of \$170,038. Mr. Duer stated that this is a bare-boned budget with no raises, building in the Park, no back hoe or any other extravagant items. He made note that he eliminated the salary in the Water Department.

PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT:

Mr. Duer explained to the Mayor and Council that they are in need of a newer back hoe or skid loader. He said that the back hoe that we have breaks down every time we use it and is very expensive to repair. Mr. Johnson stated that they need a reliable back hoe and Mr. Dukes noted that it will cost approximately \$6,000 to get our back hoe in good working condition. He said that he has found a used skid loader for \$26,500.

ZONING – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes stated that Dollar Tree is moving forward through VDOT and the Health Department. The Planning Commission will meet March 16th at 7:00pm to discuss the Comprehensive Plan. Our attorney is working to have four lots cleaned up. The lots are on Jefferson Street, Virginia Avenue, Monroe Street and Willis Wharf Road.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. JOHNSON:

Mr. Johnson reported 52 service calls that consisted of 2 pressure tests, 12 turn-offs, 3 water main breaks, 2 sewer calls, 3 re-reads, 7 Miss Utility Calls, 12 emergency calls and 11 turn-ons. Furniture and appliance pick up will be on March 12th and brush and limb pick up will be on March 19th. Trash remains at 18,000 to 20,000 pounds per month and they read 720 water meters.

POLICE REPORT-CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino noted that ticket numbers are down due to the bad weather in February. He reported that there was a murder in the New Road area and also a breaking & entering home invasion last month. Due to Cpl. Marshall's quick response he was able to make an arrest in the breaking & entering home invasion. Chief DiMartino noted that the murder is still under investigation. The fines for March will be \$49,459. He explained that their court dates in February were cancelled due to the weather but they were rescheduled for March which gives them two court dates for March. With all the snow and icy roads the Police Department had no injuries or damaged vehicles. Chief DiMartino stated there were three reportable crashes in February on the highway and a structure fire on the corner of Benjamin Banneker and Jane Pittman Streets.

UTILITY REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that we normally pump approximately 3 million gallons of water each month but in February we pumped over 6 million gallons. He said that it was due largely to multiple leaks throughout Town that resulted from frozen water lines. We hope to soon have a cost for lining some of the 4" water lines so that it will not happen as often in the future.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Donald E. Kellam, Jr. asked if the contractor who will be working on the well project is bonded and if Draper Aden will be inspecting the work as it is being done. Mr. Dukes said that all those who submitted bids for the well project had to show proof of a surety bond and that Draper Aden will be inspecting the work as it is being done.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS & CLOSINGS:

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING – MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015 @ 7:00pm

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015 @7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Douglas Greer, Mayor

Ethel Parks, Town Clerk