

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
NOVEMBER 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 November, 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, Sgt Campbell, 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:

The Invocation was given by Mayor Greer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 5, 2015: Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting of October 5, 2015 as presented. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Roy Ballard said the Exmore Yard Sale was a big success as well as the Car Show. He addressed the Mayor and Council about the Train Museum. Mr. Ballard asked them if they and the citizens want the Train Museum in Exmore. He noted that it has been here since 1994 and volunteers are needed to help keep it going. Mayor Greer told him that the Town does want the Train Museum and that we need someone to bring in a business plan and form a group of volunteers to keep it running. Councilman Doughty thanked Mr. Ballard for putting together such a nice Car Show.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer reported that we are operating with a full staff and doing very well. New Ravenna designed a tree ornament for Exmore to display on the Governor's Christmas tree. He noted that Exmore is the first Town on the Eastern Shore to ever display a tree ornament at the Governor's Mansion.

The Car Show, on the 17th, was a success as well as the Oyster Roast on the 23rd. Mr. Duer noted that someone has been filling the Park bathroom sinks with sand and the situation is being monitored. The bathrooms will be closed on November 16th for the winter.

Mr. Duer stated that there is a Public Hearing at Northampton County tonight on zoning issues. He said that the proposed zoning issues for Exmore should be reasonable. If it stays as it is now, Northampton County can support 91 chicken houses with a 500' setback around our Town Edge.

Tax bills are out and payments are coming in. The Santa Train is coming on December 5th and the Christmas Parade is on December 12th.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer explained that the penalties over 90 days old belong to three to five accounts and are mostly uncollectable. He noted that they we are doing very well at collecting charges or turning off those who do not pay. We have already collected over \$28,000 in taxes for this year. Our gross profit for October was \$230,410.78 and gross profit year-to-date is \$739,316.88.

OLD BUSINESS:

VOTE ON ORDINANCE NO. 200:

Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to amend Ordinance No. 200, Section 4 and Section 5. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON WATER & SEWER PROJECT – MR. DUER & MR. DUKES:

Mr. Duer noted that the scheduled date of May 2017 for the new wells to go on line is a reasonable date. He said that Draper Aden has written a letter to VDH to help us secure a loan to assist with the two new wells and upgrade our wastewater system. In order to meet their requirements, we will have to increase our water and sewer rates to customers.

Mr. Dukes stated that they have resolved Ms. McCleary's problems for now. He noted that Mr. Nelson was here from Fluidyne and found issues with the Wastewater Plant that need to be changed. Mr. Nelson made some changes and the plant is running smoother. Mr. Dukes said that he is waiting to hear from Mr. Nelson regarding other changes to be made.

UPDATE ON TOWN PARK – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer said there is nothing to report on the Park, but has received several compliments on the parking lot.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 162 TO INCLUDE TRAILERS, CAMPERS, BOATS, MOTORCYCLES, ETC:

Mr. Dukes stated that unlicensed vehicles in Town have become more of a problem than before. In the past owners were asked to purchase a \$50.00 decal for the unlicensed vehicle but they were not charged personal property tax on it because it was not registered. After some discussion it was the general consensus of the Council to revisit and rewrite the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to unlicensed vehicles.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino reported that the officers are doing well. Officer Rippon has been out due to the loss of his father. He said that he has been promised that the cars will be here on November 11th. There were no problems on Halloween and they passed out 300 glow bracelets to the kids. Chief DiMartino noted that the projected fines for October are \$43,000 and we will receive that in December. He said that the Circuit Court is holding approximately \$85,000 in fines that belong to Exmore. He noted that the Supreme Court is talking about changing the way the fines are handled back to the way it use to be. If they do, we will receive the fines at the beginning of the following month instead of two months later.

UTILITY REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes stated that we pumped 3.6 million gallons of water last month. He said that they are continuing to change out water meters and the readings are much more accurate. The well project is moving forward. He noted that the internet antennae have been installed on the water tower and the service should be available soon.

ZONING – MR.DUKES:

Previously discussed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. JOHNSON:

Mr. Johnson noted that his two new employees are working out very well. He reported 60 service calls last month with 18 turn-offs, 17 turn-ons, 2 leaks, 3 sewer calls, 4 re-reads, 14 Miss Utility calls and 1 pressure test. With the transition of training the new employees, they only flushed the hydrants on the end of Town. Brush and limbs were picked up on October 15th and furniture and appliances were picked up on October 8th. They read 718 water meters and installed 25 more new meters, which makes a total of 205 new meters installed.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Donald E. Kellam, Jr. mentioned that Royal Farms has been wanting to hook up to the Town sewer system. He said that he has heard that the old Burger King property has been sold. Mr. Duer said that it has been sold and the soil has been tested and he has heard a retail store may be built on the property.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS & CLOSINGS:

PLANNING COMMISSION WORK SESSION – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015 @ 7:00pm
TOWN OFFICE CLOSED – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2015 (VETERAN’S DAY)
THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26 & 27, 2015
(THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, DECEMBER, 7, 2015 @ 7:00pm
TOWN OFFICE CLOSED – THURSDAY, FRIDAY, MONDAY – DECEMBER 24, 25, 28
(CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY)

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Adkins 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