

TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 7, 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 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 – PUBLIC HEARING NOVEMBER 2, 2015:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing of November 2, 2015 as presented. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 2, 2015:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the regular Council meeting of November 2, 2015 as presented. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Ken Dufty thanked Mr. Johnson for keeping our Town looking good and keeping our water going, Chief DiMartino for keeping our Town safe and Mr. Dukes for reaching out to businesses. He thanked Mr. Duer for his financial management and respectability and Mrs. Parks and staff for holding things together. Mr. Dufty reported that there will be a new clothing store in the mall to open soon, an antique store has opened on Main Street and Ms. Kafigian's Art Gallery should open by early spring. Mr. Dufty recommended that they hire a part-time business liaison to help promote businesses in Exmore. Councilman Adkins thanked Mr. Dufty for staying with the County zoning and keeping the Town informed.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer noted that Dollar General has a contract on the old Burger King property and will possibly be relocating their store at that site. He said that there are rumors about a Tractor Supply Store coming to Exmore. Mr. Dukes has been working with them to help bring them here. The new Dollar Tree is doing very well.

Mr. Duer asked the Mayor and Council to set a date for the Home and Business Holiday Decorating Contest. They agreed on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> between 6:00-8:00pm.

Mr. Duer reported that we have had a change of engineers on the new well project. He said that the new engineer should be here Monday.

**VDOT RESPONSE LETTER:**

Mr. Duer noted that VDOT has given a response to our questions about the speed study.

**OFFICE OF DRINKING WATER LETTER:**

Mr. Duer stated that the water project is costing us \$1.3 million. The good news is, it consists of a loan for \$813,000 at 2.5% interest and the \$550,000 balance is a grant.

**FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:**

Mr. Duer reported that we will most likely have to write-off a portion of the balance from the 30-60-90 day report on the water and sewer accounts. He said that we are working with the past due accounts. Current assets as of December 1 are \$1,473,112. E-ticket money came in December instead of November. Taxes collected in November were \$65,000. Gross profit year-to-date is \$968,782. Mr. Duer commented on large expenditures coming up in the near future, one being the new police car and another will be the building at the Park in March.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**UPDATE ON SEWER PROJECT – MR. DUKES:**

Mr. Dukes noted that the sewer plant is running much better after the factory reset was done.

**UPDATE ON WELL PROJECT – MR. DUER & MR. DUKES:**

Mr. Dukes and Mr. Duer explained that the work completed so far on the new well project in November totaled \$27,685. Mr. Dukes noted that the structural design and Electrical/HVAC design should be ready this spring. Southern Corrosion was here today for the Tower and well inspection.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**REQUEST FOR EMPLOYEE RAISES TOTALING \$13,200 PLUS BENEFIT COSTS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016 – MR. DUER:**

Mr. Duer noted that no cost of living increases were given last year. He asked employees to step up and make Exmore better. He stated that he feels all departments have done that. The Public Works, Water and Sewer departments have moved forward, we have the best Police Department on the Eastern Shore and the improvements at the front desks are overwhelming. Mr. Duer explained that the raises would vary from 1% to 3% to come as close to \$13,200 as possible. Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to approve the employee raises. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.

**POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:**

Chief DiMartino noted that the officers are doing well. The court continues to hold back one month on the fines plus 5% interest. The e-ticket funds for December will be sent in January. He explained that the County Treasurer has not been given the formula for dividing the state e-ticket funds as yet. Chief DiMartino stated that he will order the computers for the cars next month. There were 3 reportable crashes but the State Police handled one for us.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. JOHNSON:**

Mr. Johnson stated that the two new Public Works employees are working out very well. He reported 59 calls for November which include 20 turn-offs, 1 leak, 4 sewer calls, 2 re-reads, 12 Miss Utility calls, 18 turn-ons and 2 pressure tests. Mr. Johnson noted that they have been rotating between the fire hydrants and the blow-offs and last month they did the blow-offs on the 24<sup>th</sup>. They picked up brush and limbs on the 19<sup>th</sup> and furniture and appliances were picked up on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Trash is averaging between 18,000 and 20,000 pounds each month. They read 720 water meters and installed 30 additional new meters, which brings the total of new meters installed to 235.

**UTILITY REPORT – MR. DUKES:**

Mr. Dukes reported that we pumped 3.5 million gallons of water in November, which brings the year-to-date to 30 million gallons. He noted that they hooked up one failing sewer to the sewer system.

ZONING – MR.DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that the Planning Commission met to discuss changes to the zoning ordinance. He said that once the changes have been made, the ordinance will be presented to our attorney for review.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Donald E. Kellam, Jr. said that the County is required by law to give an accounting of the fines collected. He commended the Mayor, Council, Mr. Duer and all employees for a great job of turning the Town around from where we were.

Councilman Metz asked about the status of the audit. Mr. Duer noted that we have a call in to Mr. Leatherbury for assistance.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS & CLOSINGS:

CHRISTMAS PARADE – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2015 @6pm (RAIN DATE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 @5pm) (SPONSORED BY THE COMMUNITY FIRE COMPANY)

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED:

THURSDAY, FRIDAY & MONDAY-DECEMBER 24, 25 & 28 (CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2016

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016 @ 7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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Douglas Greer, Mayor

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Ethel Parks, Town Clerk