

TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2016  
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 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016, 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 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 DECEMBER 7, 2015:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the regular Council meeting of  
December 7, 2015 as presented. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed  
unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Gerald Parks stated that he has opened the antique shop on Main Street. He said that he believes  
business will be good.

Ken Dufty thanked the Town employees. He commented about how nice the Town looks. The survey  
of local businesses is going out next week and hopes to hold a Business Association meeting by the  
end of this month. Dollar Tree's business has picked up tremendously since opening the new store on  
the highway.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer announced the winners in the Holiday Home Decorating Contest. First place went to Greg  
and Sheila DeYoung, second place went to Gerald and Carolyn Bono, third place went to Timmy and  
Terri Tilghman and overall business winner was A & N Title & Settlement.

The new engineers who are working on the well project seem to think they can beat the May 2017  
deadline.

We moved \$100,000 from the General Fund checking account to the Money Market account.

The two new police cars have arrived. One is a replacement and is financed through USDA and we  
paid for the other one. Mr. Duer noted that he should have a preliminary budget ready for the February  
meeting. He said that he will include a police car to replace one of the older ones. He noted that we  
met with Peggy Jordan from the USDA last week and she informed him that now would be the time to  
apply for a loan to expand our sewer system.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Mr. Duer reported that we have collected approximately 80% of 2015 taxes. Our current assets are at \$1,518,760. Our gross profit for the month of December was \$198,145 with a net income of \$49,922.71. He noted that our gross profit for the year is \$1,167,155. He explained that the profit and loss previous year comparison report denotes that we have spent approximately \$95,700 more this year to date, which includes paying cash for a police car and the new well project. Mr. Duer stated that we are doing fine with the budget and are in good financial shape.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

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

Mr. Dukes reported that Draper Aden & Associates are finalizing the P.E.R. He noted that they are making some changes that he feels are in the best interest of the Town. They hope to have it to USDA Rural Development by mid February. Mr. Dukes said that the cost will be approximately \$60,000 and will be reimbursed at 50% by USDA.

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

Mr. Dukes noted that 75% of the design of the treatment center is complete. He said that he is working with Draper Aden to find a feasible solution to take care of the back wash of the filters.

**CLOSED SESSION – DISCUSSION OF REAL PROPERTY:**

Councilman Heaster: “I move that the Council convene in closed session pursuant to Virginia Section §2.2-3711 (A)(3), to discuss and consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.” The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis. The Motion was passed by the roll call vote of Councilman Sturgis-Aye; Councilman Doughty-Aye; Councilman Heaster-Aye; Councilman Metz-Aye; Vice-Mayor Lewis-Aye, with Councilman Adkins being absent. The Mayor, Council, Mr. Duer and Mrs. Parks convened to Closed Session.

**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION:**

Vice-Mayor Lewis read the “Certification of Closed Meeting” as follows:

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Exmore has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of Section §2.2-3712(D) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section §2.2-3712(D) of the *Code of Virginia* requires a certification by this Council that such a closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Town of Exmore hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully EXEMPTED FROM OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS BY Virginia law were discussed and (ii) only such business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered.

The “Certification of Closed Meeting” was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was approved by the roll call vote of Councilman Sturgis-Aye; Councilman Doughty-Aye; Councilman Heaster-Aye; Councilman Metz-Aye; Vice-Mayor Lewis-Aye, with Councilman Adkins being absent.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**DISCUSSION OF PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE:**

Mr. Duer stated that the discussion in the Closed Session was for the purchase of the lot north of the water tower for expansion of utility services. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to purchase the lot north of the water tower for the assessed value. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION OF A BPOL REDUCTION FOR NEW BUSINESSES:**

Mr. Duer asked the Mayor and Council to consider forgiving the BPOL tax for the first two years for new businesses and reducing the tax for all businesses. He said that this may help save existing businesses in Town and bring others in. Councilman Sturgis asked Mr. Duer to research other towns and see what their BPOL tax rate is.

**DISCUSSION OF FURNITURE AND APPLIANCE PICK UP:**

Mr. Duer noted that there is an enormous amount of furniture and appliances to be picked up every month and a majority of it is transient. He said that for the safety of the Public Works men, he feels we need to stop the furniture and appliance pick up. Northampton County's Convenience Centers are available to all county residents. Mr. Duer asked the Mayor and Council to give this matter their consideration until next month.

**POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:**

Chief DiMartino noted that the officers are doing very well. Both new cars have arrived and are currently being equipped. He said that the white Impala will be stripped and sold next month. The fines are on schedule other than the County holding back a month. E-ticket funds are coming in and we have collected \$16,788 to date. Calls for service were up in December. Chief DiMartino stated that due to the number of accidents at the Exxon light, he has talked to VDOT about installing a strobe light at the stop light. He said that they make drivers more aware of the intersection and hopefully will cut down on accidents. Mr. Duer asked the Council to extend the 48-Hour Program through the winter. He noted that the officers wrote 22 reckless driving tickets last month. The Council agreed to cut the program in half to a 24-Hour Program through the winter.

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

Mr. Johnson reported 38 service calls for December. There were 15 turn-offs and 12 turn-ons, 2 leaks, 3 sewer calls, 1 re-read, 3 Miss Utility calls and 1 pressure test. He stated that they are flushing the hydrants only at the end of the lines during the winter. They picked up furniture and appliances on December 10<sup>th</sup> and brush and limbs on December 17<sup>th</sup>. They are averaging 18,000 to 20,000 pounds of trash each month. Mr. Johnson noted that they read 717 water meters. They installed 52 more new meters which totals 287 new water meters installed.

**UTILITY REPORT – MR. DUKES:**

Mr. Dukes stated that we pumped 3.3 million gallons of water in December which brings it to 32.7 million gallons of water pumped for the year. He said this has been a good year for the water plant. Mr. Dukes noted that the sewer plant is still having issues, mostly due to the changes in the weather.

**ZONING – MR. DUKES:**

Mr. Dukes informed the Mayor and Council that Tractor Supply Company and Dollar General Stores have submitted pre-zoning requests. He said that he has seen site plans for Tractor Supply and has talked to the landscaper for Dollar General.

He said that he is working with some property owners to get their yards cleaned up. The zoning ordinance is currently being typed for review by the Planning Commission.

**CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):**

Mr. Savage asked if there has been any progress with the old Sage Restaurant. Mr. Duer said that the owners have moved to Maryland but he believes there is someone interested in the property.

**SCHEDULED MEETINGS & CLOSINGS:**

**TOWN OFFICE CLOSED – MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2016 (MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY)**

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016 @ 7:00pm**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to adjourn. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster. 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