

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
JULY 11, 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 11th day of July, 2016, 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-Absent
Councilman Chase Sturgis-Present

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Duer, Ethel Parks, Chief DiMartino, Sgt. Zieger, Sgt. Campbell, Officer Brady, Taylor Dukes, Mike Johnson

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 – JUNE 6, 2016:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the regular Council meeting of June 6, 2016 as presented. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION – JUNE 13, 2016

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the Town Council Work Session of June 13, 2016 as presented. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Duer noted that he would like to amend the agenda in Old Business to add H - Tourism Grant Update, add Draper Aden Contract during the Sewer Project and Water Project Updates and Gerald Boyd and Sgt. Campbell will be speaking before the Citizen Comments. Vice-Mayor Lewis made the Motion to amend the agenda. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Boyd noted that there will be an event in the Park on August 20, 2016 from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm in an effort to help educate and encourage parents and students on the importance of following school policies and staying in school. They will also be giving away bags filled with school supplies. He asked the Mayor and Council for their support by signing and reading a proclamation of support to those who attend.

Sgt. Campbell informed the Mayor and Council that on August 2, 2016 the Exmore Police Department will be holding a National Night Out Party at the Park. There will be a DJ, bounce houses and food trucks. Northampton County Sheriff's office will be there with the Ident-A-Kid child safety program along with McGruff the Crime Dog.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Linda Spence spoke about the need for changes at the traffic lights on Route 13. She suggested to install rumble strips to make drivers aware of an upcoming traffic light. Chief DiMartino told her that they are working closely with VDOT to come up with a viable solution. He assured her that they will not stop until the issue is resolved.

Ken Dufty thanked the Mayor and Council for bringing Clarice MacGarvey on board to help with marketing and promoting Exmore businesses.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – ROBERT G. DUER:

Mr. Duer stated that we received the 2013-2014 audit today. He said there are no problems with the audit. The new Police car has arrived and is paid for, the building at the Park is moving forward and the Town's presence on the web is increasing. We are now scanning most documents to be stored electronically. The Broadband Authority has agreed to provide free wi-fi at the Park for our citizens. Mr. Duer noted that he is working with ESO to have them remove their sign, and ours will be going up within the next ten days. He thanked Taylor Dukes for speaking at the Exmore Rotary Club meeting. He also thanked the Public Works Department for the wonderful appearance of our Town. Mr. Duer noted that there has been more interest in the lot on the corner of Washington and Lee Streets. He asked the Mayor and Council if they are interested in advertising again. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to advertise the lot again. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Doughty and was passed unanimously. Mr. Duer said that he, Mayor Greer and Mr. Dukes will be meeting with Draper Aden, the Health Department, a representative for Congressman Rigell, Senator Kaine, Rural Development and our two state representatives on July 21 to ask for help with our sewer project. Following that there will be a sewer information session here at 6:30 pm hosted by Draper Aden.

FINANCIAL REPORT – ROBERT G. DUER:

Mr. Duer reported our cash position at the end of June was \$4,300,000. Total income for June was \$156,630 and total expense was \$169,674 for a net loss of \$1304, which was due to the purchase of new meters, the new public works truck, land purchase and other large expenses. Income for the year was \$2,278,118 expense was \$1,924,397 for a net income of \$373,721.

Mr. Duer noted that the VRA loan payoff is approximately \$74,000 which we may want to pay off before we start a loan for the new wells.

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 202 – LARGE TRASH REMOVAL:

Previous discussion about ending the furniture and appliance pick up led Vice-mayor Lewis to make the Motion to end it. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously. Mr. Duer noted that the furniture and appliance pick up would end when the notice goes out to residents in the water bills.

ABANDONED VEHICLED ORDINANCE:

Mr. Duer stated that they could address the Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance in August.

UPDATE ON SEWER PROJECT:

Mr. Dukes reported that he met with Draper Aden two weeks ago and toured other sewer plants. He noted that Rural Development will be the funding agency for our new sewer plant.

UPDATE ON WELL PROJECT:

Mr. Dukes stated that he is waiting for approval of the design of the new wells from the Office of Drinking and then we can go to the bidding process.

Mr. Duer stated that the two contracts from Draper Aden are for their assistance in the operations of the sewer plant, to meet with public officials to give them an overview of the need for the sewer project and to meet with citizens. The two contracts are not to exceed \$18,000. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to give Mr. Duer the authority to sign the contracts, not to exceed \$18,000. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

WATER/SEWER RESPONSIBILITY:

Mr. Duer noted that we have previously discussed moving the water, sewer and trash charges to the landlords. He said that Rural Development strongly recommends this. The Council was in agreement and Mr. Duer said he would have it ready to become effective in January.

DISCUSSION OF RENTAL HOUSING GUIDELINES AND INSPECTIONS:

Mr. Duer said that addressing the problem of delinquent housing can be done through the state code. He said that inspections need to be performed every four years. He noted that he would continue to work on it.

MEDIA PRESENCE PROGRAM & PERSONNEL:

Mr. Duer stated that Ms. MacGarvey has been working hard to promote Exmore and we are being noticed on social media. He said that she is working closely with local businesses.

TOURISM GRANT:

Mr. Duer stated that we have asked for \$5,000 from the County for tourism and they awarded us \$2,000. He noted that they are asking for a percentage of our Transient Occupancy tax in return. After some discussion, Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to sign the contract and donate \$2,500 to the County from our Transient Occupancy Tax. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Doughty. The Motion was passed by a majority vote of 4-1 with Councilman Metz being absent and Councilman Adkins in opposition.

NEW BUSINESS:

CIGARETTE TAX:

Mr. Duer informed the Mayor and Council that the Town of Eastville currently charges a \$.30 per pack tax with other localities charging as much as \$2.00 per pack. After brief discussion, the Council agreed to move forward with the cigarette tax.

ZONING – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes reported that the Planning Commission met on June 20, 2016 with only one member of the public present. He said that the only concern was the concealment of construction yards and junk cars. He noted that he is seeking advice from the Town Attorney.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino reported that the officers are all doing well. He noted that there were 2 reportable crashes in June. They are working with Northampton County Sheriff's Office to have a plan in place for the possibility of future incidents or events such as protests or groups blocking the roadways. He said that the department has reviewed the Use of Force and Driving policies. Police fines and e-summons collections are on track. Chief DiMartino stated that Sgt. Campbell was on duty at the time of the shooting on the first of the month but all officers were called in. The three shooting victims in Exmore are recovering and the other occurred outside Town limits. Mayor Greer has spoken with Chief DiMartino about obtaining the necessary protective gear for all the officers.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Mr. Johnson reported 41 service calls which include 11 turn-offs, 2 water leaks, 5 re-reads, 7 Miss Utility calls, 2 emergency calls, 11 turn-ons and 3 pressure tests. Fire hydrants were flushed on June 9th, brush and limbs were picked up on June 9th, furniture and appliances were picked up on June 16th. Trash is averaging 20,000 to 22,000 lbs per week. They read 714 water meters and installed an additional 35 new water meters bringing the total of new meters to 463.

UTILITY REPORT:

Mr. Dukes noted that we pumped 3.6 million gallons of water in June which brings our year-to-date total to 20 million gallons.

There has been no news from Tractor Supply and the County is holding up Dollar General.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Sgt. Campbell said that there is a need for food trucks at the National Night Out at the Park.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND CLOSINGS:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2016 @ 7pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Adkins made the Motion to adjourn the meeting. 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