

TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING  
FEBRUARY 6, 2023  
7:00 PM

**At the 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023 at 7:00 pm.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

- Mayor Douglas Greer-Present
- Vice-Mayor Thomas Lewis-Present
- Councilman G. W. Adkins-Present
- Councilman Bradley Doughty-Absent
- Councilman Bryon Heaster-Present
- Councilman John Metz-Absent
- Councilman Chase Sturgis-Present

**STAFF ATTENDANCE:**

Robert Duer, Ethel Parks, Taylor Dukes, Chief DiMartino, Office Little.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Town Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Greer.

**PLEDGE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the majority in attendance.

**INVOCATION:**

The Invocation was given by Mayor Greer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

— **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 9, 2023:**

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2023 regular Town Council meeting with one correction. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously with Councilmen Doughty and Metz being absent and Vice-Mayor Lewis abstaining.

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

None.

**TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT – MR. DUER:**

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

**JOSHUA KILLMON – 3 YEARS - FEBRUARY 20<sup>th</sup>:**

Mr. Duer announced Joshua Killmon is coming up on 3 years with the Town on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Personal property tax collection remains a problem. Reminder letters for personal property and real estate taxes have been mailed.

Mr. Duer explained that Ordinance No. 199 needs to be amended to add section P, which addresses vehicle radios. Chief DiMartino remarked that they have had several complaints about the loud music, bass etc. from vehicles. He said that the added section addresses excessive noise coming from vehicles at any time of the day or night. If it can be heard from 100 feet away, they will have to turn it down. After brief discussion, the Council authorized Mr. Duer to move forward with amending the Ordinance.

- Atlantic Union bank no longer offers free checking. Mr. Duer stated that we met with Scott Schrieber regarding the miscellaneous fees every month. Mr. Schrieber noted that he feels the best solution for the added fees would be to open a Sweep Account with Atlantic bank. The account must hold a \$500,000 balance and the interest from the Sweep Account would more than offset the miscellaneous fees charged to the operating account. The Mayor and Council were in agreement to move forward with opening a Sweep Account at Atlantic Union bank.

Shore Little League will hold their annual oyster roast on March 11, 2023 at the Park. The Town Council work session is scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2023, at 7:00 pm. He said that a draft budget will be available for review before the work session.

Clarice MacGarvey explained that the State Tourism Corporation now requires Towns to be a Destination Marketing Organization to be eligible to apply for and receive tourism grant funds.

**FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:**

**DECEMBER FINANCIALS:**

Income for the month of January was \$246,152 and expenses were \$154,076 for a net income of \$92,075.

**YTD FINANCIALS:**

Year-to-date income is \$2,230,020 and expenses are \$1,242,761 which gives us a year-to-date net income of \$1,077,259.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**DESTINATION MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION RESOLUTION:**

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt the Resolution making Exmore a Destination Marketing Organization. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously with Councilmen Doughty and Metz being absent.

**RAILS TO TRAILS SUPPORT LETTERS:**

Mr. Duer noted that since he has a consensus of the Council he will send a letter of support for the Rails to Trails project.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**2024 BUDGET:**

Mr. Duer noted that the draft budget is in balance, and they will discuss it further during the work session next week.

**WORK SESSION MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023 @7:00 pm:**

Discussion of the 2024 budget.

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

Mr. Duer said that we have received a letter from USDA authorizing the Town to move forward with the bidding process. Mr. Dukes noted that advertising will be in the Virginia Pilot newspaper and the Eastern Shore Post. The pre-bid meeting will be on February 23, 2023 and bid opening will be March 15, 2023.

Mr. Duer explained that the employee handbook needs to be adopted. He said that there are no changes from last year. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt the employee handbook for 2023, with no changes to the previous version, effective February 1, 2023. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously with Councilmen Doughty and Metz being absent.

**POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:**

Chief DiMartino reported that all the officers are doing well and staying busy. He said there was only one reportable crash last month. Mr. Duer noted that Exmore has the most stable police department on the Shore. He credited Chief DiMartino for a remarkable job with the department and the officers.

**PUBLIC WORKS/ WATER/SEWER REPORT – MR. DUKES:**

No report.

**ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:**

Mr. Dukes noted that he, Chief DiMartino and Officer Little have been looking into an ordinance for dangerous structures. He said that Northampton County's building inspector, Mr. Outten, suggested that they use the State Code that addresses dangerous and derelict structures to help clean up the blighted areas in town. He remarked that he wants to have the ordinance ready for next month's meeting.

Mr. Dukes stated that they continue to work with the DEQ to find funds to re-write the Zoning Ordinance and Comp Plan that includes the Chesapeake Bay Act.

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

None.

**ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION:**

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to:

**Conduct Closed Session in accordance with section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended:**

**(B) Paragraph 3: Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property.**

The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously with Councilmen Doughty and Metz being absent.

— **CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION:**

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to certify the Closed Session. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed by the roll call vote of Mayor Greer-Aye; Councilman Adkins-Aye; Councilman Heaster-Aye; Councilman Sturgis-Aye; Vice-Mayor Lewis-Aye; Councilmen Doughty and Metz-Absent.

**SCHEDULED MEETINGS AND CLOSINGS:**

**TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSESSION – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023 @ 7:00 pm**

**TOWN OFFICE CLOSED – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023 – PRESIDENT’S DAY**

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023 @ 7:00 pm**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Adkins made the Motion to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster. The Motion was passed unanimously with Councilmen Doughty and Metz being absent, and the meeting was adjourned.

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Douglas Greer, Mayor

  
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Ethel Parks, Town Clerk