

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2024
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 7th day of October 2024 at 7:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Douglas Greer-Present
Vice-Mayor Thomas Lewis-Present
Councilman G. W. Adkins-Present
Councilman Bryon Heaster-Present
Councilman John Metz-Present
Councilman Chase Sturgis-Present
7th Member Seat – Vacant

STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Robert Duer, Pam Ward, Ethel Parks, Taylor Dukes, Chief DiMartino, Sgt. Hinman.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Greer established a quorum and called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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 – SEPTEMBER 9, 2024:

Councilman Adkins made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the September 9, 2024, regular Town Council meeting as presented. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to amend the agenda for speakers from Great Power. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.

SPEAKERS: Attorney Stephen Romaine and Evan Bierman (President of Great Power North American Operations) discussed the financial benefits and safety for the town if given the special use permit.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER: Mr. Duer noted that there are 2 anniversaries this month: Duke Davis, 1 year and Jonathan Gonzalez, 7 years.

We have a lot of events coming up. There is the Oyster Roast this week, Car Show next week, and Halloween. In December we have the Old-Fashioned Christmas and the Holiday Parade on the 14th.

There has been one resignation, and interviews started today by Taylor Dukes, Caleb Shrieves and Pam Ward.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS:

Income for the month of September was \$227,558 and expenses were \$289,671. The net income for September was \$517,230.

YTD FINANCIALS:

The year-to-date income is \$531,120 and the credits over expenses are \$522,640. The year-to-date net income is \$1,281,322. However, we didn't pay Kevcor last month (\$1,000,000) so we are about \$150,000 ahead for the year.

NEW BUSINESS:

KEVCOR AUGUST BILL FOR SEWER PROJECT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that the total due for pay app 14 is \$909,302.03. He said that he knows there are concerns about running out of funds for the project. Ms. Stephens had a conversation with DEQ and USDA about grant funds. DEQ doesn't want us to borrow money until grants are used. We currently have approximately \$2,000,000 USDA grant money still available. Originally, there were 713 Simplex Pumps scheduled and now it is 743, 32 Duplex Pumps are now at 5, and 4 Quad Pumps have gone down to 1. Councilman Sturgis brought up concern about changes not being changed in value. Mr. Dukes offered to set up a meeting with Kevcor. The council agreed to a meeting with Kevcor. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to accept pay app no. 14. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS: EXPENDITURES AND APPROPRIATIONS – MR. DUER:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to accept the budget amendment expenses for September which include John Maynard, salaries, James Cornwell, and Sands Anderson. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously. Income includes payments from DEQ, USDA and DHCD. Salaries and John Maynard were paid from the ARPA funds. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to accept payment of salaries and John Maynard from the ARPA funds. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Lewis and was passed unanimously. Councilman Sturgis made a motion to accept income from USDA. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously. There was an error in Salary income from ARPA. It should have been \$5498.42. Councilman Sturgis made a motion to accept income from ARPA for salaries. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE UPGRADE – MR. DUER:

Mrs. Ward informed the council that all items have been entered into new software program and hope to go live once training has been commenced and completed.

PROBLEMATIC SEWER CONNECTS – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes said the contract has been signed by Mr. Duer and the contractor within budget for the fifteen problematic connections.

BELLE HAVEN SEWER EXPANSION, EASEMENTS, ETC – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes said that he is still waiting to hear from the engineers about the cost and other requirements needed to connect the 7 homes in Belle Haven.

SEWER ORDINANCE – HRSD'S GREASE PROTOCOLS:

Mr. Dukes met with a HRSD approved company that stated we need grease interceptors, and they are being sized for those who cook with a lot of grease. Mr. Duer reported one pump failure due to grease. The landlord has been billed \$2634. We are working with New Ravenna to find a way to de-water the sludge and recycle the water at their expense.

PUD ORDINANCE:

Mr. Dukes explained that the Planned Unit Development (PUD) ordinance needs to have a public hearing with the planning commission and the town council. He asked that a joint meeting be scheduled at the next Town Council meeting on November 4th.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino noted that all officers are doing well. There were three reportable crashes in September. One was a sideswipe on Main Street. Another was a DUI hitting a hydrant on Willis Wharf Road. We had to pay for the hydrant to be repaired. \$12,500 was the second payment for the cameras, taking them to Royal Farms. Request for reimbursement of \$25,000 has been submitted and approved. There were two misdemeanor arrests. DMV Grant for 2025 started and we were able to get the mobile speed sign. Fall Festival went very well with the street shut down.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes noted that interviewing has commenced to fill the vacancy.

We have a problem with closing valves. There is a company that rents valve exerciser with a vac on it for \$6,000 a month. Mr. Dukes has asked the Council if we could rent it for a month and Council agreed.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT – MR. DUKES:

We are currently billing almost 500 pump stations. It was recommended by the pump supplier and Kevcor that we tie into the plaza's pump station and put 4 pumps in there to save us approximately \$150,000.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes stated the Planning Commission met on September 23rd to hear the Special Use Permit on the Battery Storage Facility. That request was denied. This will be heard on November 4th by Town Council for approval.

Mr. Dukes is working with a non-profit home builder to see if he can rebuild derelict houses.

Mr. Dukes met with the Railroad about their property in town. They are willing to sell the property to the Town or a Non-profit Foundation for Teacher Housing. We just need to get an appraisal and get back to them.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Brenda Bailey asked who the inspector for the sewer project. Mr. Dukes responded that Mr. Maynard is the town inspector.

Ken Dufty thanks the Town for a wonderful Fall Festival. Mr. Dufty expressed his opinions on the Battery Storage and Gentrification.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS & CLOSINGS:

ZONING PUBLIC HEARING – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024 @ 7:00 pm with

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

OFFICE CLOSED -MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024 -VETERAN'S DAY

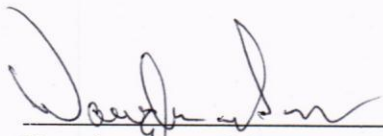
THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28 & 29, 2024

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

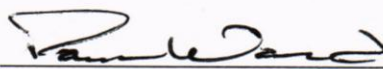
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Adkins made the Motion to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz and was passed unanimously.



Douglas Greer, Mayor



Pam Ward, Assistant Town Clerk