

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
AUGUST 7, 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 7th day of August 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-Present
Councilman Chase Sturgis-Present

STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Robert Duer, Ethel Parks, Taylor Dukes, Capt. Zieger.

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– JULY 3, 2023:

Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the July 3, 2023, regular Town Council meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously with Councilman Doughty being absent and Councilman Metz abstaining.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

Jake Charnock (Houston Ave) addressed the Mayor and Council regarding the proposed sewer easements. He said that he was concerned because the easement that he received shows the sewer line running through the center of his property, right next to his house. He asked why the sewer pumps were not being placed on the right-of-way next to the road and why are they not using a conventional gravity pump system. Mr. Duer remarked that after multiple P.E.R.'s and tens of thousands of dollars, this design is what the engineers recommended. Mr. Duer told Mr. Charnock that Mr. Dukes will address his concerns during the sewer report.

Yolanda Walker Edmonds (resident of New Road) stated that there used to be "Children at Play" signs throughout the New Road Community but are no longer there. She said that the community has a lot of children out playing and asks if they could possibly have new "Children at Play" signs installed. Mr. Duer assured her that if VDOT does not put the signs back, the Town will purchase some for their community.

— Ken Dufty thanked the Mayor, Council and all employees for all they do for the Town. He thanked them for retaining control over the infrastructure. He noted that he is happy about the Planning Commission and said that all members should have formal training. Mr. Dufty said that the new owners of the old telegraph office plan to sell gourmet foods there. Spring Custis has purchased the Antique Emporium, Mr. & Mrs. Marsh's daughter is opening a gift store, the Harpers at Shore Antiques continue to be open on weekends and Jennifer Sayers is opening 3280 Main Street for clothing and jewelry.

PRESENTATION:

Mr. Duer noted that Fred Walker from the New Road Community saw several children out playing in the neighborhood and noticed an overgrown area that posed a risk for the children with oncoming traffic. He took action and cleaned up the area. Mayor Greer read a proclamation awarded to Mr. Walker for his proactive measures. This proclamation designates August 11 as Fred Walker Day (attached).

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer said that there are 2 anniversaries this month - Officer Diaz, 3 years and Mrs. Parks, 22 years. The Fall Festival is scheduled for September 30th at the Parks and the CBES Bike Tour is scheduled at the end of October. Mr. Duer noted that we have lost 2 employees over the last month. We are advertising for a police officer and have a public works position to fill.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

JULY FINANCIALS:

Income for the month of was \$234,581 and expenses were \$104,259 for a net income of \$130,321.

Mr. Duer noted that he included the Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual for FYE23 for review.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION FOR SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL:

Northampton County is preparing to hold a celebration for their 250th anniversary. Any Town that wishes to participate in the festivities needs to adopt a resolution supporting the semi-quincentennial celebration. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt the Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Exmore Relating to the Support of the Virginia America 250 Commission Recital. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously with Councilman Doughty being absent.

COMMERCIAL SEWER RATE, HIGH STRENGTH OR UNUSUAL WASTE CHARGES AND RESIDENTIAL FLAT RATE:

Mr. Duer discussed a change in sewer rate schedules with the Mayor and Council. He proposed to follow HRSD’s rate schedule for the commercial and larger users and residential users, 5,000 gallons and under, would remain as it is. They also discussed a flat rate for single families who water gardens and such. This would be strictly for water usage not being discharged in the sewer system. Mr. Duer said that we will have to hold a public hearing and it must be held on the same day as it is advertised in the newspaper. He noted that the flat rate would be at his or Mr. Dukes discretion.

Mr. Duer noted that Councilman Adkins has been approached about having parking spaces painted on the west side of Main Street, specifically from the barber shop to Wild Roots. He said that he has spoken with VDOT and they require a resolution requesting them to paint the parking spaces. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to adopt a resolution requesting VDOT to paint the parking spaces. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously with Councilman Doughty being absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

FOOD TRUCK APPLICATION – UPDATE:

Mr. Duer stated that he has included a draft food truck application in the Council packet for review.

SEWER ORDINANCE UPDATE:

No report.

POLICE REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer explained that our Police Department currently uses the County’s VCIN system during traffic stops at no cost to the Town. He noted that Chief DiMartino and Sheriff Doughty have agreed to a Voluntary Commitment Agreement of \$1,000 per officer annually (\$7,000) to help offset the cost to the Sheriff’s Office. Mr. Duer said that it would be paid to the County from the e-summons budget. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt the Voluntary Commitment Agreement. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously with Councilman Doughty being absent.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. DUKES:

No report.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes announced that they will be breaking ground tomorrow on the new sewer system. Jake Charnock explained to Mr. Dukes that the easement to his property shows the sewer line coming within 5 feet of his house. He also asked why the grinder pumps would not be located in the right-of-way by the road. Mr. Dukes noted that the grinder pumps would be placed near the existing septic tank is. The grinder pump system is more economical for residents than the gravity system. He said that the proposed location of the boring for the sewer line can be moved a few feet.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

No report.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):


None.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED – MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2023 – LABOR DAY
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

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



Douglas Greer, Mayor



Ethel Parks, Town Clerk