

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020
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 14th day of September 2020, at 7:00 pm.

Attendance:

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-Present
Councilman Chase Sturgis-Present

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Robert Duer, Ethel Parks, Taylor Dukes, Chief DiMartino, Officer Gonzalez, Officer Eddie Diaz.

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 Councilman Greer.

Mr. Duer asked to have the agenda amended to include the Mutual Aid Agreement Resolution with Accomack under New Business. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to amend the agenda to include the Mutual Aid Agreement Resolution with Accomack County under New Business. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed unanimously.

Chief DiMartino introduced our newest police officer, Eddie Diaz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING – AUGUST 3, 2020:

Councilman Heaster made the Motion to approve the Minutes of the August 3, 2020 regular Town Council meeting and Public Hearing. The Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lewis and was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

None.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – MR. DUER:

Mr. Duer noted that Officer Chip Little has been back with the Town one year as of August 28th. Taylor Dukes will have 8 years on September 24th and Dontrell Lewis will have 2 years on the 29th.

Exmore businesses can now go to the County website to apply for the C.A.R.E. Act funds. Mr. Duer noted that the available funds for Exmore has doubled to approximately \$330,000. He said that there is a \$5,000 limit and 30 or less full-time employees.

There are 60 utility accounts that are seriously delinquent with no future date given that would allow us to ask for payments.

The well project is near completion. We have received the last payment from DHCD and we are due one more form VRA.

Accomack and Northampton Counties are petitioning the court to allow HRSD to provide services to the counties. Northampton's session is on October 2, 2020 at 2:00 pm. Mr. Duer recommended that one or more of the Council members attend the session.

There is a letter in the packet from Northampton County regarding a 1% consumer tax to help pay for a new school, specifically added to hotels and fast food. He said that the County wants to advertise on a billboard on Town property. A majority of the Council decided against allowing the County to advertise the tax on Town property.

Mr. Duer stated that the VML/VRSA Safety Grant paid for an AED for the office. We also purchased thermometers. Health insurance premiums will increase approximately 5% this year.

FINANCIAL REPORT – MR. DUER:

AUGUST SUMMARY:

Mr. Duer noted that the 30-60-90 day report reflects the amount of delinquent utilities that we cannot collect on or disconnect. Total income for August was \$141,613 and expenses were \$135,455 for a net income of \$6,158.

YTD SUMMARY:

Year-to-date income is \$276,861 and expenses are \$316,069 for a net loss of \$39,208.

Mr. Duer explained that we need to make a budget amendment due to the reimbursement from CDBG for \$18,892.57 that was not budgeted. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to accept the budget amendment for the reimbursement from CDBG. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Heaster and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Duer said that they would like to have a Halloween party in Town. He proposed closing the streets for a trunk-or-treat event in coordination with the church. He noted that we would take the necessary precautions to make sure the event is fun and safe for our citizens.

NEW BUSINESS:

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT RESOLUTION:

Chief DiMartino noted that our attorney and insurance company recommended that we update our Mutual Aid Agreement Resolution. He said that Accomack County has a different Sheriff and we should have his signature on the Resolution. Chief DiMartino read the Resolution. Councilman Sturgis made the Motion to adopt the Resolution as of today's date. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Adkins and was passed unanimously.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (COVID-19) PLAN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES:

Mr. Duer noted that we are required, by VOSHA, to have an Infectious Disease (COVID-19) Preparedness and Response Plan. He said that we have a plan ready, but it does not go into effect until September 25th. Mr. Duer stated that Mrs. Parks, as our HR representative will be our Health Administrator. He noted that the office doors will be locked, and anyone can call for an appointment or to come in to conduct business. Their temperature will be taken before they are allowed to enter the building. The Park bathrooms will be locked as well.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SEAT:

Mr. Duer noted that Exmore has a designated seat on the Industrial Development Authority and we need to appoint someone to fill that seat. Councilman Heaster made the Motion to join the Industrial Development Authority. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Sturgis and was passed by the roll call vote of: Councilman Sturgis-Aye; Councilman Adkins-Aye; Councilman Doughty-Aye; Councilman Heaster-Aye; Councilman Metz-Aye; Vice-Mayor Lewis-Aye; and Mayor Greer-Aye.

OLD BUSINESS:

UPDATE ON WELL PROJECT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes stated that he is waiting on the local Health Department for final approval of the well project.

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

UPDATE ON VDEQ LOAN:

Mr. Dukes noted that we applied for \$21,000,000 from the Economic Development Authority through the Hurricane Michael Disaster Fund. We were approved for \$5,000,000 provided we matched with \$800,000. The Council approved \$400,000 previously for this. He noted that we can use funds from the USDA and DEQ loans for the \$400,000 balance. Mr. Duer commended the A-NPDC for their assistance.

Mr. Dukes said that he visited Dorchester County, Maryland and consulted with them about their E-1 pumps and maintenance, sewer rates, user agreements and other aspects of their sewer system.

Mr. Duer gave several different scenarios of water and sewer usage and billing rates.

GRINDER PUMP AGREEMENT – DRAFT:

Mr. Duer said that there will be no action on this agreement tonight. It is for review only. Mr. Duer noted that any funding agency will require an agreement.

DISCUSSION OF P.E.R. OF JULY 23, 2020 FROM BOWMAN CONSULTING:

Mr. Dukes noted that if DEQ does not issue a permit for the Rib system, USDA will reimburse the Town up to \$10,000 to pay for engineering a disposal system.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIMARTINO:

Chief DiMartino noted that all officers are doing well and staying healthy. Officer Diaz will begin the academy next month. There was one reportable crash last month. Chief DiMartino urged everyone to be aware and mindful at the traffic lights. He said that they continue to work with residents who have properties that need to be cleaned up. Several have been served and one other has a court case coming up. Chief DiMartino stated that they have participated in two checking details. He said that the Click-It-Or-Ticket campaign is funded by the state and the revenue from the fines goes to the Literary Fund. He noted that there has been one unbuckled fatality this year and stressed the importance of wearing seatbelts. Chief DiMartino commended Officer Gonzalez on how well and professional he handled a situation with an ECO subject.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes stated that trash is on a steady incline. We may need to address the situation more closely in the near future.

WATER AND SEWER REPORT – MR. DUKES:

He said that the Public Works crew are doing well with water leaks. Mr. Joshua Killmon has been helping Mr. George Duer with sewer calls.

ZONING REPORT – MR. DUKES:

Mr. Dukes reported that Ava Wise is in the process of redeveloping a portion of the New Road Community. Her plans are to either remodel or build 5 houses.

CITIZEN COMMENT (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER):

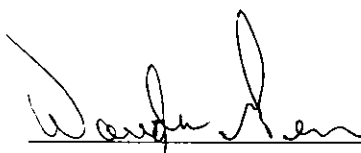
None.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

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



Douglas Greer, Mayor



Ethel Parks, Town Clerk