

# Town Council Meeting

September 12, 2022

The Town Council held its monthly meeting on Monday, September 12, 2022, in the council room of the Town Hall. Those joining the assembly were: Brian Laine, Mayor; Oscar E. Parker, III, Council President; Michael Kessinger, Dennis Mason, Darlene Whiting, Brian Wills, H Lane Chambers, Council Members; Pat Bowden, Fire Chief; Robyn Croft, Treasurer; Bonita Meyers, Clerk.

**Open Public Hearing:** The mayor called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 pm.

An Ordinance to Amend and Reenact the Town of Wakefield Code by Amending and Reenacting Chapter 4, Building and Cemetery Regulations, Section 4-3, Removal, Repair, Etc., Of Buildings and Other Structures; And Chapter 8, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Section 8-72, Removal and Penalty.

**Close Public Hearing:** The mayor closed the Public Hearing at 7:00 pm.

**Regular Meeting Call to order:** The mayor called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm leading all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Roll Call and Adoption of Agenda:** The clerk called the roll; all members were present.

Mr. Parker moved to adopt the agenda as presented, Mr. Mason seconded; and Council voted unanimously by raised hands to accept the motion.

**Announcements:** The mayor announced that the Sussex Treasurer's office would be housing a DMV Select office opening on October 11, 2022.

**Minutes:** Mrs. Whiting moved to dispense with the reading of the August minutes and to approve them as distributed; Mr. Wills seconded; Council voted unanimously to accept the motion.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mrs. Croft presented the treasurer's report as follows:

Balance on hand in the General Fund as of August 31, 2022- \$199,701.00

Bills introduced for payment as of August 31, 2022- \$26,919.96

Mr. Kessinger motioned to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Mrs. Whiting seconded the action, and Council voted unanimously with raised hands in favor of the movement.

**Citizen Statements:** Kelly Kruschel asked the Council to update the property code enforcement to only enforce the Town Codes on people who rented. Mr. Kessinger responded that the Town Codes were to protect the Town and would be applied equally to all people, not just those who rent.

Gloria Holloman said Mars Hill Church sponsored a successful Back to School Bash. They provided backpacks and school supplies to one hundred fifty kids. In addition, the Lions Club was present and provided ear and eye screenings. The Blackwater Region Library Book Mobile and the Food Bank Food Truck were also present. She also reported that Mr. Andrew would offer a meal to senior citizens monthly at the Virginia Diner.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fire Department:** None

**Sussex Service Authority:** The SSA asked the Town to do the meter reading for them. They offered to pay \$0.45 per meter per month. After some discussion, Mr. Chambers motioned to counter SSA's request with an offer of \$0.75 per meter per month for one year. Mr. Mason seconded, and Council voted unanimously by raised hands to accept the motion.

**Airport:** The mayor announced that work had not yet begun on the airport lighting system because Talbert & Bright had not obtained all the supplies. He was, however, able to update the wind kit.

**Ballpark/Recreation:** Mr. Parker reported that some of the ballpark lights were replaced. Also, some of the town businesses have offered to donate a digital LED scoreboard.

**Budget/Finance:** None

**Cemetery:** Mr. Wills informed the Council that the cost of the rock for the cemetery had significantly increased. After some discussion, Council agreed that they would reduce the depth from 3 inches to 1 inch to save money.

**Emergency Services/Safety:** None

**Personnel:** None

**Planning Commission:** None

**Property Maintenance:** None

**Streets/Beautification:** None

**Utilities:** Mr. Chambers reported that he contacted Big Wood Tree Service to limb up a few trees off some of the power lines. He also said the current transformers are still sixty weeks out from delivery.

**Vehicle Maintenance:** None

**Zoning:** None

**Legal:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Mr. Kessinger motioned to accept the new ordinance as presented in the public hearing, Mr. Mason seconded; and Council voted unanimously with raised hands to accept the action.

JMT Water Main Project – Scope and Fees: Engineering work is being done.

**Executive Session:** Council unanimously moved into Executive Session at 7:38 pm to discuss a personnel matter for privacy under Section 2.2-3711 A.4 of the Code of Virginia. The committee reconvened at 7:52 pm, all members certifying to the best of their knowledge that only lawfully exempted public business matters for which this executive session was called were heard, discussed, or considered in private. Mr. Michael Kessinger motioned to advertise for a full-time person for Maintenance Department and fire the individual hired on September 9, 2022. Mr. Lane Chambers seconded the motion, and Council voted unanimously to accept the action.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.