

## Minutes Outline

# Town Council Meeting

March 13, 2023

The Town Council held its monthly meeting on Monday, March 13, 2023, 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, Brian Wills, Frances Chambers, Council Members; Pat Bowden, Fire Chief; Lane Chambers, VEMA Representative; David West, SSA Representative; Robyn Croft, Treasurer; and Bonita Meyers, Clerk.

**Call to order:** The mayor called the 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 except Darlene Whiting. Mr. Mason moved to adopt the agenda as presented, and Mr. Kessinger seconded; Council voted unanimously by raised hands to accept the motion.

**Announcements:** None

**Minutes:** Mr. Wills moved to dispense with the reading of the February minutes and to approve them as presented; Mr. Parker seconded, and 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 February 28, 2023 - \$329,826.16

Bills presented for payment as of February 28, 2023 - \$16,419.28

Mr. Kessinger made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented, Mr. Wills seconded the motion, and Council voted unanimously by raised hands in favor of the motion.

### Citizen Statements

Mr. Wayne "Smokey" Brittle stated the house next door to his is a "snake pit" and wants the yard cleaned up. He said he had been complaining about this for a long time and wanted to know how soon the cleanup would happen. The mayor responded that the lawyer had sent a second set of letters, and the owners were given until April 15 to respond, after which he would set a court date if there were no response.

Lydia Pittman, the events coordinator for the Virginia Diner, submitted a proposal asking Council to apply for a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) license. Associated fees are \$300 for 16 events per 12 months. She offered a copy of the Virginia Code and an example from the City of Lexington. The Virginia Diner will sponsor the cost if needed.

Jessica Moore, the Sussex County representative for the Blackwater Regional Library, asked the Council to contact their Sussex County Board representative and request their continued support for the library. She also thanked the Town Council for their ongoing support.

Kelly Kruschel thanked the Town for the recent road cleanup. She also asked if it was possible to have the speed reduced on E Main St as it is on W Main Street. The mayor explained that E Main St is a Federal road while W Main St is a State road which is the reason for the different speed zones. He did, however, inform Ms. Kruschel that the Town would be erecting speed monitoring signs along E Main St in the next few weeks.

Tracie Briles addressed Council with concerns over the semi-trucks speeding and running the stop light on 460. She requests an increased police presence and is willing to offer her driveway as a turnaround for the officers.

## **Committee Reports: Committee Appointments**

**Fire Department:** None

**Sussex Service Authority:** Mr. West reported a push from the Sussex County Board of Supervisors to privatize the Sussex Service Authority. He also said they are working on a rate increase for the DOC, which could take effect after July.

**Airport:** The mayor reported that Talbert & Bright is assisting the Town by sending out RFBs for the crack and seal for the runway, taxiway, and aircraft parking apron around the T-hangars. The bids need to be submitted by March 27. The estimated cost will be \$130,000 to \$150,000, which will be covered by an 80/20 grant from the Department of Aviation. The airport committee scheduled a meeting for March 29 at 6:00 pm. Mrs. Croft will email the airport agreement to all the committee members.

**Ballpark/Recreation:** Mr. Parker clarified the February minutes to say it is not the main panel box that is corroded. Instead, each light pole has an electrical box on it to operate and power the lights, and those boxes have become corroded. So the main panel box is fine. He also reported that we had received a bid to upgrade the front field lights but were still awaiting a proposal for the back field.

**Budget/Finance:** The budget committee scheduled a meeting for Thursday, March 23, at 5:30 pm.

**Cemetery:** None

**Emergency Services/Safety:** None

**Personnel:** None

**Planning Commission:** Mrs. Chambers reported that the commission has begun working on the Comprehensive Plan. Currently, the commission is reviewing the State Code to confirm we are compliant and attempting to communicate with the Crater Planning District Commission for assistance.

**Property Maintenance:** None

**Streets/Beautification:** Mr. Mason reported that VDOT began street sweeping today and will continue all week until finished.

**Utilities:** Mr. Chambers reported that the generator engine blew up, and we are currently unable to go into load control. He is communicating with VEMA and looking for a replacement generator. He is estimating a cost of \$300,000 to replace it. Nine years are left on the contract with VEMA; therefore, it is recommended to purchase a new generator. However, it will take 9-12 months to take custody of the new generator. VEMA is working on an analysis comparing the penalties versus leasing a generator while waiting to take delivery of the generator.

Pole tags will be here soon. After the pole tags are applied, the Town will need to review the pole attachment agreement with the attorney. Eastern Sales Association will conduct an audit of the pole attachments with pole users.

The utility committee scheduled a meeting for March 29 at 7:00 pm.

**Vehicle Maintenance:** None

**Zoning:** None

**Events:** Jesse Hellyer presented an example of the partnership with The Sussex Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Waverly as an example of the Town's responsibilities for an event. After some discussion, an event was tentatively scheduled for September 23, 2023, and Jesse was going to contact Tidewater Academy to use their ballfield.

**Legal** None

**Old Business-Elect Council President:** Brian Wills nominated O E Parker, III as Council President; Francis Chambers seconded the nomination, and the Council voted by raised hands in favor of the motion. Mr. Mason declined to vote.

**New Business:** None

**Executive Session** None

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Brain M. Laine, Mayor

*Bonita JC Meyers*

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Bonita Meyers, Clerk

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