

Minutes

Town Council Meeting

April 10, 2023

The Town Council held its monthly meeting on Monday, April 10, 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, Darlene Whiting, Brian Wills, Frances Chambers, Council Members; Pat Bowden, Fire Chief; Lane Chambers, Utilities Committee Chair; Robyn Croft, Treasurer; 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.

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

Announcements: None

Minutes: Mr. Parker moved to dispense with the reading of the March minutes and to approve them as distributed; Mr. Kessinger 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 March 31, 2023 - \$383,972.43

Bills presented for payment as of March 31, 2023 - \$11,250.09

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: None

Committee Reports: Committee Appointments

Fire Department: No report

Sussex Service Authority: No Report

Airport: The mayor requested an airport committee meeting to review the revised lease agreement. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17th at 6:30 pm.

Ballpark/Recreation: No Report

Budget/Finance: Council scheduled a budget work session to review the budget on Monday, April 24th, at 6:30 pm.

Cemetery: No Report

Emergency Services/Safety: No Report

Personnel: No Report

Planning Commission No Report

Property Maintenance: Mrs. Whiting stated that after she received a complaint of tall grass, she completed a drive around town and asked the Town office to send out the appropriate letter.

Streets/Beautification: Mr. Mason said he would put in a work order to have the maintenance department put up spring banners.

Utilities:

1. Mr. Chambers said that he could only get a quote for a generator after he got the annual run times for usage from VEMA over the past 15 years. The delay is in getting the quote from CAT for the warranty. Because the generator is used for a tier 4 level facility, they cannot offer a standard warranty. They can offer a quote for any time frame based on the annual standard usage. He also informed the Council that rental, lease, or purchase options are available from RECOR, a subsidiary of Community Electric. The rental option would cost \$30,000 - \$40,000 per month, and he didn't feel like that was viable. The lease option would eliminate the warranty cost. He recommends looking at both the lease and purchase options after he gets the run time usage from VEMA. He also informed the Council that the Town is not currently being assessed any penalties for the time being because VEMA can cover our losses for the short term.
2. Next, Mr. Chambers informed the Council that during last week's power outage, River City failed to meet the contract agreement to respond to a call within two hours. River City sent all its crews to Kentucky to help with tornado damage cleanup, and it would be at least twelve hours before they could respond. There were two broken poles and two damaged transformers and power lines down. He called Community Electric, and they had a crew on site within the hour. Mrs. Chambers suggested we offer Community Electric a thank you in the form of a resolution. She also suggested the town consider rebidding the electric maintenance agreement. After some discussion, Mr. Kessinger made a motion to put the utility maintenance contract out for RFBs with 45-day terms. Mr. Wills seconded the movement, and Council voted unanimously by raised hands in favor of the motion.
3. The maintenance dept has begun tree trimming on the hot spots. They have completed 10-12 areas over the past two days but still have about two and a half days' worth of work.
4. Lastly, he reported that the pole tags are scheduled to be delivered this Wednesday, April 12th. Mr. Parker made a motion to accept Eastern Sales Associates' proposal to apply the tags at \$10 per pole and to set up the GPS for pole location at \$3 per pole for an estimate of 600 poles. Mr. Wills seconded the motion, and Council voted unanimously by raised hands in favor of the action. Eastern Sales Associates will also conduct an audit of the pole attachments with pole users.

Vehicle Maintenance: No report

Zoning: No report

Events: It was announced that Tidewater Academy had approved the request to hold the September 23rd Fall Festival Event on their ballfield. The event will be a joint event with the Sussex Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Kessinger asked that the Town contact Mr. Popovich regarding the liability involved with the Sussex Chamber obtaining an ABC license or the town applying for a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) license.

Legal: The mayor said he would speak with Mr. Popovich in the next couple of days about the DORA license.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: No Report

Executive Session: On a motion by Mr. Parker, the Council moved into Executive Session at 7:47 pm to discuss Personnel & Dept. Evaluation under Section 2.2-3711 A.1 and Personnel Matters for Privacy under Section 2.2-3711 A.4 of the Code of Virginia. The Council reconvened at 8:13 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. Parker motioned to hire Jonathan Ervin for the part-time position. Mr. Wills seconded the motion, and Council voted unanimously by raised hands to accept the action.

Mr. Wills motioned to accept the new payroll as presented for the fiscal year 2023-2024, effective July 1, 2023. Mrs. Whiting seconded the motion, and Council voted unanimously by raised hands to accept the action.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm

Brain M. Laine, Mayor

Bonita JC Meyers

Bonita Meyers, Clerk