

Minutes

Town Council Meeting

June 12, 2023

The Town Council held its monthly meeting on Monday, June 12, 2023, in the council room of the Town Hall. Those joining the assembly were: Oscar E. Parker, III, Council President; 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 Council President called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

**Public Hearing:** The Council President opened the public hearing at 6:32 p.m.

PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2023-2024

**Close Public Hearing:** The Council President closed the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

**Regular Meeting Call to order:** The Council President called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 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 except Mayor Laine and Mr. Kessinger were present. Mrs. Whiting moved to adopt the agenda as presented, and Mr. Mason seconded; Council voted unanimously by raised hands to accept the motion.

**Announcements:** None

**Minutes:** Mr. Wills moved to dispense with the reading of the May minutes and to approve them as presented; Mrs. Chambers 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 May 31, 2023 - \$286,904.28

Bills introduced for payment as of May 31, 2023 - \$10,697.90

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

**Citizen Statements:** Jesse Helyer from the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce presented an update on the upcoming fall Town sponsored event.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fire Department:** None

**Sussex Service Authority:** None

**Airport:** None

**Ballpark/Recreation:** None

**Budget/Finance:** A meeting to approve the budget was scheduled for June 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

**Cemetery:**

**Emergency Services/Safety:** None

**Personnel:** None

**Planning Commission:** Mrs. Chambers reported the Planning Commission is preparing a request for proposal (RFP) that will invite the Berkley group and other vendors to help update the Comprehensive Plan.

**Property Maintenance:** None

**Streets/Beautification:** None

**Utilities: Pole Attachment Agreement-** According to Mr. Chambers, Mr. Popovich reached out to all the companies utilizing the pole attachment agreement to let them know that we plan to revise the agreement.

**Generator-** Mr. Chambers also reported that renting two 500 Kw generators costs \$24,000 per month, totaling over \$2.8 million for ten years. This option covers all expenses except for fuel. On the other hand, buying two 500kw generators would cost \$1.2 million, and the Town would be responsible for all maintenance and other expenses. In addition, upgrading the system to accommodate two generators would require an estimated \$200,000 in additional costs.

**Vehicle Maintenance:** None

**Zoning:** None

**Events:** Mrs. Chambers made a motion to purchase t-shirts for all the workers to wear at the fall Town sponsored event; Mr. Wills seconded the move, and Council voted unanimously by raising hands to accept the motion.

**Legal:** None

**Old Business:**

**New Business: Solar Farms** – Wayne Jones, the Chairman of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors, provided the Town with an update on the solar farms' progress. At the meeting, Mrs. Chambers introduced a resolution that expressed opposition to the solar farms, and the Council reviewed it. After discussing the matter, Mr. Wills proposed to approve the resolution, and Mrs. Chambers supported the proposal. The Council approved the resolution unanimously by raising their hands.

**Executive Session: Finances** - On a motion by Mrs. Whiting, the Council moved into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss Investment Public funds under Section 2.2-3711 A.29 of the Code of Virginia. The Council reconvened at 8:43 p.m., 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.

Mrs. Chambers motioned to transfer \$170,000 from the Truist Meals Tax account to a CD at Towne Bank, provided that the interest rate is over 4%. Mr. Wills seconded the motion, and the Council approved it unanimously through a raised hand vote.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Brain M. Laine, Mayor

*Bonita JC Meyers*  
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Bonita Meyers, Clerk