

Minutes Outline
Town Council Meeting
February 12, 2024

The Town Council had its monthly meeting in the Town Hall's council room on Monday, February 12, 2024. In attendance were Brian Laine, Mayor; Frances Chamber, Michael Kessinger, Dennis Mason, and Darlean Walker Council Members; Pat Bowden, Fire Chief; Robyn Croft, Treasurer; and Bonita Meyers, Clerk.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the mayor at 7 pm. The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call and Adoption of Agenda: The clerk called the roll; all members except Mr. Parker and Mr. Wills were present.

Mrs. Chambers motioned to accept the presented agenda, which Mr. Mason seconded. The Council unanimously approved the motion through a show of hands.

Announcements: None

Minutes: Mr. Kessinger moved to dispense with the reading of the January minutes and to approve them as presented; Mrs. Chambers seconded; the 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 January 31, 2024 – \$267,054.74

Bills presented for payment as of January 31, 2024 – \$24,614.76

Mrs. Whiting made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Mrs. Chambers seconded the motion, and the Council voted by raised hands in favor of the motion, with Mr. Kessinger abstaining from the vote as he had reviewed the wrong report.

Committee Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Bowden presented the Council with a copy of the latest hydrant survey and pointed out several hydrants that needed attention. Chief Bowden also presented the following slate of officers: Pat Bowden, Chief; James Rogers, 1st Assistant Chief; and John Rose, 2nd Assistant Chief.

Sussex Service Authority: No Report

Airport: Mr. Kessinger announced there is one more inspection to be done, and then he will plan a committee meeting.

Ballpark/Recreation: The new trash cans were delivered last week. The mayor asked to have them put up on blocks.

Budget/Finance: The Mayor reminded everyone to submit their budget requests. Requests need to be submitted by March 8.

Cemetery: No Report

Emergency Services/Safety: Mr. Kessinger said the 460 photo enforcement cameras went live last week. The number of violations is very high. The most egregious violation was clocked at 64 mph. Sherrif Giles will meet with VDOT next week to discuss changing the enforcement periods to two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon.

Personnel: No Report

Planning Commission: Mrs. Chambers reported that the planning commission held a meeting in January to examine a possible violation of the Medium Density Residential property, which is not being used as a single-family dwelling. The landowner was sent a letter notifying him of the issue, who claimed to be unaware of the problem and subsequently evicted the tenant for breaching the ordinance.

During the meeting, Mrs. Chamers presented a letter to be mailed to all of the Town's utility customers to inform them about the Town's opposition to Industrial Solar. Mr. Kessinger proposed to send the letter along with the utility bills to the citizens this month. Mrs. Whiting seconded the motion, and the Council unanimously approved it through a show of hands.

Mrs. Chambers also presented an Ordinance to Amend And Reenact Chapter 5, Fire Prevention and Protection, Section 5-2 Stockpiling and Storage of Tires. After discussing and clarifying the purpose, Mr. Kessinger motioned to accept the amended version. Mrs. Whiting seconded it, and the Council unanimously approved the motion through a show of hands.

Property Maintenance: Quotes for demolition –Mrs. Croft informed the Council that she had received only one quote for the demolition of the condemned properties, which was from Timberland Contracting and amounted to \$11,900. After discussing the matter, Mr. Kessinger proposed accepting the bid and demolishing all three properties. Following this, Mr. Mason seconded the motion, and the Council unanimously approved it through a show of hands.

Streets/Beautification: Mr. Mason reported that he noted significant street flooding on E Main St near Pine St. during the recent rain over the past weekend. Mayor Laine asked him to please call the VDOT hotline and report it.

Utilities: Mr. Chambers will meet with Recor next Tuesday to discuss the new generator's design, installation, and setup.

Vehicle Maintenance: No Report

Zoning: No Report

Legal: No Report

Old Business: Mayor Laine informed everyone that the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce has yet to respond to last month's letter. Also, the dues owed to the Chamber have not been paid yet. After some discussion, Mr. Kessinger proposed that the Town withdraw from the Chamber and have no more than one annual event. Mrs. Whiting seconded the motion. Three members voted in favor of the motion, while Mrs. Chambers voted against it, citing insufficient time to consider all options. As there was a quorum present, the motion was carried.

New Business: None

Executive Session: None

Adjourn: After concluding all the scheduled matters, the meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.

Brain M. Laine, Mayor

Bonita JC Meyers
Bonita Meyers, Clerk