

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

October 26, 2021

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 15869 Kings Highway, Montross, VA.

Council Members Present: Terry A. Cosgrove, Clinton A. Watson, Jr., Carolyn K. Carlson, Bobby D. Greene, Robert L. Barker

Council Members Absent: Joseph P. King, Kathryn S. Wittman

Town Manager: Patricia K. Lewis

Water Works Operator:

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Cosgrove called the Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

APPROVAL PRIOR MINUTES

Mayor Cosgrove asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the September 28, 2021, regular meeting. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Watson, made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2021, meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Cosgrove asked if there were any additions or corrections to the financial reports for September 30, 2021. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Greene, made a motion to approve the September 30, 2021, financial reports. The motion unanimously carried.

REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Lewis reported that she attended a wonderful service at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church on October 10, 2021. She stated that she read the Proclamation that Town Council approved recognizing October 10th as Andrew Chapel – UMC Day. They also celebrated their 173rd anniversary and homecoming.

Mrs. Lewis reported that Ryan Brown, Executive Director for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, and his team would be having a community meeting on Wednesday, November 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post #252 in Montross regarding their potential approaches to repair Chandler's Mill Pond dam.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis stated that this year's Fall Festival was pretty awesome. Everything went well. Brian Saunders and Jimmy Packett stepped up the plate and had just about everything set up and ready to go Friday night. That helped things go smooth on Saturday. The music was great. Mrs. Lewis stated that she went around to all the vendors, and they all said they did well and really enjoyed the day. A few vendors ran out of food. All in all it was a great and much needed day for the community.

Mrs. Lewis reported that a survey of the proposed park area has begun. She stated that she and Mayor Cosgrove met with Martha Hutzel, director of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library. She is applying for grants for playground equipment and is excited about the project. Mayor Cosgrove stated that Ms. Hutzel has already contacted her technology staff and is able to provide wi-fi throughout the park.

Mrs. Lewis reported that Scott McNally with Virginia Rural Water came out and got many drone shots of the water tower. The pictures show some rusted areas along the seams of the tower. He is going to meet with Southern Corrosion and get their opinion as to whether repairs need to be made.

Mrs. Lewis reported that she received an email from James Reynolds with the Virginia Department of Health stating that the Office of Drinking water became aware of some potential American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money coming to the Virginia Department of Health and proposed a few projects that may be good nominations for the money. The Richmond Field Office put in the Town of Montross water line replacement and potential well replacement projects into the hat, and they have the town earmarked for \$4,000,000 in FY 2023 to address the projects. The money is 100% grant funds. Mr. Reynolds indicated that an award letter was forthcoming, but that he was not familiar with the full details of stipulations. Mrs. Lewis stated that she received the award letter and reached out to Kelly Ward who is the Director of Financial and Construction Assistance Programs. Ms. Ward indicated that the information she has at this time is a bit limited and that they are in the process of contracting for project management services. Ms. Ward also indicated that the funds are for infrastructure projects. Mrs. Lewis stated that she did speak with Tara Delaney with USDA because the town had received a loan for the water improvements. Mrs. Lewis stated that Ms. Delaney said that the town could de-obligate the USDA loan. Mrs. Lewis stated that she wanted to hold off on doing that until we can get more information on the grant from the Virginia Department of Health.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she reached out to Jerry Davis with the Northern Neck District Planning Commission to find out if he knew of any grants available that would help with the cost of a flashing advance warning sign. He reached out to David Beale (VDOT) and discussed the matter. Mr. Davis and Mr. Beale do not know of any grants available at this time. Mr. Davis had set up a meeting for him and me to meet with Daniel Sagan with Control Technologies on Wednesday, October 20th to give us a better idea on how much it would cost for the advance warning sign and his opinion on the matter as well. His company manufactures traffic control signs. Mr. Sagan had to cancel at the last minute because his wife was in labor. He will reschedule at a later date. Mrs. Lewis stated that she sent a letter to Mr. Clapp regarding the parking lot next to Sagittarius. She is waiting to hear from him.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she sent an email to Mr. Beale asking about the possibility of putting down rumble strips. Mr. Beale's reply was that since most people are already slowing with their foot on the brake as they prepare to go around the turn, they don't see any value in adding rumble strips. Rumble strips are usually used to grab your attention to look up at a sign. In this case if you've made it to the crosswalk, you've already slowed to make it around the curve and passed the sign. Mrs. Lewis stated that Mr. Beale did say that all safety precautions have been put in place and everything has been done in regulation. Mayor Cosgrove stated that there is a flashing speed sign as you enter Port Royal. He stated that he understands that the crosswalk is the issue, but that speed is also a factor. He suggested that we look into putting flashing speed signs at both ends of town. Mr. Greene stated that he noticed during Fall Festival that people were not using the crosswalks. He also stated that he thought flashing speed signs would help.

Mrs. Lewis reminded council that trick or treating is set for Saturday, October 30th from 6 p.m.- 9 p.m. If a homeowner does not want to participate, they can turn their porch light off.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis stated that we are in the planning stages of this year's Spirit Festival, which is December 3rd through December 5th. Mrs. Lewis stated that she has confirmed that Santa will be here on Saturday, December 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Greene stated that it is nice to see buildings in town are being occupied.

Mayor Cosgrove stated that he wanted to make sure that we pack everything that we can into the Virginia Department of Health's grant funds, including digital meters, new billing system and software, water to the new park and other things that can potentially be covered.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Watson, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to the actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body and also pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for discussion or consideration of the acquisition or lease of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body The motion unanimously carried.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Watson, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion certifying that only consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to the actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) as well as discussion or consideration of the acquisition or lease of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) took place. Mayor Cosgrove asked for a roll call vote: Mr. Watson, aye; Mrs. Carlson, aye; Mr. Green, aye; Mr. Barker, aye. The motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Watson, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion to authorize the Mayor and Town Manager to make a \$33,000 offer for acquisition of real property in support of economic development and the Town's comprehensive plan where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. Mayor Cosgrove asked for a roll call vote: Mr. Barker, aye; Mr. Greene, aye; Mrs. Carlson, aye; Mr. Watson, aye. The motion unanimously carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Patricia K. Lewis
Town Manager

Terry A. Cosgrove
Mayor