

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

December 18, 2023

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held December 18, 2023, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall, 15869 Kings Highway, Montross, VA.

Council Members Present: Terry Cosgrove, Carolyn Carlson, Bobby D. Greene, Aaron Hooks, Joseph P. King, Kathryn S. Wittman, Clinton Watson

Council Members Absent:

Town Manager: Francine G. Taylor, Absent

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Cosgrove called the Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The new Westmoreland County Administrator, Ben Prescott, was welcomed by the mayor. The mayor thanked all for the flexibility in changing the date due to holiday schedules. He noted that Town Manager Fran Taylor is absent due to illness. Staff member Shelby Holden is helping in her absence.

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 November 28, 2023 meeting. Hearing none, Mr. King, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to approve the revised minutes of the November 24, 2023 meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Cosgrove asked if there were any additions or corrections to the financial reports for November 2023. Mr. King, seconded by Mrs. Wittman made a motion to approve the November 2023 financial reports as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

- Mayor Cosgrove shared that the town manager left earlier in the day as she was quite ill, and he asked those in attendance to remember her as she recovers.

OLD BUSINESS

- Spirit Festival: Vice-Mayor King represented the Town at the event, and he was amazed by the turnout and the offerings by the volunteer groups and those who organized it. Volunteer Allen Hickman echoed the sentiment of the great turnout by the community, and there are aspects to build on for next year. The mayor mentioned that the school band and choir who performed at the coffee shop were a lot of fun.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mayor Cosgrove introduced County Administrator Ben Prescott to the audience, and shared that the town manager, himself and Mr. Prescott had an opportunity for a nice sit-down to become acquainted, and that we are looking forward to a working relationship, and offered any help on the Town's behalf to him in his new role. Mr. Prescott offered a word of thanks for the warm welcome and shared a bit of his history. He looks forward to learning more about the area.
- Code codification: the mayor has asked to form a working committee to look at potential code revisions that might be needed. Councilman Aaron Hooks has offered to help with this effort, and along with the mayor and town manager, and hopefully a representative from the planning commission. The mayor invited any additional council members who have an interest to be involved.
- Councilman Aaron Hooks took on the task of leading the home and business Christmas decorations judging. The list of the winners is attached to these minutes. Cash prizes were offered to the top 3 residential winners: 1st place - James and Patty Ptucha (\$200), 2nd place - Gary & Beverly Bell (\$150) and 3rd place – Warren & Shelby Holden (\$100). Guest judges were treated to dinner.
- The mayor shared that he and the town manager had met with the County Zoning Manager to evaluate the new parking lot for potential paving boundaries due to impervious cover restrictions. By slightly shrinking the anticipated cover area, the Town will not be expected to complete any land disturbance permits, and the County will waive any fee that might be associated with the transformation of this lot. The paving will take place once the weather allows and the material is available.
- Christmas bonuses: Mayor Cosgrove offered suggested amounts for Christmas bonuses for staff and essential community members who play a role in the Town: Mr. King, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion to give Stanley Schoppe, Dottie Lewis, and Billy Sydnor \$75 each, \$125 to Ricky Landon, Shelby Holden \$100, \$200 to Brian Saunders, and \$300 to Francine Taylor. The mayor asked for a roll call vote: Mr. King – aye; Mrs. Carlson – aye; Mr. Hooks – aye; Mr. Greene – aye; Mrs. Wittman – aye; Mr. Watson – aye; Mr. Cosgrove – aye. The motion unanimously carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice-Mayor King asked to speak about Les Sisson, who passed on December 15, 2023. He shared the loss the community experienced by his passing. He served the Montross Town Council, as well as on the Board of Zoning Appeals. He has done much for the County throughout the years, as well as the business he owned. His service to the fire department was exemplary in the leadership roles he filled throughout the years, as well as the partnership formed with the rescue squad.

Mr. King offered a motion to present a resolution to Mr. Sisson's family at the next Council meeting expressing our gratitude for his many years of public service. Mrs. Wittman offered a second to the motion, the motion unanimously carried.

The mayor also thanked Mr. King for arranging for the new park sign that will be erected when weather allows. It is very attractive and will be a great asset at the new park.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The Christmas potluck followed.

Francine Taylor
Town Manager

Terry A. Cosgrove
Mayor