

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

January 25, 2022

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 15869 Kings Highway, Montross, VA.

Council Members Present: Terry A. Cosgrove, Joseph P. King, Bobby D. Greene,
Robert L. Barker, Kathryn S. Wittman

Council Members Absent: Clinton A. Watson, Jr., Carolyn K. Carlson

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 December 21, 2021, regular meeting. Mr. King, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 21, 2021, meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Cosgrove asked if there were any additions or corrections to the financial reports for December 31, 2021. Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mr. King, made a motion to approve the December 31, 2021, financial reports. The motion unanimously carried.

REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Lewis reminded council that free covid tests are available at www.covidtests.gov

Mrs. Lewis reported that Brian Saunders passed his water operator's test.

Mrs. Lewis stated that it was good to see council members and the community attend Miss Lora's Flowers and Gifts grand opening. Mrs. Lewis stated she thought Miss Lora is going to do a great job, and that she would have big shoes to fill.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION

Mayor Cosgrove read the attached Resolution commending Bridget Conklin-Gillions for her 32 years in business in the Town of Montross. Mr. King, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to adopt the Resolution. The motion unanimously carried. Mayor Cosgrove then presented the Resolution to Mrs. Gillions. Council members congratulated Mrs. Gillions on her retirement and thanked her for many years of service to the town and community.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis stated that she has sent emails and left voice messages for Scott McNally with Virginia Rural Water regarding the exterior of the water tower. She has not heard back from him.

Mrs. Lewis reported that the Preliminary Architecture Report and the grant application for the farmer's market has been submitted to USDA. The Planning Commission will meet to review the plan of development.

Mayor Cosgrove stated we are still waiting on the survey for the proposed town parking lot, as well as the proposed athletic park/pickle ball court.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she reached out to Kelly Ward with the Virginia Department of Health to find out if Ms. Ward had any additional information relating to the grant for the water system upgrade. Ms. Ward stated that Dr. Oliver, the Commissioner under Gov. Northam left his position on Friday. With an Acting Commissioner beginning today, she said she was not sure how quickly this Administration can move on these funds and the documents associated with the Program. She said she will let us know as soon as she learns anything.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis stated that the grant committee for the Business Incentive Development Program met to review a grant application that was received. The committee consists of Kathryn Wittman, Jennifer Dixon, Leonard Carlson, Mayor Cosgrove, and Patricia Lewis. This is the same group that serves on the Revitalization Loan Committee. After review of the application, Mr. Greene, seconded by Mr. Barker, made a motion to approve the grant application in the amount of \$500 per month/\$6,000 for one year. Mayor Cosgrove asked for a roll call vote: Mr. Greene, aye; Mr. Barker, aye; Mrs. Wittman, aye; Mr. King, aye. The motion unanimously carried.

Mrs. Lewis presented a sample of a billboard ad that the Town's of Montross, Warsaw, Colonial Beach, and Tappahannock would like to display in Richmond to promote tourism and economic development. The billboard would be up from May to September 2022. The cost for each town would be \$1500. Mrs. Lewis stated she liked the fact that all four Town Managers and Mayors get together quarterly to share their ideas. Mr. King, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to approve \$1500 to be paid from the economic development line item for the joint tourism billboard. Mayor Cosgrove asked for a roll call vote: Mr. Greene, aye; Mr. Barker, aye; Mrs. Wittman, aye; Mr. King, aye. The motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Cosgrove stated that Westmoreland County had received \$70,000 from the Virginia Tourism Corporation through the American Rescue Plan Tourism Recovery Program. The Town of Montross and Town of Colonial Beach are working collaboratively with the county to submit one package of expenditure plans to the Virginia Tourism Corporation. Mayor Cosgrove stated that he would like to include updated directional signs at old courthouse, a tourism map, historical marker, and a banner promoting First Fridays. Mr. Greene said we should consider doing a billboard in conjunction with the county as well. Mr. King suggested a placard listing businesses and organizations. Mr. Barker asked if the \$70,000 was divided between the county and the towns. Mayor Cosgrove stated that the lump sum was awarded to the county and that the county administrator has included the Town of Montross and the Town of Colonial Beach for their input as to how the funds should be spent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Larry Hinson stated that each year Bike Fest in Colonial Beach has less attendance than before because they are charging the bikers for parking. He then told Mrs. Lewis he'd appreciate it if she could find a grant for \$20,000 for a light. He then stated that maybe he could ask Governor Youngkin about it because he campaigned for him.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Patricia K. Lewis
Town Manager

Terry A. Cosgrove
Mayor

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Mayor
TERRY A. COSGROVE

Vice-Mayor
JOSEPH P. KING

Council
CLINTON A. WATSON, JR.
CAROLYN K. CARLSON
BOBBY D. GREENE
ROBERT L. BARKER
KATHRYN S. WITTMAN

Town Manager
PATRICIA K. LEWIS

Town of Montross

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, Bridget Conklin-Gillions started working in the flower business in her early 20's for Earlene Henderson; and

WHEREAS, Bridget's Bouquets was established in 1989 after Elaine Henderson retired; and

WHEREAS, Bridget Conklin-Gillions owned and operated Bridget's Bouquets in Montross, Virginia, from 1989 to 2021; and

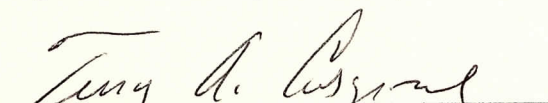
WHEREAS, Bridget's Bouquets has provided gorgeous flower arrangements and top-notch service to customers in Montross, the entire Northern Neck and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, Bridget Conklin-Gillions, having built a successful business through extremely hard work, very long hours, and quality customer service for 32 years, retired in December 2021; and

WHEREAS, Bridget Conklin-Gillions and Bridget's Bouquets has truly been the backbone of the Town of Montross, combining the spirit of entrepreneurship with the morality of family values, honesty, and integrity in the public sector; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Montross Town Council does hereby extend their heartfelt gratitude to Bridget Conklin-Gillions for her tireless work, dedication, and talent operating Bridget's Bouquets for 32 years, and further, offer their congratulations, best wishes, and happiness in the years ahead.

Signed this 25th day of January 2022.


Terry A. Cosgrove, Mayor
Town of Montross

County Seat of Historic Westmoreland County