

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

May 24, 2022

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 15869 Kings Highway, Montross, VA.

Council Members Present: Joseph P. King, Carolyn K. Carlson, Bobby D. Greene;
Robert L. Barker, Kathryn S. Wittman

Council Members Absent: Terry A. Cosgrove, Clinton A. Watson, Jr.

Town Manager: Patricia K. Lewis

REGULAR MEETING

Vice Mayor King 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.

PUBLIC HEARING

Vice Mayor King called the public hearing on the Budget for FY 2022-2023 to order. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to dispense with the reading of the public notice since copies were made available to the public. The motion unanimously carried. A copy of the notice is attached to these minutes.

Vice Mayor King asked Mrs. Lewis if any public comments were received. Mrs. Lewis stated that she had not received any comments. Vice Mayor King asked if there were any comments from those attending the meeting. Larry Hinson asked if the budget is good. Mrs. Lewis replied that she thought it was. She stated that the cigarette tax has brought in extra funds. Those funds will help to hire part-time help. There were no other public comments.

Vice Mayor King asked there were any comments from Council. There were no comments from Council.

There being no comments, Vice Mayor King closed the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVAL PRIOR MINUTES

Vice Mayor King asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the April 26, 2022, regular meeting. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2022, meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

Vice Mayor King asked if there were any additions or corrections to the financial reports for April 30, 2022. Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion to approve the April 30, 2022, financial reports. The motion unanimously carried.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION

Vice Mayor King stated that it was a privilege to present a Resolution to the Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary. After the Resolution was read by Vice Mayor King, Town Council Members were given the opportunity to commend the Auxiliary. A copy of the Resolution is attached to these minutes.

REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Lewis stated that Council received invitations to the American Legion Post 252 Memorial Day Observance on May 30th at 11:00 a.m., the Montross Art Center's Grand Opening on June 1st, and the Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary's 50th Anniversary on June 3rd. Mrs. Lewis reported that Dominion Energy will have an open house for the public on June 9th, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Westmoreland County Government Building. The open house is to discuss a solar project just outside of the Town of Montross.

Mrs. Lewis reported that there was a major water break on Route 3 near Alma Lane on May 1st. She stated there was also a major fire at the landfill on May 9th. There was a fire there around the same time last year. She stated that the High Tides Communication System came in handy on both occasions as she was able to see on her cell phone how much water was in the tank during the water break and after the fire trucks filled up. No second guessing. She stated that the system really was a good investment.

Mrs. Lewis reported that VDOT will be in town in 5 to 6 weeks to spruce up the crosswalk lines and street parking lines.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis gave an update on the pickle ball court. She stated that the boundary issues have been solved. She stated that Jane Branson found the deed showing that the town owns the property behind the tower where the old tennis courts used to be. Mrs. Lewis said she took the information to the office of Commissioner of Revenue. After discussion with Betsy Norris who works in that office, Ms. Norris notified Mrs. Lewis and said that the property behind the tower did belong to the town and she was going to have it corrected in her records and the County's Geographic Information System. The surveyor will be updating the survey. Mrs. Lewis stated that the property was shown on the county records as belonging to Ms. Branson after the tennis courts were removed. Mrs. Lewis thanked Ms. Branson for her assistance in helping to solve the mystery.

Mrs. Lewis reported that the Fall Festival Committee met on May 4, 2022. She said it was a great meeting. She stated that a few new people attended the meeting, and the energy was amazing. The committee decided that this year's theme will be "Come to the Harvest – Return to the Basics." All farmers in the area will be honored and have them ride on the Grand Marshall float. It is also planned to have "back to the basics" demonstrations that include canning, quilt making, etc. Because there haven't been many floats in the parade the last several years, the committee has decided to give cash prizes this year for the top three best festival themed floats.

1st place - \$500 2nd place - \$250 3rd place - \$100

Mrs. Lewis reported that the May First Friday was cancelled because of rain. Chauncey Fortune from Colonial Beach is slated to be the special guest and the June 3rd First Friday.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Mayor King presented the Law Enforcement Agreement to the Town Council. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Green, made a motion that the Town sign the Agreement. The motion was unanimously carried. A copy of the Agreement is attached to these minutes.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she received an email from Deputy Antwan Smith with the Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office stating that they are in the process of forming Neighborhood Watch programs in the county. Mrs. Lewis gave an overview of the program that Deputy Smith provided. Mrs. Lewis asked if the town would be interested in starting the program. Vice Mayor King stated that the town had the program in the past and thought it would be nice to have again. Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mr. Greene, made a motion to participate with the county in the Neighborhood Watch program. The motion unanimously carried.

Mrs. Lewis reported that Melanie Stimmel Van Latum will be doing work in the area through June 17, 2022. Mrs. Lewis stated that Ms. Van Latum would be touching up our murals as it has been over six years since she painted them. Mrs. Lewis stated she would need approval to pay Ms. Van Latum up to \$2,000 to cover the cost. Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion to approve paying Ms. Van Latum up to \$2,000 from the revitalization line item for the touch ups of the murals. Vice Mayor King asked for a roll call vote: Mrs. Carlson, aye; Mrs. Wittman, aye; Mr. Greene, aye; Mr. Barker, aye. The motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Larry Hinson asked if the new arts center would have items for sale. Mrs. Lewis replied that they will. She stated that information about the center can be found at nartists.com. She stated they also have a Facebook page – The Art Center of Montross.

Ms. TaWann Johnson stated that there are not a lot of active participants at the town meetings. She asked if it was posted in the paper. Mrs. Lewis stated that the meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and posted on the website. Ms. Johnson then asked if the town had a Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Lewis replied that the town does not, but that several people have contacted her and are interested in getting that going again. Mrs. Lewis stated that she is waiting for information from the county, and she hopes a chamber will form soon.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice Mayor King said that the town looked very nice with flower beds and trees being mulched.

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

Patricia K. Lewis
Town Manager

Joseph P. King
Vice Mayor

Lakeway Publishers of Virginia

P. O. Box 8
Warsaw, VA 22572
804-333-6397
Fax 804-333-0033

I have examined a copy of the
Westmoreland News, a
Newspaper published in
Montross and having a general
Circulation in the County of
Westmoreland, State of Virginia,
and do hereby certify that this
Legal Advertisement/
Notice of Sale/
Trustee Sale was published for

one successive week(s)
In the issue(s) of

5-11-22

Given under my hand this
11th day of
May, 2022.

Cassandra Lancia
Legal Advertising Department

TOWN OF MONTROSS PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Montross Town Council hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on the Town's proposed FY 2022-2023 budgets on May 24, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall, Montross, Virginia, at which time citizens of the Town of Montross shall have the right to attend and state their views.

	PROPOSED REVENUES	PROPOSED EXPENDITURES
General Fund Budget	\$291,354.00	\$291,354.00
Water Fund Budget	\$139,405.00	\$139,405.00
Sanitation Fund Budget	\$ 80,475.00	\$ 80,475.00
Festival Fund Budget	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
American Rescue Plan Act Fund	\$316,541.26	\$316,541.26

The Council proposes a FY 2022-2023 real estate tax rate at \$.05 per \$100.00 of assessed property value. The Council further proposes to set water rates per month at \$25.00 in town and \$36.50 out of town; minimum trash removal fees at \$12.50 in town and \$ 14.75 out of town. Schedules for fees over the minimum are available in the Town office.

Copies of the proposed FY 2022-2023 budgets are available in the Town office.

Patricia K. Lewis
Town Manager



Est. 1852

Town of Montross

RESOLUTION



TOWN HALL
15869 KINGS HIGHWAY
P.O. BOX 126
MONTROSS, VA 22520
PH. (804)493-9623
FAX (804)493-9036
E-mail: townofmontross@verizon.net

Town Manager
PATRICIA K. LEWIS

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

WHEREAS, Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, established in October 1971, proudly celebrates its 50th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Charter members who founded the Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary are Debbie Bowen, Ann Davis, Violet Hinson, Barbara Hundley, Frances Packett, Brenda Reamy, Jane Kaye Sisson, Margaret Stosch, Pearl Sydnor, and Betty Trader; and

WHEREAS, The Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary has been instrumental to the development and success of the Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department and has carried out important functions in an exemplary manner, providing an invaluable service to the fire department and community for 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, the Auxiliary has selflessly served and supported the Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department by providing food and refreshments, as well as emotional support to its members while on the scene of emergencies; and

WHEREAS, The Auxiliary has raised a substantial amount of money through their numerous fundraisers for the Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, It takes a special dedication, a strong desire to help others, and a sense of community to volunteer selflessly, supporting and assisting the firemen in the provision of fire protection and prevention; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Montross Town Council hereby recognizes, commends, and congratulates the Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary for its 50 years of service and commitment to the citizens of Montross and Westmoreland County.

Signed this 24th day of May 2022.

Joseph P. King, Vice Mayor
Town of Montross

County Seat of Historic Westmoreland County

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15869 KINGS HIGHWAY
P.O. BOX 126
MONTROSS, VA 22520
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AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF MONTROSS AND THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office will offer the Town of Montross at least the same general level of law enforcement service provided to the unincorporated limits of the County. In addition, the Sheriff's Office agrees to the following:

1. Will provide deputies for all Special Events held within the Town limits sponsored by the Town.
2. Will respond to all complaints within the Town limits and investigate all crimes.
3. Will maintain all records relating to criminal complaints, arrests, and other official law enforcement actions.
3. Will enforce the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Montross.
4. Will work specialized enforcement when manpower is available.
5. Will maintain control over all Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office personnel. All liability for salaries, wages and other compensation of law enforcement officers shall be that of the Sheriff's Office.
6. Will provide facilities and office equipment.
7. Will assume all liabilities associated with performing duties for the Town.
8. Will be responsible for defending itself, its officers, and employees in any civil action brought against the Sheriff, its officers, and employees by any person claiming injury and damages as a result of the performance of this Agreement. The Town, its officers and employees shall not be deemed to assume any liability for intentional or negligent acts, errors or omissions of the Sheriff, or any officer or employee thereof, arising out of the performance of this Agreement.

In return, the Town of Montross shall pay to the Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office the quarterly proceeds of the Virginia Law Enforcement Grant (599 Funding) received by the Town. Either party desiring to terminate or modify this agreement shall provide written notice to the other party at least sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of termination or modification.

The terms of this agreement shall commence on July 1, 2022 and shall continue through June 30, 2023. The first payment is due September 30, 2022.

Terry A. Cosgrove
Mayor

Date

C. O. Balderson
Sheriff

Date

Norm Risavi
Westmoreland County Administrator

Date