

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

October 24, 2023

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held October 24, 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 Clinton A. Watson, Jr., Kathryn S. Wittman

Council Members Absent:

Town Manager: Francine G. Taylor

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 26, 2023 meeting. Hearing none, Mr. King, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to approve the revised minutes of the September 26, 2023 meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

- Ms. Taylor shared that the Town was officially notified that we had received an additional \$1,006,830 in grant funds to add waterline piping on Route 3 from the existing end of the new line to the west end of town, and replace the pipe and relocate or add fire hydrants on Carver Street and Forest Drive. This is welcome news for the community and additional residents to be served by this extension.
- Water breaks / repairs expenses to date: \$48,400 (July – October 2023)
- Maintenance items:
 - Interior of painting has begun for Town Hall

- Flooring installation is scheduled for the last week of November
- TM Taylor attended the Virginia Municipal League conference in Norfolk, which allowed her to network with colleagues and vendors, participate in seminars, and experience the association election process.

OLD BUSINESS

- Town Code update considerations are still requested from Council members. Mayor Cosgrove would like to look into implementing a food tax, as Montross is the only municipality in the region who doesn't currently have one. TM Taylor offered to reach out to the Northern Neck District Planning Commission for assistance. The mayor would also like to review ordinances involving noise, food truck regulations, zoning issues.
- The water tank project has been beautifully completed. The work was done by Southern Corrosion out of North Carolina at a cost of \$53,182.
- Park: Three loads of topsoil have recently been added to the park grounds, and has been reseeded and raked, with new growth already apparent. Placement of the new park sign is to be determined, along with the elements of garden beds and story walk pedestals.

NEW BUSINESS

- Internet survey: A recent survey was mailed with the 2023 real estate tax invoices regarding current internet service. The majority of the respondents would be interested in a different option for service other than their current providers. To date, 51 surveys were returned.
- Parking lot update: We are awaiting details from the County zoning office as to what permits could be required to begin resurfacing of the new space.
- A volunteer recognition will be planned for a council meeting in the near future. Names have been requested from the event leadership.
- The mayor would like to evaluate the town sidewalk footage and put a plan together for addressing any areas of concern. Mrs. Wittman indicated that she has some photos to provide for this effort. All input is welcome to ensure we address each needed repair.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Francine Taylor
Town Manager

Terry A. Cosgrove
Mayor