

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

January 24, 2023

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held on January 24, 2023, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall, 15869 Kings Highway, Montross, VA.

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

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.

Mayor Cosgrove introduced new Council member, Aaron Hooks. Mr. Hooks shared a bit about his family, his Army service and his current career as a history teacher at King George High School. He was welcomed warmly by all present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Two year terms for Mayor and Vice-Mayor: Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to nominate Mr. King as Council Vice-Mayor. The motion unanimously carried. Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Watson, made a motion to nominate Mr. Cosgrove as returning Mayor of Council. The motion unanimously carried. Mayor Cosgrove thanked Council for their trust in him, and for their dedication by serving.

APPROVAL PRIOR MINUTES

Mayor Cosgrove asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the December 20, 2022 meeting. Hearing none, Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mr. King, made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2022 meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Cosgrove asked if there were any additions or corrections to the financial reports for the December 20, 2022. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Greene, made a motion to approve the December 20, 2022, financial reports as presented. The motion unanimously carried. Mrs. Taylor did mention that the water maintenance fund is nearly over budget due to the several water breaks we've experienced.

REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Taylor reported that an update on the Chandler's Mill Pond was dropped off at Town Hall by Mr. Chandler, indicating the State continues to work to resolve the ongoing issues.

Mrs. Taylor shared that many complaints have been registered about the interruption of service by the trash hauler. The staff is logging each concern and alerting the vendor of those overlooked or

forgotten. In some cases, our water operator/staff member picked up the forgotten debris as a courtesy to our citizens.

Mrs. Taylor hopes to work with the Mayor to draft correspondence to businesses who are yet to support the community park efforts. She believes additional funds can be secured.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Cosgrove stated that the work at the new park site is about to get underway and taking shape. The pads have been poured, and we are awaiting delivery of the two pavilions. The playground equipment has been delivered and will be assembled soon. The donations for the park now total \$26,945.

We are reaching out to additional paving companies for quotes that include both the pickleball courts and the parking lot. The parking lot acquisition is now in the hands of our attorney.

Mrs. Taylor reported the waterline project has begun with work starting on Lee Street.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Cosgrove and Mrs. Taylor shared the need for upgrades to the office computer system and will present more information at the February Council meeting. There are dedicated funds set aside for such computer needs.

Mr. Taylor reported on VLGMA – Virginia Local Government Management Association - a Statewide organization whose focus is the needs of smaller municipalities. Membership is \$185 annually, and membership is complimentary for first time communities. Mr. King, seconded by Mrs. Carlson motioned to approve membership in VLGMA, utilizing the free first year membership. The motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Cosgrove shared a situation of a building code issue with a home being in the County but their garage sits in the Town, which brought to light a need for more streamlined codes to deal with such concerns. Mayor Cosgrove shared that Montross is one of the only local municipalities who does not have lodging tax, and would ask that be considered for review. He has provided a list of codes to the Planning Commission for review and recommendations, including noise levels/events, annexing when Town/County issues are at play, guidelines for food carts, Airbnb language, as well as pros and cons for a lodging tax. Leonard Carlson will attempt to find a vendor to review, amend and update our Town Code.

Mr. Greene thanks both the Mayor and Vice-Mayor for the fine job they do in representing the Town.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m., followed by a Christmas gathering of food and fellowship.

Francine Taylor
Town Manager

Terry A. Cosgrove
Mayor