

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

April 26, 2022

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 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, Robert L. Barker, Kathryn S. Wittman

Council Members Absent: Bobby D. Greene

Town Manager: Patricia K. Lewis

### 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 March 22, 2022, regular meeting. Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Watson, made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2022, meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

### APPROVAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Cosgrove asked if there were any additions or corrections to the financial reports for March 31, 2022. Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mr. Barker, made a motion to approve the March 31, 2022, financial reports. The motion unanimously carried.

### REPORTS

#### TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Lewis reported that she received confirmation that the memorial service for Doug will be Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at Carmel United Methodist Church. Visitation is at 10 a.m. Service is at 11 a.m. There will be a reception after the service.

Mrs. Lewis welcomed the Montross Art Center to town. The Montross Art Center is located at 14961 Kings Highway, where the surveying office used to be. They will have art workshops and have other exciting things planned. They are also planning a grand opening and hope to have that soon.

#### PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Mayor Cosgrove read the attached Memorial Resolution honoring the life of Darlene Tallent and presented it to her husband, Joe Tallent. Mr. King, seconded by Carolyn Carlson, made a motion to adopt the Resolution. The motion unanimously carried.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Cosgrove gave an update on the town park project. The Northern Neck Planning District Commission (NNPDC) submitted an application for a \$150,000 grant to the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) on behalf of the town for a farmer's market structure. Jerry Davis with the NNPDC met with Mayor Cosgrove, Mrs. Lewis, and County Administrator Norm Risavi via phone conference. Mr. Davis said he was told by USDA that the grant would not be approved unless the town

owned the property. Mayor Cosgrove discussed the possibility of letting USDA issue the grant to someone else because the county was not likely to deed the property to the town. Mayor Cosgrove said the project was financially snowballing anyway. Mayor Cosgrove stated that he and Mrs. Lewis would like to hold a meeting with All-Rec and other companies to get pricing for playground equipment. Mayor Cosgrove stated that he and Mrs. Lewis have received great assistance from Owen Howlett, who is an architect, and Tim Sanford, who owns Carville Landscaping. He stated that he and Mrs. Lewis will come back to council with a financial plan so we can get the project going again. He said he would engage some online companies and local companies as well to come up with a different structure that would hopefully keep the price tag within a budget the town can afford. Mrs. Lewis said the price tag for the structure was steady going up and that \$150,000 was not going to come close to paying for it. Mayor Cosgrove stated that he did not think it would be a good move to borrow the extra money for the structure. Mr. Watson stated that the gazebo in Kinsale has bricks with names on them. Mrs. Lewis stated that would be a good fundraiser for the park project. Mr. Barker asked if the new proposal would be good for the First Friday events. Mayor Cosgrove said he thought it would.

Mayor Cosgrove gave an update on the pickle ball court. He stated that we received the survey, and he was at a loss. He stated he thought the property was much deeper. He questioned how there was ever a tennis court on town property because two tennis courts would not fit on that property. He stated that the minutes from the 1970's reflect that the tennis courts were on town property. He stated there were no agreements with adjoining property owners mentioned. He stated he hasn't seen the overall plan at the county's complex, but there may be other places that would be appropriate for a pickle ball court.

Mayor Cosgrove stated that we are still waiting for the survey for the town parking lot.

Mrs. Lewis reported that Charlie Riedlinger with Resource International found out that the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has approved the engineering plan for the water system upgrade and has issued the Waterworks Construction Permit. Mrs. Lewis stated that she has sent an email to VDH trying to get an update on the grant so we can move forward with the upgrade.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis stated that the Fall Festival Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Mayor Cosgrove stated that Josh Grigsby and County Line will be playing at the May 6<sup>th</sup> First Friday event.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

#### COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no comments from council members.

#### BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mayor Cosgrove asked Mrs. Lewis to review the proposed budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Mrs. Lewis stated that the interest rates for the tower encumbrance had dropped from 1.90% to .40%. Mrs. Lewis stated that the General Assembly has not voted on a budget yet, so we will not know what the town's percentage will be until the state budget passes. Mrs. Lewis did not recommend a real estate rate increase because of reassessments. She stated that, even with the rate not increasing, the total

reassessed value of real property did not produce more than 101% of the previous year's real property values for the town. She stated that, per Virginia code, if the reassessed values were more than 101% of the previous year's real property values, then we would have had to lower the rate. Mrs. Lewis stated that we are supposed to receive the second half of the ARPA funds this year, which is \$158,270.63. Mrs. Lewis stated that she would like to hire part-time office help and included that in the budget. She stated that the Virginia Retirement System contribution increased from 9.98% to 12.78%. Health insurance increased 8.5%. She stated that she was not proposing a water rate increase at this time because of the grant awarded by the Virginia Department of Health to upgrade the water system and not having to borrow funds from USDA. A few more line items were discussed, and questions were answered by Mrs. Lewis. Mrs. Lewis stated the public hearing for the budget will be held at the May meeting.

#### CLOSED SESSION

Mr. King, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion to adjourn to closed session for discussion relating to personnel matters for employee evaluations pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 202-3711(A)(1). The motion was unanimously carried.

#### REGULAR SESSION

Council returned to regular session at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Watson, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion certifying that only matters relating to personnel matters for employee evaluations pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 202-3711(A)(1) were discussed.

Mayor Cosgrove asked for a roll call vote: Mrs. Carlson, aye; Mr. Watson, aye; Mr. King, aye; Mrs. Wittman, aye; Mr. Barker, aye. The motion was unanimously carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Patricia K. Lewis  
Town Manager

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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**, the Town of Montross and Westmoreland County lost a beloved member of the community on January 29, 2021, with the passing of Darlene Agnes Tallent; and

**WHEREAS**, Darlene was born on February 2, 1946, to Earl and Alice Bryant, and grew up in Chiltons, Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, Darlene attended Westmoreland County Public Schools, married her sweetheart, Joseph G. Tallent, on October 14, 1967; and had two daughters, Kathleen and Lisa; and

**WHEREAS**, Darlene's greatest joys in life were her family and her four grandchildren, Rachel, Clare, Christian and Ryan, whom she loved with all her heart; and

**WHEREAS**, Darlene worked as a Genealogical Library Assistant at the Westmoreland County Museum for over 25 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Darlene had a great passion for Westmoreland County history and enjoyed sharing her knowledge with researchers, authors, and inquisitive visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, Darlene was a sweet and gentle spirit and will be missed by all who knew her; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Montross Town Council does hereby honor the memory and celebrate the life of Darlene Agnes Tallent whose unwavering kindness and gentleness touched countless lives.

Signed this 26th day of April 2022.

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Terry A. Cosgrove, Mayor  
Town of Montross