

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

August 27, 2019

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Council Members Present: Joseph P. King, Terry A. Cosgrove, Clinton A. Watson, Jr.,  
Jesse R. Ault, Carolyn K. Carlson, Bobby D. Greene,  
Robert L. Barker

Council Members Absent:

Town Manager: Patricia K. Lewis

Water Works Operator:

### REGULAR MEETING

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.

### APPROVAL PRIOR MINUTES

Mayor King asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the July 23, 2019 regular meeting. Mr. Greene, seconded by Mr. Watson, made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 23, 2019 meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

### APPROVAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor King asked if there were any additions or corrections to the financial reports for July 31, 2019. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Barker, made a motion to approve the financial reports for July 31, 2019. The motion was unanimously carried.

### REPORTS

#### TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Lewis stated that there had been no water breaks since the last meeting.

Mrs. Lewis provided Town Council with an article from the August 24, 2019 edition of the Free Lance-Star regarding Port Royal's new water system, the lessons officials learned from the project, and their success in completing the project.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis stated the next Fall Festival meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Lewis reported that a follow up letter was mailed to those who had not sent in their income surveys. She stated that out of 202 income survey's sent, the Northern Neck Planning District Commission had only received 100 responses to date. USDA wants at least a 70% response. We need at least 40 more responses. After discussing options this morning with Jerry Davis, it seems we have two routes we can take. We can finance a new water system and well through a bond market, which is the most expensive route, or we can apply for grants through USDA and VDH. VDH accepts applications by March 1<sup>st</sup>

and is a competitive process, meaning we would have to compete with other areas for funding. USDA accepts applications on an ongoing basis. If we can't show that the Town's median income is below \$53,000, then we would pay an interest rate of around 3.5%, which is the current market rate, and that can fluctuate. From the PER, we know a new water system and a new well is going to cost roughly \$2 million. With a 40 year loan and no grants, our debt service would be \$93,000 a year. The water rate would need to go from \$18.00 per month to approximately \$40.00 per month. If we can get a grant through USDA, it could cover 45% to 50% of the \$2 million. The interest rate would drop from 3.5% to 2.75% and our yearly payment would go from \$93,000 to \$41,000. She stated the bottom line is we need to get residents to send in the income surveys that were sent to them. If we don't get them and proceed with replacing the water system and well, then residents could see their water bills go up dramatically, from \$18.00 to more than \$40.00. Mrs. Lewis stated she could not stress enough the importance of residents sending the income survey to the NNPDC.

Mayor King said that he received some not so nice calls. He stated we need to rise above that and do what is at the best interest for the town. He stated he reiterated to the people that called him that neither Council nor the Town Manager would see the survey at all.

Mr. Cosgrove stated that we may want to put an ad in the paper emphasizing the importance of sending in the survey.

Mr. Ault stated that it might be helpful to point out to residents that, if they choose not to return the surveys, which is their prerogative, then we as a Town will have to bear the financial burden. He stated he did not think it would be fair to fellow residents to cost the Town two million dollars. It's concerning to him that people would feel that's okay. He also stated that when a system become privatized the cost is very expensive and the system is not managed that well.

After further discussion, Council thought it pertinent to have an accurate article written by the local newspaper and have the Northern Neck Planning District Commission make follow up phone calls to those that have not submitted the survey.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

#### COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Cosgrove stated that the next First Friday Music Series event will be September 6, 2019. The featured band is the Atkinsons Trio. Kathy Mapp is the special guest.

Mr. Greene stated that the Ruritans were going to put up American flags for the Fall Festival.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Larry Hinson stated he is not a resident of Montross, but would go door to door and encourage residents to fill out the survey if needed.

Larry Hinson said he had hoped VDOT would be at the meeting. He thought another flashing sign near Carrot Cottage is needed. He stated when pedestrians hit the button at the crosswalk by Angelo's the sign that should be near Carrot Cottage would flash at the same time letting people know they need to slow down.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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Patricia K. Lewis  
Town Manager

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Joseph P. King  
Mayor