#### TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

December 17, 2019

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Council Members Present: Joseph P. King, Terry A. Cosgrove,

Carolyn K. Carlson, Bobby D. Greene

Council Members Absent: Clinton A. Watson, Jr., Robert L. Barker

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 November 26, 2019 regular meeting. Mr. Cosgrove, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 26, 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 November 30, 2019. Mr. Greene, seconded by Mr. Cosgrove, made a motion to approve the financial reports for November 30, 2019, with the aforementioned changes. The motion was unanimously carried.

## REPORTS

## TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Lewis reported that there was a water break on Sunday, December 8, 2019, on Glenn Street near the fire department. She also reported that there was a water break on December 15, 2019 on Kings Highway in front of Peggy Garland's home.

Mrs. Lewis reported that the Christmas Spirit Festival went well. It was a beautiful night and the event was well attended.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor King reported that Mrs. Lewis had prepared a resolution of appreciation for Jesse Ault. He asked for a motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Cosgrove, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion unanimously carried. Mayor King presented the framed resolution to Mr. Ault. After that he asked each member of Council for their comments. Mr. Ault thanked everyone. A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes.

Mayor King thanked Jerry Davis with the Northern Neck Planning District Commission (NNPDC) for being at the meeting. Mr. Davis informed Council that he received the number of income surveys needed and presented the results of the survey.

He stated that the draft preliminary engineering report done by Resource International back in May 2019 indicated that the projected cost to replace the water lines and install a new well would be around two million dollars. He stated that typically municipalities seek funding in the form of grants and low interest loans for projects like this from United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to help with the costs. He stated that those agencies look at census data of a locality as one of the basis for qualifying for funding. The 2010 census showed that the median income for the Town of Montross was over \$60,000 with a large margin of error. The agencies allow a locality to do a median household income survey if the locality thinks the data is inaccurate. The USDA accepted the Northern Neck Planning District Commission as a third party to conduct the survey. The survey went out to 202 property owners. In order for the survey to be valid, the return rate had to be 67%. 138 surveys were returned. The surveys showed that median household income was \$51,000. The highest household income reported was \$187,000. The lowest household income reported was \$8,616. The USDA requires that the median income below \$53,400 in order to qualify for grants and low interest loans. Mr. Davis stated that the Town has the potential of attracting USDA grant funds. There is still a qualifying process that has to occur. Mr. Davis stated that, right now, USDA is putting out around 45% of grants into projects. He stated that the other positive thing about USDA is that effective January 1, 2020 is that the interest rate for loans is going to be reduced to 2.25% over 40 years. Mr. Davis stated that he will certify the results of the survey and send to USDA. Charlie Riedlinger with Resource International will finalize the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). USDA will need the PER and an environmental assessment. The Town will need to approve that the environmental assessment be done, which will cost approximately \$5,000. The NNPDC has grant money for that amount. Mr. Davis stated that we should present all of this information to the health department. The health department also has funding, but it is very competitive. They only receive applications once a year, which is April 1<sup>st</sup>. They require the same documents – a PER and an environmental assessment. Mr. Davis stated that we can present this to the health department by April 1<sup>st</sup> to see if we qualify for any kind of funding. The USDA and the health department consider projects jointly and put together the best deal for the locality. Mayor King thanked Mr. Davis for his work. Mr. Cosgrove, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion to have Resource International complete the environmental assessment which will be paid for by a grant through the Northern Neck Planning District Commission. The motion unanimously carried.

Mrs. Lewis reminded Council to complete the COIA training.

Mrs. Lewis reported that Mr. Bowman with VDOT was not able to attend the meeting. She met with him and discussed the parking spot in front of Allegiance Title, which will more than likely be removed in the future so drivers can see the flashing lights at the crosswalk better. VDOT will not replace the yellow flashing lights with red flashing lights. VDOT Engineers will not be removing any parking spaces in front of the post office because there have been no crash records. Mrs. Lewis stated that the issue is people parking in front of the house beside the post office, where there are no designated parking spaces.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she will be bringing recommendations for the Town Council vacancy to the January 28, 2020 meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Greene announced the winner of the Christmas decorations. The list of winners is attached to these minutes.

Mayor King stated Christmas bonuses had been provided. He gave Council the amounts. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Cosgrove, made a motion to give Shelby Saunders, Stanley Schoppe and Dottie Lewis \$50 each, Ricky Landon and Billy Sydnor \$100 each, Doug Norris \$150, and Patricia Lewis \$300. The motion unanimously carried.

Mrs. Lewis stated that Holly Harman/The Art of Coffee submitted an Application for Zoning Permit to add two Type 1 murals 3' x 5' each to the side of the building. Melanie Stimmel would be painting the murals. After reviewing a copy of the murals, Mr. Greene, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion to approve the application. Mr. Greene, Mrs. Carlson, Mayor King voted aye. Mr. Cosgrove abstained. The motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Cosgrove said that it was suggested on the Town's social media page that we take advantage of February 25, 2020 because it would read 2/25/20, which is the Town's zip code. It was suggested that we have activities to invite people to Town, such as a raffle to benefit the museum, progressive shop to shop events, community groups to sponsor activities, music from students or bands, local historians to talk about Montross landmarks, t-shirts with 22520 on them, Town pictures from earlier times for the newspaper, essay contest for students about the Town and the history, oyster stew cook-off contest, and an elder Montross resident contest (Mr. & Mrs. Montross). Mr. Cosgrove said he would engage the Main Street group. Mrs. Lewis stated there is a Town Council meeting that night and the Town could possibly have an open house that day with food and picture displays.

## **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Cosgrove thanked Mr. Davis for his work and guidance toward the goal for the Town's water needs. Mr. Cosgrove stated that he will miss Jesse Ault and his keen outlook and wished him the best.

Mr. Greene stated Mr. Davis' presentation to Council was a wonderful Christmas present. He stated he would miss Jesse Ault as well.

Mr. Ault stated that it was a great privilege to serve our community, work with Council, and that he will miss everyone.

Mr. Cosgrove thanked Ricky Landon for his work and for always being there when there is a water break.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.		
Patricia K. Lewis Town Manager	Joseph P. King Mayor	

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 JOSEPH P. KING

Vice-Mayor TERRY A. COSGROVE

CLINTON A. WATSON, JR. CAROLYN K. CARLSON BOBBY D. GREENE ROBERT L. BARKER

# RESOLUTION



**WHEREAS,** Jesse R. Ault has faithfully served the citizens of the Town of Montross; and:

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the Town have benefitted greatly from the efforts that Mr. Ault has put forth during his incumbency as a member of Town Council; and;

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Ault has enhanced the quality of life within the Town and has contributed selflessly to the welfare of the Town;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Town Council wishes to express its gratitude to Jesse R. Ault for his devoted service to the Town of Montross during his incumbency as a Town Council member.

Signed this 17th day of December 20	019.
Joseph P. King, Mayor	Terry A. Cosgrove, Vice Mayor
Clinton A. Watson, Jr.	Carolyn K. Carlson
Bobby D. Greene	Robert L. Barker

County Seat of Historic Westmoreland County

