

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

July 23, 2019

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Council Members Present: Joseph P. King, Terry A. Cosgrove, Jesse R. Ault,  
Carolyn K. Carlson, Robert L. Barker

Council Members Absent: Clinton A. Watson, Jr., Bobby D. Greene

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 June 25, 2019 regular meeting. Mr. Ault, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 25, 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 June 30, 2019. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Cosgrove, made a motion to approve the financial reports for June 30, 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 stated that townofmontross.org email accounts had been set up for each town council member. She provided information on how to access each account.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis stated the next Fall Festival meeting is scheduled for July 31, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the website is up and running. She stated she would welcome and appreciate any suggestions to improve it.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the income surveys had been mailed. She asked council to encourage residents to fill the survey out and mail it the Northern Neck Planning District Commission by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Cosgrove stated that the next First Friday Music Series event will be August 2, 2019 and hopes the weather will be nice. The featured band is Potomac River Dixieland Trio. Steve Griffin is the special guest.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Lewis stated that she provided each council member with a letter from Larry Wheaton. The letter is attached to these minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Patricia K. Lewis  
Town Manager

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Joseph P. King  
Mayor

23 July 2019  
Larry Wheaton  
23 Dingley Road  
Montross, VA 22520

Town of Montross  
City Council Members

Dear Council Member:

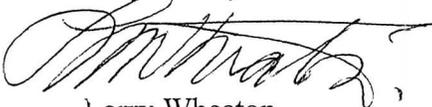
Why did the Council call for a Public Hearing before voting on the measure to eliminate the property tax ceiling? Why? It was quite obvious that you had already made your decision. Several comments by citizens who have been intimately involved with the Town over their many years of residency encouraging you to consider several options to achieve a necessary increase in revenue receipts besides placing the load entirely on the property owner were ignored without the slightest reservation. Yet, none of these options or suggestions were discussed, at least not in public. Were they discussed off line in side bar meetings or in meetings between just a few of you and other government representatives?

I applaud Mr. Barker for his suggestion that the ceiling be raised but not eliminated. Well done to Mr. Barker for offering moderation to the proposal. But, his suggestion did not encourage you to embrace any moderation at all. The only public comment made in favor of the measure was made by a person appointed by the Council whose wife is a Councilmember.

From the perspective of one who sat on the Council and who now sits here I have to conclude from what I have seen that this Council has no interest in what the citizens of the Town think. You had already made up your minds when you came in here and nothing said by anyone in the Town was going to influence your decision.

It is not an example of Democracy to ignore the comments of its citizens. That is political hubris, pure arrogance. It is also arrogant to receive a personal phone call from a citizen of the Town and not have the common decency to return the call.

Respectfully,



Larry Wheaton

Copy:  
Town Manager  
Westmoreland News  
file