

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

January 26, 2021

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 15869 Kings Highway, Montross, VA.

Council Members Present: Joseph P. King, Clinton A. Watson, Jr. (arrived at 7:40 p.m.), Carolyn Carlson, Bobby D. Greene, Robert L. Barker, Kathryn S. Wittman

Council Members Absent: Terry A. Cosgrove

Town Manager: Patricia K. Lewis

Water Works Operator:

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor King called the Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The first order of business was the election of officers. Mayor King stated that he wanted this to be viewed as part of the leadership in moving forward and doing the right things. He stated that it has been an outstanding pleasure to serve as mayor. He stated that council has done some really great things, have been united and civil to each other. He stated that he will cherish his time serving as mayor. He stated his purpose is to demonstrate that it is not ours to serve as officers forever. With that being said, Mr. King made a motion to nominate Terry Cosgrove for Mayor. Mrs. Wittman seconded the motion. Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mr. Greene, made a motion to close the nominations. The motion was unanimously carried and Mr. Cosgrove was elected Mayor. Mrs. Carlson made a motion to nominate Mr. Greene for Vice Mayor. Mr. Greene respectfully declined the nomination. Mr. Greene then, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to nominate Mr. King for Vice Mayor. Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mr. Greene, made a motion to close the nominations. The motion unanimously carried and Mr. King was elected Vice Mayor.

Because Mr. Cosgrove was not able to attend the meeting, Vice Mayor King proceeded to conduct the meeting.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

APPROVAL PRIOR MINUTES

Vice Mayor King asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the December 15, 2020 regular meeting. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Greene, made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2020. The motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

Vice Mayor King asked if there were any additions or corrections to the financial reports for December 31, 2020. Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion to approve the December 31, 2020 financial reports. The motion unanimously carried.

REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Lewis reported that there was a water break on January 5, 2021 on Wakefield Street. The contractors putting in the underground electric lines hit the water line.

Mrs. Lewis reported that she did not have an update on the cigarette tax. She hoped to have information regarding that next month.

Mrs. Lewis asked council to continue to pray for Doug Norris.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis gave an update on Chandler's Mill Pond. Even though it is not in the Town of Montross, she gets phone calls asking what is going on with it. Mrs. Lewis read the attached January 11, 2021 Release from the Department of Wildlife Resources.

Mrs. Lewis stated that things are moving along with the new water system. She spoke to Charlie Riedlinger and he indicated he hopes to go to bid in February or March.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis stated that occasionally a member of the Town Council or one of the Boards and Commissions need to be absent from a meeting due to illness or emergency. The Code of Virginia provides for remote participation in public meetings of Town Council or other public bodies through Section 2.2-3798.2. The code requires a locality to adopt a policy establishing the procedures and process for a member to participate remotely. Mr. Watson stated that with COVID a lot of times meetings are being held using Zoom or Microsoft Teams. He stated that holding meetings remotely is the up and coming way to meet. Mrs. Lewis stated that the emergency ordinance that was put into place because of the pandemic allowed for temporary changes to the way government meetings can be conducted. Mr. Greene asked what kind of instrument would be needed. Mrs. Lewis stated the member could call in using a telephone or using Google Meets, Zoom, etc. Mr. Greene, seconded by Mr. Watson, made a motion to adopt the Electronic Participation Policy. Vice Mayor King asked for a roll call vote: Mrs. Carlson, aye; Mrs. Wittman, aye; Mr. Watson, aye; Mr. Barker, aye; Mr. Greene, aye. The motion unanimously carried. A copy of the Electronic Participation Policy is attached.

Mrs. Lewis stated that one of the water Certificate of Deposits (CD) will mature on February 7, 2021. The CD currently allows us to have one penalty free withdrawal each term and allows us to make unlimited deposits of \$250.00 or more. Upon the upcoming maturity, these features will be discontinued. Deposits will not be accepted and any withdrawals will be subject to early withdrawal penalty. The interest rate is also dropping from 1.9% to .45%. Mrs. Lewis asked for permission to roll the \$216,063.13 balance in the account to another water CD that we have with an interest rate of 1.9%. That CD matures in March 2022. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to transfer \$216,603.13 from the Water CD that is dropping to .45% to the Water CD that has an interest rate of 1.9%. Vice Mayor King asked for a roll call vote: Mrs. Carlson, aye; Mrs. Wittman, aye; Mr. Watson, aye; Mr. Barker, aye; Mr. Greene, aye. The motion unanimously carried.

Mrs. Lewis informed council that Mr. Ferdie Chandler came in the office a couple of weeks ago and suggested that Town Council appoint Isaiah Dixon as the official town greeter. She stated that he's the nice young man that walks down the sidewalk throughout the day and waves to everyone. Mrs. Lewis stated she loved the idea and that she looked to see if anyone else had an official town greeter. The only place she could find was a town in Colorado. Mr. Greene stated that Isaiah knows everyone on Jefferson Street by name. Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Greene, made a motion to appoint Isaiah Dixon as the official Montross town greeter. The motion unanimously carried.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Vice Mayor King thanked Mayor Cosgrove for taking the position of Mayor. Vice Mayor King stated that we look forward to working with him in his new position.

Newly elected Mayor Cosgrove, who joined the meeting through video conferencing, thanked council for their trust. He stated he plans to work very closely with them and that he was honored to be part of this council and this team. He stated he had big shoes to fill with regards to Mr. King and his leadership. He stated he was anxious about working with everyone and seeing what we can do to benefit the citizens of this town and thanked council for their trust.

Mr. Greene stated he thought it was a good thing that we maintain our present leadership considering what we're getting ready to do, with the water system and other things. He stated that they have already proven themselves to be really good.

Larry Hinson said that at the last Board of Supervisors meeting that Senator Stuart mentioned that that the spillway wasn't put in at Chandler's Mill Pond. Mr. Hinson then said he is still concerned about the crosswalk near Angelo's. He asked that council please try to get a light at the sign by Carrot Cottage so that it will correspond with the one by Angelo's and said he thought we had said we could get that with a grant. Mrs. Lewis explained that the grant the town received was for pedestrian signs that will be placed at each crosswalk, but that they will not be put up until March or April. She stated that was the route the town was going to try first. Mr. Greene said that they have rumble strips where they are doing new construction on Route 3 near Morris' Garage. He said we might be able to use them.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments.

CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mr. Watson, made a motion to adjourn to closed session for discussion of candidates for employment pursuant to 2.2-3711(A)(1). The motion was unanimously carried.

REGULAR SESSION

Council returned to regular session at 8:00 p.m. Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mr. Barker, made a motion certifying that only matters relating to candidates for employment pursuant to Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) were discussed. Vice Mayor King asked for a roll call vote: Mrs. Carlson, aye; Mrs. Wittman, aye; Mr. Watson, aye; Mr. Barker, aye; Mr. Greene, aye. The motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Watson, seconded by, Mrs. Wittman, made a motion that Mayor Cosgrove, Vice Mayor King, Mrs. Lewis, and Ricky Landon, serve as a committee to interview and bring options back to council for the Maintenance Worker/Water Operator position. The motion unanimously carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Patricia K. Lewis
Town Manager

Joseph P. King
Vice Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE RESOURCES
CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 11, 2021

Contact: Uwe Weindel, Director of Capitol Programs, (804) 367-1295

UPDATE: CHANDLERS MILL POND DAM

RICHMOND, VA- The Chandlers Mill Pond Dam reconstruction project was complete in August 2020, and the pool was also filled at that time. During the major rain storm beginning on November 12, 2020, water rose up to the structure and eventually overtopped the embankments, as well as Route 3.

While the structure sustained this storm, overtopping of the dam and the roadway should not occur during normal operation of the dam. During and immediately following this storm, the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) conducted an inspection of the structure in order to identify the cause of the high water to avoid this in the future.

During the time period following the failure of the prior dam at the pond, and while the new dam was under construction, the reduced pond allowed various grasses and reeds to grow. This vegetation, not of the type that survives being submerged, died after refilling of the pond. It was determined that during the November storm, the screening on the tower part of the dam became clogged with a matting of grasses, reeds and leaves that had broken loose from the bed of the pond due to the flooding. The result of this restricting of flow was to overtop the crest of the dam as well as flooding Route 3 just east of the existing bridge.

The DWR is taking actions to prevent recurrence of this type of event to allow for proper operation of the dam. Additional caging will be introduced to control floating debris. The area will also receive regrading to allow for more free flow of storm water while still allowing for the integrity of the dam structure to be retained. Erosion experienced during the November storm will likewise be corrected.

The DWR is anticipating the designs to take about three weeks from the date of this update, and the required permitting and bidding process can thereafter proceed. Construction is hoped to commence by early to mid-February. In the meantime, the pond is being purposely maintained at a low level, specifically for the purposes of preventing any flooding concerns until the improvements noted above can be completed. The pond will be refilled following the completion of work, and the Department is anticipating the pool to be maintained at a level approximately a foot lower than previous in order to allow for additional water storage during weather events.

It is hoped that work can be complete, and the pool refilled, in time for public use during the most desirable portion of the year. Completion of this work will also allow the DWR to proceed toward stocking of the pond, which has not yet been undertaken.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Uwe Weindel, Director of Capitol Programs, at (804) 367-1295.

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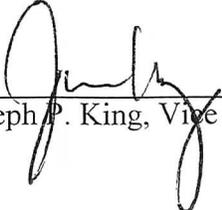
TOWN OF MONTROSS
Electronic Participation Policy

As provided in Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2, a member of town council or a member of a board, commission, or committee of the Town of Montross, may participate off-site by electronic means in any regular or special meeting of town council, or such board, commission, or committee, in the following instances and subject to the following requirements and limitations:

1. The member must notify the mayor, or vice mayor in case the mayor is unavailable, or in the case of a board, commission or committee, the committee chair, or the vice chair in the event the chair is unavailable, on or before the day of a meeting that such member is unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency or personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the emergency or personal matter; or
2. If a member notifies the mayor, or vice mayor in the case that the mayor is unavailable, or in the case of a board, commission or committee, the committee chair, or vice chair in the event that the chair is unavailable, on or before the day of a meeting that such member is unable to attend a meeting due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member's physical attendance (medical condition or disability need not be identified).
3. The council, board, commission, or committee must approve such member's participation by a vote of the quorum that is physically assembled at the primary meeting location and record in its minutes the remote location from which the absent member participated.
4. If electronic participation is approved, the minutes must reflect that the member participated through electronic communication means due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevented the member's physical attendance, or the specific nature of the emergency or personal matter cited by the member.
5. If council disapproves the member's participation from a remote location, such disapproval shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity.
6. Such participation by the member shall be limited to two meetings each calendar year.
7. Arrangements will be made for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary meeting location.

This policy shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted: January 26, 2021



Joseph P. King, Vice Mayor

Attest: Patricia K. Lewis
Patricia K. Lewis, Town Manager