

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

August 25, 2020

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 15869 Kings Highway, Montross, VA.

Council Members Present: Joseph P. King, Terry A. Cosgrove, Clinton A. Watson, Jr., Carolyn Carlson, Bobby D. Greene, Robert L. Barker, Kathryn S. Wittman

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 28, 2020 regular meeting. Mr. Cosgrove, seconded by Mr. Watson, made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2020 meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

Mayor King asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the July 31, 2020 emergency meeting. Mr. Greene, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 31, 2020 special 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, 2020. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Cosgrove, made a motion to approve the July 31, 2020 financial reports. The motion was unanimously carried.

REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Lewis reported that there was a water break on Forest Drive. The break was repaired on August 13, 2020.

Mrs. Lewis reported that the Hutt Realty property had a major break. The owners are in the process of repairing the break. There was also a break at a home on Monroe Street. That break has been repaired.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis reported that Campbell's Auto has two trucks available. One is a 2011 with 29,000

miles on it. The other is a 2014 with approximately 80,000 miles on it. She stated that Michael, the owner, is going to clean up both vehicles and let her know how much he wants for them. He will give the town first right of refusal.

Mrs. Lewis reported that the town received good news from Tara Delaney with the United States Department of Agriculture. The new water system project is fully funded. On August 5, 2020, the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Town Manager reviewed the letter of conditions. The interest has dropped again from 1.75% to 1.5% and could be lower than that by the time the town goes to closing.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor King reported that Council needed to encumber the \$43,587 surplus for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Greene, made a motion to accept the audit report and to encumber the \$43,587 surplus of the general fund to the Economic Development Encumbrance Fund. Mayor King asked for a roll call vote: Mrs. Wittman, aye; Mrs. Carlson, aye; Mr. Watson, aye; Mr. Barker, aye; Mr. Greene, aye; Mr. Cosgrove, aye. The motion unanimously carried.

Mrs. Lewis reported that, for the past several months, the wells won't automatically come on so they have to be turned on every day by hand. The telephone line stops communicating with the wells when the power goes out or flickers. The Verizon employee that would come out and get the system communicating again has now retired and we have not been able to get anyone to come out and help with the issue. Ricky Landon said that the telemetry system that we have is supposed to communicate from the tower to each of the wells. He stated that, for years, the system has been hooked up through Verizon phone lines. He stated that, as the water pressure drops, it closes in the well house and sends voltage from the telephone lines to the station to turn the wells on. The telephone lines have gotten into pretty bad shape over the years and it is really an outdated system. Mr. Landon changed some things a few years ago to make both wells come on at the same time because there were problems with the wells alternating. Mr. Landon stated that it does not leave us with any fire protection by turning it on manually. Mr. Landon stated that Mrs. Lewis contacted Ronnie Saunders with Westmoreland County and got the contact information for the company that the county uses for their water communication system. The company is High Tide Technologies, which is a wireless system. The County had the same issues with the phone lines they used for the sewer stations. Mr. Landon stated that it has been working great for the county. A cell phone can be used as well as a computer to show the level of pressure, pumps working, how many hours the pumps have been running, as well as other important information. Before Mrs. Lewis talked about the quote she received, she stated she spoke to Charlie Riedlinger with Resource International and asked if the High Tide communication system would be compatible with the new system. Mr. Riedlinger told Mrs. Lewis that the price was reasonable, the system is easy to use, and we should be able to use it with the new water system. Mrs. Lewis stated that the total cost of installing the communication system would be \$11,486.00. Mayor King asked if that was a one-time fee. Mrs. Lewis stated that it was a one-time fee. However, she asked the company if the town would have to pay for cellular service. The quote that was sent includes one year of website and communications for each unit, which would be the tower and the two wells. Each additional year is \$480.00 for each of the units for a total of \$1,440.00 per year. Mr. Landon stated he knows the future plans is for the town to have one well, so some of that cost will drop off because the town will have two units instead of three. Mr. Cosgrove asked Mr. Landon if we had a generator for our pumps. Mr. Landon replied that the town does not. The generator that is stationed at the well behind the laundromat belongs to the county. Mr. Cosgrove asked if the county's water system is set up so if the power goes out a generator comes on for their system. Mr. Landon said that was correct. Mr. Landon said all of the county's generators are great, but they have to be maintained. Mr. Cosgrove, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to transfer \$11,486.00 from the water encumbrance fund to purchase the High Tide well pumps and elevated storage tank communication system. Mayor King asked if there was further discussion. Mr.

Greene asked Mr. Landon if the town would need a generator. Mr. Landon said it would be up to the town and that he thought a generator would be great. Mr. Landon stated the town was in a critical situation by having to turn the wells on by hand. Mr. Landon stated that town has a standby generator that belongs to the county but it is not connected so it still takes manpower to connect and turn on. Mr. Greene asked Mr. Landon if the town would be communicating with the county when we get our new water system. Mr. Landon said it is his understanding that the two wells will be interconnected and if one of them had a generator it could eliminate the need for an extra one. Mr. Landon stated that the town may not want to focus on a new generator now if the town is not using the same building for a new well house. Mayor King asked for a roll call vote: Mrs. Wittman, aye; Mrs. Carlson, aye; Mr. Watson, aye; Mr. Barker, aye; Mr. Greene, aye; Mr. Cosgrove, aye. The motion unanimously carried.

Mrs. Lewis reported that the town can get the “stop for pedestrian” signs with the Virginia Risk Sharing Association’s safety grant. The grant is for \$500.00. The town can get three signs for \$512.00. George Bowman with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) sent Mrs. Lewis the vendor information for the signs that are approved by VDOT. After discussion, it was decided to order the signs.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Cosgrove, seconded by Mr. Watson, made a motion to adjourn to closed session for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for the public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held property, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), as well as for discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business’ or industry’s interest in expanding its facility in the community pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(5).

REGULAR SESSION

Council reconvened in regular session. Mr. Cosgrove, second by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion certifying that there was only discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for the public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held property, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), as well as discussion only concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business’ or industry’s interest in expanding its facility in the community pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(5). Mayor King asked for a roll call vote: Mrs. Wittman, aye; Mrs. Carlson, aye; Mr. Watson, aye; Mr. Barker, aye; Mr. Greene, aye; Mr. Cosgrove, aye. The motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Cosgrove, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to approve a \$25,000.00 contribution for an economic development project. Mayor King asked for a roll call vote: Mrs. Wittman, aye; Mrs. Carlson, aye; Mr. Watson, aye; Mr. Barker, aye; Mr. Greene, aye; Mr. Cosgrove, aye. The motion unanimously carried.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Cosgrove stated that VDOT, in handling the issue that came up at the last meeting, moved quickly and professionally. They took care of the storm drain. Mr. Cosgrove said he stayed at his business until 5:30 or 6:00 p.m. the evening the storm came. He said he took a look at the property across the street to make sure there weren’t any water bottles or debris. VDOT left the property spotless. They packed up all of their gear and said they would be back after the storm to seed and put straw down. Mr. Cosgrove stated that VDOT deserves a “thank you” from the town. He stated that

if that had not been resolved, it would have been a bigger issue. Mrs. Lewis said that she would write VDOT a thank you note.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Patricia K. Lewis
Town Manager

Joseph P. King
Mayor