

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

August 24, 2021

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 15869 Kings Highway, Montross, VA.

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

Council Members Absent: Joseph P. King

Town Manager: Patricia K. Lewis

Water Works Operator:

### REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Cosgrove 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 Cosgrove asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the July 27, 2021, regular meeting. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2021, meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

### APPROVAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Cosgrove asked if there were any additions or corrections to the financial reports for July 31, 2021. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to approve the July 31, 2021, financial reports. The motion unanimously carried.

### REPORTS

#### TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Lewis reported that Elizabeth Lipford and her crew from the Department of Historic Resources were in town on August 24, 2021, conducting the architectural survey of the historic district. That project is underway.

Mrs. Lewis reported that the water tower is in need of an exterior inspection. She stated she has reached out to Virginia Rural Water for leads to get a free inspection.

### OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis reported that an application for a \$25,000 grant was submitted to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation to help with the expenses for the park. We should know whether we are awarded the grant after November 8, 2021. Mayor Cosgrove stated that we are still waiting to schedule a consultation with the architect for a farmer's market structure that would fill the need for another grant that we would like to pursue with USDA. It could be a multi-purpose structure where we could have music events, outdoor art classes, and other things. We need to get an architect to do some drawings for us and develop a package for the USDA grant. He stated that, in conjunction with that, the architect did indicate that she is not a landscape architect, so we reached out to Carville Landscaping and he gave us some things to look at as we move forward.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the next Fall Festival meeting is scheduled for August 25th at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the next First Friday's is September 3, 2021, at 5:45 p.m. with music performed by Cougar Flash.

Mrs. Lewis presented Town Council with a Water Utility Agreement between the Town and Westmoreland County that is required by the Virginia Department of Health. The agreement sets out each locality's responsibilities for the interconnection that will provide enough fire flow to the new high school as well as addressing the fact that the Town and the County each must construct a new well and that each new well will serve as a backup for each other. Mr. Greene, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion giving the Town Manager the authority to execute the Water Utility Agreement on behalf of the Town. The motion unanimously carried.

### NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis stated Peggy Garland passed away last month, leaving a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mrs. Lewis suggested Aaron Hooks as her replacement. Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mrs. Carlson made a motion to recommend to the Judge the appointment of Aaron Hooks to fill Mrs. Garland's remaining term which ends February 2023. The motion was unanimously carried.

Mayor Cosgrove stated that he is a director of the Greater Montross Partnership for Revitalization (GMPR), along with Kathryn Wittman and Rhys Weakley. He stated they have talked about the money raised by hosting First Fridays. They have raised a bit of money over the seven years and feel it is time to reinvest in the community. GMPR would like to contribute \$5,000 toward the new park. Mayor Cosgrove stated that he would like for the GMPR, since it is a 501c3 organization, to set up an account so businesses and individuals can make tax deductible donations for the park and then GMPR will make a contribution to the town with the donations collected. Mayor Cosgrove said it would offer a tax-deductible donation and take a little pressure off the town office. Mayor Cosgrove recommended that Kathryn Wittman manage the contributions.

Mayor Cosgrove read a letter that he received, with a petition attached, from a group of pickle ball players. The group suggested that the proposed park would be a good place to have a pickle ball court. Mayor Cosgrove stated that the park is intended to be more of a green space. He stated that he and Mrs. Lewis have looked at the area where the tennis courts used to be. He stated that he may come back to town council with a proposal to put pickle ball courts in that area. Mrs. Wittman said she thought it was something council should definitely think about.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Larry Hinson stated that he called the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and asked that Superintendent David Beale call him to set up a time to meet with him to discuss the crosswalk near Angelo's. Mrs. Carlson stated that she has seen people park in the space that took away near the blinking sign. Mrs. Lewis stated she sent an email to George Bowman (VDOT) to that effect, and he said that it is illegal to park there.

#### COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Greene stated that the last rain caused flooding again near a resident's home near Chandler's Mill Pond.

#### CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mr. Greene, made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for discussion or consideration of the acquisition or lease of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. The motion unanimously carried.

#### RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, made a motion certifying that only discussion or consideration of the acquisition or lease of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an 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) took place. Mayor Cosgrove asked for a roll call vote: Mr. Watson, aye; Mrs. Carlson, aye; Mr. Greene, aye; Mr. Barker, aye; Mrs. Wittman, aye. The motion unanimously carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Patricia K. Lewis  
Town Manager

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Terry A. Cosgrove  
Mayor