

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

February 26, 2019

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Council Members Present: Joseph P. King, Terry A. Cosgrove, Clinton A. Watson, Jr.,
Jesse R. Ault, Carolyn Carlson, Bobby D. Greene,
Robert L. Barker

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

Mayor King asked for a moment of silence. Mayor King then asked Mr. Greene to lead everyone in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL PRIOR MINUTES

Mayor King asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the January 22, 2019 regular meeting. Mr. Greene, seconded by Mr. Watson, made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 22, 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 January 31, 2019. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Cosgrove, made a motion to approve the financial reports for January 31, 2019. The motion was unanimously carried.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mrs. Lewis reported that on January 30, 2019 she met with Michael Norvell, Vice President of Business Development and Marketing for Bay Aging, along with Westmoreland County Administrator, Norm Risavi, and Assistant Westmoreland County Administrator, Karen Lewis, to discuss the possibility of a Bay Aging bus shelter in town as well as a possible location. Several locations were discussed. Mr. Risavi indicated that he would have to talk with the Board of Supervisors because the County would be responsible for the cost of the pad and installation.

Mrs. Lewis read an email she received from Jason DeLeCruz with Dominion Energy Virginia regarding the timeline of the power lines being upgraded throughout the Town. Mr. DeLeCruz indicated that the upgrade was required as part of the construction of the Montross Solar facility. The work extends from the new solar facility to the substation located just on the other side of town. As part of the work being conducted, Dominion Energy is installing new electrical poles, associated fixtures, and the upgraded electrical lines along the stated route. Entities that have lines attached to Dominion Energy electrical poles (e.g. telecommunications) have been informed about

our work. These entities will be given notice of when they may begin their work to transfer their lines over to the new poles, once Dominion Energy has completed their work. This includes the Town of Montross that currently has lines installed for their holiday ornaments. Dominion Energy crews began their work last year and due to weather associated setbacks, it is estimated work will not be complete until the spring.

Mrs. Lewis reported that Mr. DeLeCruz also addressed the damaged ornament. Mr. DeLeCruz stated in an email that the wire currently placed crossing the street to hold the ornaments was installed by the Town of Montross. A new electrical pole was installed near the existing pole (BG48); however, the original pole and the Town's line are still in place. Dominion's investigation found the crews conducting the upgrade work did not make any alterations to the original pole (BG48), the Town's line, or the ornaments once installed for the holiday season. Additionally, Dominion found the existing pole (BG48) currently leans away from the road, bringing the Town's line to a more taught position. Dominion Energy has not found any information to lead them to believe that their crews, nor their work, was a cause to the ornaments being damaged.

Mrs. Lewis reported that the Town now has the capability to accept and process credit cards for water/trash payments. The bank does charge a 3.5% fee to the customer.

Mrs. Lewis reported that she spoke to Mr. McKeever, Resident Administrator for VDOT, at the February Board of Supervisor's meeting. VDOT has hired a new person to oversee our area. Mr. McKeever is going to bring him by the office to meet with me to discuss road issues in town.

Mrs. Lewis reported there was another water break on February 3, 2019 across from Yesterday's Restaurant.

Mrs. Lewis reported that the Virginia Rural Water Association would be hosting a flagger certification class at the Town Hall on March 6, 2019.

Mrs. Lewis stated that VML reported in a newsletter she received that a conference report for SB1431 (Obenshain) gives local government attorneys the authority to conduct code compliant FOIA training. The bill was in conference because the Senate wanted the training to be done only through the FOIA Council. However, as passed by both houses, the final bill requires local elected officials to complete Freedom of Information Act training, either by the local government attorney or through the FOIA Council website, within two months of taking office and once every two years while they are in office. No penalty shall be imposed for failing to complete a training session. The bill also eliminates the three-day notice requirement for a hearing alleging an open meeting violation of the act. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2020.

Mrs. Lewis read a thank you card received from Mr. Watson.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis reported that Jerry Davis with the Northern Neck Planning District Commission called her on February 12, 2019 and informed her that the GO Virginia Grant Application was approved to cover the cost of the Preliminary Engineering Report for replacement of water lines in the town.

Mr. Greene reported that the crew working on Chandler's Mill Pond is using the American Legion Building as their office for the time being. He stated that the rain has delayed their progress.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Lewis reported that there will be no increase in health insurance for 2019-2020.

Mr. Greene, seconded by Mr. Cosgrove, made a motion to stay with the Key Advantage Expanded and Dental Expanded for the 2019-2020 year. The motion unanimously carried.

Mrs. Lewis introduced Special Guests, Mariela Orozco, winner of the Christmas Ornament contest, and Ms. Holly Ransone, Art Teacher at Washington & Lee High School. Ms. Orozco's ornament was selected to be sent to the Governor's Mansion. After the introduction, Ms. Orozco said her plans were to get a degree in nursing, with a minor in art, from VCU. Each council member commended her for her hard work and great talent as an artist.

Mayor King reported that Lieutenant Bill England is retiring from the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Balderson and Major Hoover asked Mayor King if Town Council would do a Resolution honoring Mr. England. Mr. Cosgrove, seconded by Mr. Watson, made a motion that the Town draft a Resolution to honor Bill England's retirement. The motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Cosgrove asked if was possible for the Town to come up with funds to hire a part-time or on a one-time basis someone to get our website where it needs to be and loaded with data and then Trish can manage it after that. Mrs. Lewis stated that there is \$1500.00 in the budget that can be used for the website. After discussion, Mr. Cosgrove suggested that Mrs. Lewis contact Lisa Hull at the Northern Neck Planning District Commission to see if she knows of anyone that can assist with the website.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Cosgrove stated that there will be another season of First Friday's and was pleasantly surprised at the number of people that attended the initial meeting.

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