

MONTROSS TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

August 27, 2024

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held August 27, 2024, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall, 15869 Kings Highway, Montross, VA.

Council Members Present: Carolyn Carlson, Terry Cosgrove, Bobby D. Greene, Aaron Hooks, Clinton Watson, Kathryn S. Wittman

Council Members Absent: Joseph P. King

Town Manager: Francine G. Taylor

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.

APPROVAL PRIOR MINUTES

Mayor Cosgrove asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the July 23, 2024 meeting. Hearing none, Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Hooks, made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Cosgrove asked if there were any additions or corrections to the financial reports for June 2024. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mrs. Wittman made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

- A proposal to spray the roadway gutters, curbs and sidewalks from France Lawnsapes was discussed. Mr. France shared that the initial application this fall would cost between \$1500 - \$2000, and provided it proves to be successful, future applications would likely run \$400-\$500 per occurrence. This is the vendor that the Town of Warsaw has used and recommended. Council agreed that it seems to be a cost-effective method for cleanup. A motion to allow the Town Manager to move forward into an agreement for this proposal was made by Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Watson. Roll call vote: Mr. Greene – aye; Mr. Hooks – aye; Mrs. Wittman – aye; Mr. Watson – aye, Mrs. Carlson – aye.
- Another proposal presented was to enlist the Town’s utility software company, Southern Software, to configure and convert the real estate tax base into a simplified program for billing. This is a component to the software

package they offer to customers who bill for real estate taxes. This would be an effective use of time and cost savings for the Town. They will download and import the needed information into our program to allow us to bill efficiently. A motion to approve this purchase was made by Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mrs. Carlson. Roll call vote: Mr. Greene – aye; Mr. Hooks – aye; Mrs. Wittman – aye; Mr. Watson – aye, Mrs. Carlson – aye.

- The EPA has mandated that every water system provide detailed information about the presence of lead piping, both on the Town’s side as well as the property owners’ portion of the water system. The State of Virginia has provided free assistance to smaller communities such as Montross to help with assembling this data. We have provided the vendor assisting with this project preliminary information regarding our system, and they are working on our behalf to create the needed document.
- Barbara Jean Jones asked that Mrs. Taylor share that while registrations continue to come in from vendors and parade entries, sponsorship is really down. These are the funds used to pay for all aspects of the event – prize money, trophies, supplies, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

- A resolution has been proposed at the June Council meeting to change the Town Council meeting time from 7:30pm to 6:00pm, to be more conducive to work schedules and follow along the same paths as many other area organizations. There was no public input opposing this change, so a motion to approve the time change proposal was made by Mr. Greene, seconded by Mr. Watson. Roll call vote: Mr. Greene – aye; Mr. Hooks – aye; Mrs. Wittman – aye; Mr. Watson – aye, Mrs. Carlson – aye. September will be the first meeting beginning at 6:00pm.
- Mayor Cosgrove spoke on the need to complete aspects of the park that involve remaining ARPA funds that need to be committed by year end, which is approximately \$38,662. Items that have been discussed and considered is installation of pickleball courts, and expansion of the playground – to include play areas for younger children. After further discussion, a motion by Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mrs. Carlson was made to approve using the funds to expand the playground area using the original playground company. Roll call vote: Mr. Greene – aye; Mr. Hooks – aye; Mrs. Wittman – aye; Mr. Watson – aye, Mrs. Carlson – aye.
- The mayor shared that public park funds still exists for remaining needs – installation of the StoryWalk system, camera system, lighting, shrubbery.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mayor Cosgrove shared that we were presented with the opportunity to partner with the University of Maryland in a water rate study, so we will be assembling some needed data to allow them to provide a picture of our futuristic needs and how to fiscally maintain our system.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Mr. Greene asked about the water pooling at Alma & Rectory, and Mrs. Taylor shared that this water, along with water in front of the Voter’s Registration building and at the firehouse are due to water that remains in the old lines that were abandoned after the new lines were installed. The old valves no longer function at those locations to allow that water to be eliminated, so work will be completed in the next couple days to resolve that issue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Francine Taylor
Town Manager

Terry A. Cosgrove
Mayor