

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

November 28, 2023

The regular meeting of the Montross Town Council was held November 28, 2023, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall, 15869 Kings Highway, Montross, VA.

Council Members Present: Terry Cosgrove, Bobby D. Greene, Aaron Hooks, Joseph P. King, Kathryn S. Wittman

Council Members Absent: Carolyn Carlson, Clinton Watson

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, 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 October 24, 2023 meeting. Hearing none, Mr. King, seconded by Mrs. Wittman, made a motion to approve the revised minutes of the October 24, 2023 meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mayor Cosgrove asked if there were any additions or corrections to the financial reports for October 2023. Mr. Hooks, seconded by Mr. Greene made a motion to approve the October 2023 financial reports as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

- Ms. Taylor shared that the initial waterline project is nearing completion, with 17 meters to tap and set, and three main line tie ins to connect. Beyond that, they will complete the asphalt and concrete patches to finish, as well as review all areas for settling, and the need to additional soil/grass seed. Mayor Cosgrove reported that he and Water Operator Brian Saunders participated in a training exercise for the new generator at the newly built well, that includes an elaborate alarm system
- Maintenance items:
 - Interior painting has begun for Town Hall, and will be completed once the flooring

- project is finished
- Flooring installation is scheduled to begin tomorrow, November 29th.
- Parking lot: TM Taylor shared that she and Mayor Cosgrove will meet with the County Building and Zoning staff to determine if any permits are required to resurface the lot. The mayor shared that the trees are scheduled to be removed, with hopes of keeping the smaller holly shrubs in place, with additional plantings to follow, and as are required per zoning for screening and water runoff.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mayor Cosgrove again asked for Council recommendations and assistance related to reviewing and updating the Town's ordinances. Council member Aaron Hooks offered to meet with the mayor to assist in this project. TM Taylor reached out to the Northern Neck District Planning Commission for establishing a meal tax for Montross. She will also reach out to County Treasurer Sue Jones for how it is accounted for locally.
- The water tank project has been beautifully completed. The work was done by Southern Corrosion out of North Carolina at a cost of \$53,182.
- Park: The newly reseeded turf has begun to show signs of growth and should continue to do so over the winter months. Signage for the new Montross Community Park has been delivered, under the leadership of Vice-Mayor Joey King. Donor acknowledgement signage will be added to the back side of the sign after it is in place. It will be mounted on square posts for ease of mounting, and Mayor Cosgrove mentioned he has a customer who might have equipment to help with the post digging.
- Fall Festival update: Ending balance for the festival was a net loss of \$1184 to date, with anticipated radio spots advertising to yet come in. The revenue net loss was due to expenditures that had been absorbed by a committee member in prior years that were turned in for this year's event. Mayor Cosgrove suggested that Council should plan to have a working group to discuss the path forward and the Town's role, not only for the Fall Festival, but for the events held within the business district.
- We hope to recognize the 2023 volunteers at the January 2024 Council meeting, along with a pizza party. A list has been requested of the co-chairs for the various events.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mayor Cosgrove asked for an alternative date to hold the December Council meeting in light of the Christmas holiday. It was decided that MONDAY, December 18, 2023 would be the meeting date, with a holiday pot luck dinner to follow.
- A request for a volunteer to oversee the Christmas decorations judging process, and council member Aaron Hooks offered to volunteer for this task. He was encouraged to line up judges, plan to take the chosen judges out to dinner after judging, and provide the results to the Town Manager. The date of Friday, December 15th will be the night for the judging, with the announcement of winners to take place at the December Town Council meeting on December 18th.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A resident in attendance questioned about updating the Town's Christmas decorations to be more modern. It was explained to her that the decorations in place were recently updated, and were paid for by local residents.
- She also asked about trying to get a fast-food restaurant in the Town, but various Council members explained that large corporate vendors have extensive market studies to determine traffic counts, economics of the area and feasibility of a location. Many of the same reasons big businesses choose not to locate in a small-town environment are the very same reasons many people desire to locate here.

A reminder that the December 18th meeting will be a potluck Christmas dinner, following the Council meeting.

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

Francine Taylor
Town Manager

Terry A. Cosgrove
Mayor