

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

February 27, 2024

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

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

Council Members Absent: Bobby D. Greene, 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, 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 January 23, 2024 meeting. Hearing none, Mrs. Wittman, seconded by Mrs. Carlson, 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 January 2024. Mrs. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Watson made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

Prior to the start of the business meeting, Mayor Cosgrove presented a proclamation to Jane Kaye Sisson and her family in honor of her husband, Les, after his recent passing. Mr. Sisson was extremely dedicated to all aspects of the Montross area, serving in many capacities throughout his long career. His family expressed sincere appreciation for this recognition.

## REPORTS

### TOWN MANAGER

- Ms. Taylor shared that five CDs held at Blue Ridge Bank were converted to higher interest-yielding accounts. The new rate is a 10-month offer paying 5.25% interest. This should result in additional interest income over the coming months. The accounts will be reviewed at the end of the term for what other options might be available. We will also look at what offers are available at C&F Bank.
- Meter project: The meter installation is complete after software glitches that seem to be resolved. We are geared up to provide customers with detailed consumption data as the new meters provide precise usage, and their bills may reflect higher than what was normal consumption for them.
- Utility training: The Town Manager will be attending a utility software training the week of March 18-22.

### OLD BUSINESS

- Mayor Cosgrove asked about the recent mail delays. Ms. Taylor shared that she met with postal authorities in Warsaw who recommended separating the Montross bills from the rest and leaving them at the Montross post office until the processing issues at the Sandston sorting location are worked out.
- Park project: Will Townsend finished up his Eagle Scout project by removing much of the tree growth, debris and ivy from the sideline bed, along with building the base for the new park sign. Left to finish is grading of the bed area, sign installation, a couple lighting features, flowers/shrubs, story walk pedestal installation, and paving of side driveway and consideration of paving the walkways. Mayor Cosgrove spoke of the positive reasons for paving the paths such as handicap accessibility, safety issues, and ongoing lower maintenance using chemicals and labor for weed removal. Council members agreed that it would be a good use of the donation funds earmarked for the park.
- Parking lot: We are awaiting the creation by Attorney Hutt of an ingress/egress easement with the adjacent property owner, and then tree removal and paving can be completed.
- Project costs for the creation of pickleball courts will be investigated with data brought back to Council for consideration, public notification, and approval.

## NEW BUSINESS

- TM Taylor shared there has been frustration from the online listeners to hear and understand what is being said at the council meetings. Several council members agreed that they have heard the same concern. Taylor requested advice of improved sound quality from Matt Tanner with Timely Tech, who has handled the previous installation of new phones and software. Mr. Tanner provided a quote of \$1466.18 that includes the installation of a camera, microphones for each council member / town manager, along with a small monitor for settings. A motion was made by Mrs. Carlson with a second by Mrs. Wittman to approve the bid from Timely Tech for purchase of the equipment. A roll call vote was taken: Mrs. Carlson – aye; Mr. Hooks – aye; Mrs. Wittman – aye; Mr. Watson – aye; Mr. Cosgrove – aye. The motion unanimously carried.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

None

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Francine Taylor  
Town Manager

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Terry A. Cosgrove  
Mayor