

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2020**  
**CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**Council Members Present:**

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor  
Denise P. Bowden, Councilwoman  
Edward W. Lewis, Jr. Councilman  
Matthew Reed, Councilman  
Ellen W. Richardson, Councilwoman  
Gene W. Taylor, Councilman

**Council Members Absent:**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Invocation**

Councilman Taylor offered the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Leonard led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Public Comments**

Mayor Leonard opened the floor for public comment.

- Mr. Stewart Baker, 5156 Serenity Lane, stated that he has 2 items to address with Council. The first item was regarding filling the vacant Council seat. He advised that traditionally it is typical to select the next person that did not take office from the most recent election. He urged Council to continue in that same tradition in their deliberations to fill the vacancy. He also commented on Council possibly naming the Town as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary Community. He stated that he is in support of Council approving this and conveying the Town's position as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary City to Senator Lewis and Representative Bloxom, the General Assembly and the Governor. This shows Council's objection to the many unconstitutional 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment legislative proposals that will be under consideration of the General Assembly this coming Wednesday.

Mr. Baker advised that he is making this request for many reasons: 1. To ensure both the state and federal constitutional right to have and bear arms for the protection of our lives, our families, our communities, our state and country from threats of any source. 2. To continue our Chincoteague and Eastern Shore way of life as a rich waterfowl and wildlife hunting area. 3. To continue to be able to teach our children and grandchildren the safe practice of handling firearms for hunting and self-defense, which may become necessary during their lifetime in this everchanging world. 4. To be ready and prepared to support local law enforcement in the protection of the neighbors and communities when and if the need arises in the future.

- Accomack County Supervisor, Billy Joe Tarr reported they had approximately 200 people at their December meeting. He advised that this week the bills that were drafted to the House of Delegates will seriously have an adverse effect on our right to keep and bear arms. He has received visits, calls and emails from citizens about these bills. He wanted everyone to know that the Supervisors are all on board with everyone here and in the county. They are fighting and they want it to stop. They want to be united to remove the bills. They've adopted a resolution at the last meeting and sent it to Richmond outlining their wishes to the representatives in Richmond to get rid of it. He stated that they have left out the word "sanctuary" in their resolution because no one has that authority and it means nothing. They do not have the authority to give anyone the right to not follow the law. He read a paragraph from the Supervisors resolution. "Whereas the Board has no legislative, regulatory or enforcement authority related to the purchase, possession, transfer, ownership, carrying, storage or transporting a firearm, ammunition or components or combination thereof as provided by §15.2-915 of the Code of Virginia as amended. It has no authority over the independent execution of the duties of the Constitutional officers involved in law enforcement." He advised that what will happen is the person that is not abiding by the law will end up in jail. He also stated that he could be sitting in jail as well if he gives the authority to do something that he doesn't have the authority to do. He stated that the "sanctuary cities" for illegal immigrants only means that when the feds come in to get the illegal immigrants, the locality or county will not help find them, process them or hold them. Supervisor Tarr advised he is going to Richmond February 6<sup>th</sup> where all of the Association of Counties will meet and invited everyone to go. He concluded by saying "Let your voice be heard!"

- Mr. Harold Cherrix, 3308 LeKites Drive, asked Council to notify the Attorney General and Governor of Virginia that the Town of Chincoteague will not enforce any laws that contradicts the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution. He read a quote from Patrick Henry "I have but one lamp of which my feet are guided, and that lamp is the lamp of experience". He knows no way to judge the future but by the past. History has proven that when the government begins to take guns from citizens that citizens do not fare well. He listed several examples including 90 miles off the coast of Florida there was Castro. He continued that once they remove the firearms from citizens they begin locking up and executing who questions the government. The past has demonstrated that government has always tried to undermine individual liberties. He didn't think this would happen in the United States. However, he never thought he would see a time that a United States President would authorize over \$1 billion for a private jet and fly to a terrorist country. He believes anything is possible in government today.

Mr. Cherrix continued that when he was 12 years old, he grabbed his 12-gauge shotgun and 6 duck decoys and headed around Eastside putting those decoys into the creek to get a few ducks. It was no big deal, and no one was afraid of him walking around with a gun because they had respect for human life. There were also a few trucks in the parking lot at Chincoteague High School with shotguns and rifles in them and no one was afraid of that. It is not a gun problem, it's a people problem. In his opinion, we are not raising kids to respect each other and not teaching gun safety. Kids are growing up without both parents teaching them how to be productive members of society. Everyone knows that SB16 and SB64 currently before state legislature is a direct result of Bloomberg bought and paid for legislature with the intent to introduce a gun ban and confiscation of firearms in Virginia. Both bills are purposely vague and

allow for future interpretation. You have to pass it before you know what's in it. SB16 calls for the banning and confiscating of certain firearms: Any rifle with a fixed or detachable magazine with a clip greater than 10 rounds. If the rifle has a detachable magazine, it can't have a pistol grip, pump stock, thumbhole, or any other characteristics they deem scary. The SB16 also bans pistols that have a magazine fixed or removable magazine with a clip greater than 10 rounds capacity, removable grip or thumbhole. SB64 states "a person is guilty of unlawful paramilitary activity, punishable as a Class 5 felony if he teaches or demonstrates anyone the use, application, or making of any firearm, explosive or incendiary device, or technique capable of causing injury or death to persons, knowing or having reason to know or intending that such training will be employed for use in, or in furtherance of, a civil disorder".

Mr. Cherrix explained that "civil disorder" is broad-termed. This causes great concern. These bills are so vague that you can be arrested for teaching someone self-defense or firearm safety. Introducing more laws will not fix the violence in this country. Laws do not stop crime. The criminal justice system was not designed to stop crime, it was designed to identify criminal activity, establish a mechanism and punish criminals. If the laws stopped crime, we would be in a crime free country now. There are plenty of laws already. There are only 2 things that will stop a man from murdering his neighbor; 1. He knows it's morally wrong. 2. His neighbor is well armed. The law didn't stop the bad guy in White Settlement Church, in Texas. He was stopped by a man with a gun who was well trained using his natural rights given to him by God to defend himself and those around him. The Constitution by itself can't protect our rights. The Constitution is a piece of parchment with ink. The Constitution cannot visit legislators, it cannot protest in front of Congress, it cannot go to meetings like this and tell our elected officials how we feel.

Mr. Cherrix stated that, we the people are the only ones that can protect our rights. He was disappointed in the Accomack County Board of Supervisors in their lame submittal to the Virginia legislators. He asked Mayor and Council to send a letter to the Attorney General and the Governors of Virginia stating that Chincoteague will not enforce any law that violates the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment of the Constitution thus becoming a Sanctuary Town. Remember the people who riddled Anne Frank broke the law and those who killed her were obeying the law.

Mayor Leonard moved Agenda Item 9 to Item 5.

Councilman Lewis moved, seconded by Councilman Taylor to move Agenda item 9 "Discussion of Second Amendment Resolution" to Item 5. Unanimously approved.

## **5. Discussion of Second Amendment Resolution**

Councilman Taylor read an excerpt of one of the proposed resolutions:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Town of Chincoteague Town Council:

That the Chincoteague Town Council hereby declares Chincoteague, Virginia, as a "Second Amendment Sanctuary", and

That the Town Council of Chincoteague hereby expresses its intent to uphold the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Chincoteague, Virginia, and

That the Chincoteague Town Council hereby expresses its intent that public funds of the town not be used to restrict the Second amendment rights of the citizens of Chincoteague, or to aid federal or state agencies in the restriction of said rights, and

That the Chincoteague Town Council hereby declares its intent to oppose any infringement on the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms using such legal means as may be expedient, including, without limitation, court action.

The undersigned Mayor of the Town of Chincoteague, hereby certifies that the resolution set forth above was adopted during an open meeting on January 6, 2020, by the Town Council with the following votes:

Mayor Leonard asked for discussion.

Councilwoman Bowden asked Chief Fisher if Council declares the Town of Chincoteague as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary what this means for the Chincoteague Police.

Chief Fisher stated that they are all sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States and Virginia and its laws. He also stated he wasn't sure what "sanctuary" entails. He recalled a House Bill in response to public service employees (police), if they do not enforce the laws then the state considers that they are on strike. The state will then tell the Town to fire those employees and they cannot be employed in Virginia as an officer for 12 months.

Councilman Lewis doesn't believe they can force the Town to fire those officers. He feels that if the bills are passed, more police will die going into homes to take guns.

Mayor Leonard expressed that there aren't that many gun violence incidents on Chincoteague.

Chief Fisher stated that he could recall 3 or 4 gun violence incidents on Chincoteague over the last 10 years. He also mentioned the "Red Flag Law". He added that this is a hunting community and the way this law is written you won't be able to take them hunting. He warned that the bills could contain the intent of the "Red Flag Law" without naming it. He added that criminals shouldn't have a weapon. He stated that in the Constitution for law abiding citizens the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment of the Constitution cannot be violated.

Councilwoman Bowden advised that she is a proud gun owner. Her father taught her to respect guns and about gun safety. They used to go up-the-bay and shoot cans off the dock. She is also a concealed carry permit holder. She commented that if someone comes into the meeting room brandishing a firearm, everyone here would be glad that people in the room had guns to protect them. Some people shouldn't have a gun. The legislators are looking at guns as being the problem. It is a people problem. Councilwoman Bowden advised when she left her house today and walked by her gun cabinet, neither one of those guns opened up the cabinet went out and shot someone. She stated that she is a law-abiding citizen that shouldn't be punished for abiding by the law. She asked what power a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary give the Town in this fight. Her

right shall not be infringed upon as an American citizen. She is still unsure about the “sanctuary” part of it.

Councilman Taylor read the County’s version of the resolution. He added that this is not what Council proposes, he wanted to read it with the Town’s information in it.

Councilman Lewis explained it’s saying they will not use Town funds to enforce this unconstitutional law.

Councilman Taylor asked Chief Fisher is he had any problem with this paragraph “The Chincoteague Town Council hereby expresses its intent that public funds of the Town will not be used in the restriction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Rights of the citizens.

Chief Fisher advised he does not have a problem with this. He advised that he is going to do what Council says.

Councilman Reed asked to move on with the motion.

Councilwoman Richardson agreed with Councilwoman Bowden.

Mayor Leonard advised he went to the Accomack County Board of Supervisors’ meeting. He stated that he received a shotgun at 12 years old along with the responsibility. He was told in no uncertain terms what he could and could not do with it. He added that in today’s political climate they’re going down a bad road. There is starting to be gangs. He also stated that you’re in red or blue. He stated that we’re not red or blue, we’re red white and blue. He added that we aren’t democrats or republicans, we’re Americans. It isn’t the guns, it’s the people behind the guns. He added that by delegating these laws of what sounds good to one person who has never owned a firearm and has no clue doesn’t make it the right thing to do. Mayor Leonard asked where this will end. They start with assault weapons then it’s whatever they can hand out. He feels they’ll be empty handed. He wants Richmond to know we are not going to support anything that will prevent us from our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. He wants to send Richmond a message from the fringes of the State that we don’t like what they’re doing.

Councilman Lewis motioned, seconded by Councilman Taylor to adopt the Resolution declaring the Town of Chincoteague as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary City. Unanimously approved.

## **RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.” And

**WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008), affirmed an individual’s right to possess firearms, unconnected with service in a militia, for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home, and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court in *McDonald v. Chicago*, 561 U.S. 742 (2010), affirmed that the right of an individual to “keep and bear arms,” as protected under the Second Amendment, is incorporated by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment against the states, and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court in *United States v. Miller*, 307 U.S. 174 (1939), opined that firearms that are part of ordinary military equipment, or with use that could contribute to the common defense are protected by the Second Amendment, and

**WHEREAS**, Article I, Section 13 of the constitution of Virginia provides “that a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed,” and

**WHEREAS**, Article I, Section 1 of the Constitution of Virginia reads, “That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into the state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety, and

**WHEREAS**, Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution of Virginia reads “that all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people, that magistrates are their trustees and servants, and at all times amenable to them”, and

**WHEREAS**, certain legislation that has or may be introduced in the Virginia General Assembly, and certain legislation which has or may be introduced in the United States Congress could have the effect of infringing on the rights of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 13 of the Constitution of Virginia, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Chincoteague Town Council is concerned about the passage of any bill containing language which could be interpreted as infringing on the rights of the citizens of Chincoteague to keep and bear arms, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Chincoteague wishes to express its deep commitment to the rights of all of its citizens to keep and bear arms, and

**WHEREAS**, the Chincoteague Town Council wishes to express opposition to any law that would unconstitutionally restrict the rights of the citizens of Chincoteague to keep and bear arms, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Chincoteague wishes to express its intent to stand as a Sanctuary Town for Second Amendment rights and to oppose, within the limits of the Constitution of the United

States and the Commonwealth of Virginia, any efforts to unconstitutionally restrict such rights, and to use such legal means at its disposal to protect the rights of the citizens of Chincoteague to keep and bear arms, including through legal action, the power to appropriate public funds, the right to petition for redress of grievances, and the power to direct the law enforcement and employees of Chincoteague to not enforce any unconstitutional law.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Town of Chincoteague Town Council:

That the Chincoteague Town Council hereby declares Chincoteague, Virginia, as a “Second Amendment Sanctuary”, and

That the Town Council of Chincoteague hereby expresses its intent to uphold the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Chincoteague, Virginia, and

That the Chincoteague Town Council hereby expresses its intent that public funds of the town not be used to restrict the Second amendment rights of the citizens of Chincoteague, or to aid federal or state agencies in the restriction of said rights, and

That the Chincoteague Town Council hereby declares its intent to oppose any infringement on the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms using such legal means as may be expedient, including, without limitation, court action.

The undersigned Mayor of the Town of Chincoteague, hereby certifies that the resolution set forth above was adopted during an open meeting on January 6, 2020, by the Town Council with the following votes:

Ayes: Bowden, Lewis, Reed, Richardson, Taylor

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Arthur Leonard

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
James M. West, Clerk of Council

## **6. Agenda Adoption**

Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adopt the agenda as changed. Unanimously approved.

## **7. Staff Updates**

Police Department

Chief Fisher stated that the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> accreditation assessment. He feels they are ready.

#### Public Works Department

Public Works Director Spurlock advised that they have started the next phase of the Sarbanes sidewalk project on Pension Street, Ocean Boulevard and Maddox Boulevard.

#### General Government

Town Manager West reported that the NASA contractor who is building the filtration plant will be tying into the 16" main on Tuesday.

Public Works Director Spurlock interjected that it should go unnoticed because Sunday's total water usage was 190,000 which is the lowest consumption recorded.

Town Manager West also advised they have been approved for the firehall planning and engineering grant. He reported that regarding the Inlet Study, VIMS will have a workshop Tuesday and he plans to attend.

### **8. Committee Reports**

#### Budget and Personnel

Mayor Leonard advised they discussed the jumbotron. He reported that last year the Chamber paid for it. This year the Chamber will pay \$2,000, the Pony Committee will pay for \$1,000 and the Town will pay the difference. They also discussed IT items that needed to be done, desalination, and the vacancy on Council which will be discussed later in the meeting.

### **9. Adoption of the Minutes of the December 2, 2019, Council Meeting**

Councilwoman Richardson asked to add a clarification on page 10 of the agenda packet in the minutes regarding the Cemetery Committee report. She stated that she was unsure about the Chincoteague High School BETA having to earn 40 community service hours and agreeing to maintain the Hallie Whealton Smith Cemetery to earn their hours. She explained that this property was conveyed to the Accomack County School Board years ago. The Town has gone in there and cleaned it 3 times. However, the School Board agreed to maintain it. She suggested they contact Mr. Mike Tolbert to take care of it.

Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adopt the minutes of the December 2, 2019 Council meeting as corrected. Unanimously approved.

### **10. Personnel Policy Amendment**

There was no discussion.

*Employees whose position requires them to possess a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) are subject to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Clearinghouse rules. The Clearinghouse is an electronic database that contains information about commercial motor vehicle drivers' drug and alcohol program violations. The rule requires FMCSA-regulated employers, Medical Review Officers, Substance Abuse Professionals, consortia/third-party administrators and other service agents to report*

*to the Clearinghouse information related to violations of FMCSA's drug and alcohol testing regulations by current and prospective commercial motor vehicle driver employees.*

*In addition:*

- *Employers must query the Clearinghouse for current and prospective employees' drug and alcohol program violations before permitting those employees to operate a commercial motor vehicle on public roads.*
- *Employers are required to query the Clearinghouse annually for each driver they currently employ.*
- *State driver licensing agencies will be required to query the Clearinghouse whenever a CDL (commercial driver's license) is issued, renewed, transferred or upgraded.*

*The following information will be reported to the Clearinghouse:*

- *A verified positive, adulterated, or substituted drug test result;*
- *An alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher;*
- *A refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol test;*
- *An employer's report of actual knowledge, as defined at 49 CFR § 382.107;*
- *On duty alcohol use pursuant to 49 CFR § 382.205;*
- *Pre-duty alcohol use pursuant to 49 CFR § 382.207;*
- *Alcohol use following an accident pursuant to 49 CFR § 382.209;*
- *Drug use pursuant to 49 CFR § 382.213;*
- *A substance abuse professional's (SAP) report of the successful completion of the return-to-duty process;*
- *A negative return-to-duty test; and,*
- *An employer's report of completion of follow-up testing.*

Councilman Lewis motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to approve the Personnel Policy amendment. Unanimously approved.

## **11. Consider Preliminary FY 21 Trolley Operational Budget**

Town Manager West explained that the Trolley Operational Budget is completed early each year and approved by Council for grant application purposes and to include the necessary funds for the Town's match in the upcoming budget. The Town's contribution is reduced because they've agreed to raise the Trolley fare from \$0.25 to \$0.50. It's a minor reduction from last year to this year. They are thinking about asking for another grant from a sub-organization to use as the match for the purchase a new trolley this year.

Councilwoman Bowden asked if the ridership was up or down.

Town Manager West advised it was up a little. He advised they are proposing to change the routes a little to include the Harbor and to work it in such a way to keep the old routes. They feel there is value in running some routes to the Harbor.

Councilman Taylor commented that in the summer months the people are using the Trolleys.

Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilman Lewis to adopt the preliminary FY 21 Trolley Operational Budget. Unanimously approved.

ACCOUNT	REVENUE	FY 21 Proposal	FY 20
704501.0100	TROLLEY GRANTS	\$59,327	\$62,883
704501.0110	PROGRAM INCOME	\$8,000	\$1,500
704501.0200	RTAP REIMBURSEMENTS	\$0	\$0
704501.0300	MISC. NONPROGRAM INCOME	\$0	\$0
704501.8900	TRANSFER FROM GEN. FUND	\$24,232	\$25,685
	TOTAL	<b>\$91,559</b>	<b>\$90,068</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
	<b>SALARIES</b>		
703010.0100	SALARIES	\$44,760	\$44,442
	TOTAL	\$44,760	\$44,442
	<b>BENEFITS</b>		
703010.2001	SOCIAL SECURITY	\$3,424	\$3,400
	TOTAL	\$3,424	\$3,400
	<b>OPERATIONS EXPENSES</b>		
703030.3401	INSURANCE & BONDING	\$3,400	\$3,310
703030.4400	COMUNICATION SERVICES	\$800	\$1,225
703030.4401	PRINTING & REPRODUCTION	\$2,700	\$2,716
703030.4402	ADVERTISING & PROMOTION	\$1,175	\$1,175
703030.4403	EDUCATION & TRAINING	\$1,200	\$1,000
703030.4404	CLEANING SUPPLIES	\$100	\$100
703030.4406	SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	\$500	\$500
703030.4407	MEMBERSHIPS & DUES	\$250	\$250
703030.4408	TRAVEL & MEALS	\$1,000	\$1,000
703030.4701	FUEL & LUBRICANTS	\$7,000	\$7,000
703030.4702	TIRES & TUBES	\$600	\$600

703030.4703	UNIFORMS	\$1,200	\$0
703030.4704	PARTS	\$750	\$750
703030.5201	DRUG TESTING/BACKGROUND CHECKS	\$1,200	\$1,100
703030.6100	RTAP EXPENSES	\$0	\$0
703030.7302	REPAIRS/MAINT	\$6,500	\$6,500
703030.8505	RENT TO GENERAL FUND	\$15,000	\$15,000
	TOTAL	\$43,375	\$42,226
	<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$91,559</b>	<b>\$90,068</b>

## 12. Filling of Council Vacancy

Mayor Leonard explained that Mr. Ben Ellis had resigned from Council as he has moved. He asked for discussion from Council.

Councilman Reed nominated Mr. Chris Bott which was seconded by Councilman Taylor.

Councilwoman Richardson nominated Mr. Ray Rosenberger which was seconded by Councilwoman Bowden.

Councilwoman Bowden asked about Mr. Baker's comment regarding the traditional practice in replacing a Councilmember.

Councilwoman Richardson advised that this has not been the traditional practice. She gave names of citizens appointed in the past that did not run for Council.

Mayor Leonard advised that this is for a 6-month appointment.

Mayor Leonard asked for a vote for Mr. Chris Bott.  
Ayes: Reed, Taylor and Lewis

Mayor Leonard asked for a vote for Mr. Ray Rosenberger.  
Ayes: Richardson and Bowden.

Mayor Leonard asked Mr. Bott if he was willing to serve the remaining term of 6 months on Council.

Mr. Bott advised that he is willing.

Mayor Leonard welcomed Mr. Bott to Council.

## 13. Mayor Committee Appointments

Mayor Leonard appointed Councilwoman Bowden as Vice Mayor. He stated that Councilwoman Bowden was Vice Mayor in the past and has filled that position well. He asked if Council had any problems with this. There were none.

Mayor Leonard stated that he has to appoint Council to the committees and commissions that Mr. Ellis was a member. He appointed Vice Mayor Bowden to the Budget and Personnel Committee for the remaining 6 months. He appointed Councilman Taylor to the Chincoteague Recreation and Convention Authority for the remaining 6 months. He appointed Councilman Reed to the Planning Commission for the remaining 6 months.

#### **14. 2019 Christmas Decoration Recognitions**

Mayor Leonard announced the winners of the 2019 Christmas Decorated homes:

Most Festive/Best Themed:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Mrs. Faith Gregory

Honorable Mention: Mr. Dino Johnson

Most Traditional:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Mr. & Mrs. Scott Chesson

Honorable Mention: Mr. & Mrs. Bill Derrickson

Best Overall:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Mr. & Mrs. Bill Birch

Honorable Mention: Mr. & Mrs. Harry Thornton

#### **15. Mayor & Council Announcements or Comments**

Councilman Reed asked to address the over-run of foxes on the Island. He explained the damage they're doing and expressed personal concerns. He reported that the foxes have killed all of their chickens, given his horse mange along with the damage to cemeteries. He suggested calling the USDA because something has to be done. He would like it addressed before it gets out-of-hand. He asked if he was allowed to shoot them.

Chief Fisher advised that the Ordinance states that you are allowed to shoot them only if you're protecting your family or property. He also advised that they received permission for the depopulation of foxes along with the deer depopulation program. However, the foxes are too smart and too fast. He stated that he will contact the Department of Agriculture who exterminates them with gas.

There was discussion about the dens, damage in cemeteries and that the cemeteries are privately owned. The foxes can be trapped but not relocated. There were further comments.

Councilman Taylor thanked Chief Fisher for his position to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary decision. He added that they wouldn't put our officers in a bad situation. He feels this was a good, productive and courteous meeting.

Vice Mayor Bowden welcomed Mr. Chris Bott on board. She has no doubt he would do a fantastic job. She thanked him for being willing to serve. She thanked Chief Fisher for answering her questions. She advised that one of the Town's Public Works employees lost his

son suddenly New Year's Day. She asked everyone to keep him and his family close to their hearts. She also stated that she is looking forward to input and cooperation this year.

Councilman Taylor also asked for prayers for Councilman Lewis' brother, Mr. David Lewis, who is going into surgery tomorrow.

Councilwoman Richardson also welcomed Mr. Chris Bott to Council.

## **16. Adjournment**

Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilman Reed to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

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J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

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James M. West, Town Manager