

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2020
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Council Members Present:

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor
Christopher D. Bott, Vice Mayor
Denise P. Bowden, Councilwoman
William T. McComb, Jr. Councilman
Matthew Reed, Councilman
Ellen W. Richardson, Councilwoman
Gene W. Taylor, Councilman

Council Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager
Mr. Bryan Rush, Emergency Management Coordinator
Mr. Robby Fisher, Police Chief

1. Call to Order

Mayor Leonard called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Invocation

Councilman McComb offered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Leonard led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comment

Mayor Leonard opened the floor for public comment.

- Ms. Nancy Payne, 4296 Main Street, came before Council regarding political signs. She read and the State Code. She also advised that her sign on the corner of Main Street and Maddox Boulevard was vandalized. She added that vandalism and crime should be addressed. She stated that the Town government doesn't make stronger efforts to connect with the people. She suggested paying someone to put weekly updates and the agenda in the local paper. She feels if the Town had posted the political signage rules and regulations she wouldn't be standing before Council.

Councilman Taylor asked Ms. Payne if the Building and Zoning Administrator addressed her signs.

Ms. Payne responded that they have not.

- Mrs. Louisa Flaningham, 5122 Main Street, came before Council to sing the praises of the Police Department. She advised of an incident at the Timothy Hill house and wanted Council to know how well the Police Officers handled the matter. She stated that they were very professional and nice. She also stated that she and her husband are so proud of the Police Department and how seriously they handled the case. Mrs. Flaningham added that the officers made them feel safe. She informed Council that they have now installed some cameras. She expressed how wonderful they were and how good of a job they did.

5. Agenda Adoption

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

6. Proclamation

Mayor Leonard read the Proclamation.



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, throughout our community there are many cemeteries and family burial grounds; and

WHEREAS, over the years many of the loved ones of those buried in our cemeteries have moved away or are no longer able to tend to these cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, many organizations and individuals throughout our community have volunteered to assist in the cleanup of those sites and common areas within these cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, these organizations and individuals need assistance from all citizens to accomplish their cleanup goals to beautify and preserve our family burial grounds.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor John A. Leonard do hereby proclaim the week of November 7th through 13th, 2020, as Cemetery Cleanup Week within the Town of Chincoteague and call upon our citizens to volunteer to organize and assist in the cleanup of our Island cemeteries.

DATED this 15th day of October, 2020.

John A. Leonard, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

Mayor Leonard asked for help.

Councilwoman Richardson advised they will be cleaning the Mechanics Cemetery on November 7th. She invited everyone to come out and help.

7. Review of State of Emergency

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush reported on the state and Eastern Shore statistics of COVID19. He advised that Chincoteague is still at 31 total cases with 642 tested. He showed the slide that was posted on the website and social media regarding Trick-or-Treating. He advised that the Town will have Halloween Trick-or-Treating. He reviewed the safety precautions. He commented on future plans for events and outbreaks. He also added that the downtown will be closed from Church Street to Cropper Street for Trick-or-Treating with the Downtown Merchants.

There were discussions regarding signage for Halloween.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush also reviewed the tropics adding that November 30th is the technical end of Hurricane Season. They are also in recovery and the numbers are staying safe. He anticipates additional cases into the winter months. He feels the fall and winter activities will still happen but modified unless something happens and there is an outbreak.

8. Review of CARES Act 2.0 Awards

Town Manager Tolbert reported that CARES Act 2.0 was successful. He reviewed the total grants issued. They have spent \$503,922 on grant awards, hazard pay, and equipment leaving a balance of \$71,874.73 to spend on qualifying items. He reviewed a list of qualifying items. He asked for input from Council.

There was discussion about the cost of a new dispatch console and if it qualifies for the grant. They also discussed the possibility of purchasing 1 message board and using the rest for the dispatch console.

9. Mayor & Council Announcements/Comments

Councilman Taylor appreciated Mrs. Flaningham's compliment for our officers. He expressed his concerns that more of the younger people don't want to be police officers.

Councilman McComb congratulated the Chamber on a successful DIY Oyster Festival. He also complimented the officers on the traffic control during the event.

Vice Mayor Bott gave kudos to the Town staff on the CARES Act Grants. He stated that they gave close to 84% of the CARES Act money to the businesses and watermen. He is impressed with how quickly and efficiently staff made it happen.

Councilwoman Bowden also thanked Mrs. Flaningham for complimenting the Police Officers. She advised that the Town has come a long way and feels they communicate well with the website and social media especially with the live meetings. She added that people are going to read what they want. She understands Ms. Payne's frustration.

Ms. Payne commented.

Councilwoman Bowden asked everyone to keep Councilman McComb in their prayers.

10. Closed Meeting in Accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia to Discuss the Acquisition and of Real Property

Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to go into a closed meeting in accordance with §2.2-3711A(3) of the Code of Virginia to discuss acquisition of property. Unanimously approved.

11. Certification of Closed Meeting in Accordance with § 2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia

Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to certify the closed meeting in accordance with §2.2-372 (D) of the Code of Virginia. Unanimously approved.

Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to go back into regular session. Unanimously approved.

12. Adjournment

Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to adjourn. Unanimously approved

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager