

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2021**  
**CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Council Chambers**

**Council Members Present:**

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor  
Christopher D. Bott, Vice Mayor  
Denise P. Bowden, Councilwoman  
Ellen W. Richardson, Councilwoman  
Gene W. Taylor, Councilman

**Council Members Absent:**

William T. McComb, Jr. Councilman

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager  
Mr. Bryan Rush, Emergency Management Coordinator  
Mr. Robby Fisher, Police Chief  
Mr. Harvey Spurlock, Public Works Director

**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 Comment**

Mayor Leonard opened the public comment. There was none.

**5. Agenda Adoption**

**Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adopt the agenda as presented. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.**

**Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: McComb**

**6. 2020 Christmas Decoration Recognitions**

Mayor Leonard announced the winners of the 2020 Christmas Decorated Homes:

Most Traditional:

Mr. Jason Young  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Pertsch, Honorable Mention

Most Festive:

Mr. & Mrs. William Kambarn  
Mr. Sonny Rodgers, Honorable Mention

Best Overall

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Birch  
Mrs. Yvonne Daisey, Honorable Mention.

## **7. Staff Reports**

### General Government

Town Manager Tolbert reported that tax collections are at 89%. He advised that the GAC Plant testing and sampling is complete. They are waiting for the final approval from the Office of Drinking Water to begin operations. The CARES Act grant is completed. He reported that they received \$503,922 through 2 awards. All monies have been applied, spent, received, and reimbursed. He feels it was a success.

Town Manager Tolbert reviewed the Financial Report. He reported that the Meals Tax revenues are down from last year and the Transient Occupancy Tax revenues are within a couple of hundred dollars from last year. He added that the floating dock for the Harbor should be here the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January and scheduled to be installed within that week.

### Police Department

Chief Fisher advised he and Town Manager Tolbert attended a virtual Zoom meeting with the Academy who is conducting investigation of having their own firing range. He reported that he, Capt. Greenley and Dispatcher Lewis attended a virtual meeting with VRSA. He explained that President Trump ordered that law enforcement could only use a chokehold in life-or-death situations. It also has to be incorporated to their policy. Chief Fisher advised that the DCJS directed the accreditation staff to conduct the compliance reviews on this. He reported that they submitted all policies within a few days to the DCJS who approved the changes to their policy. He added that if they did not complete the changes, they would not receive federal money.

Chief Fisher announced they were able to help 10 families and 24 children for Christmas. He thanked everyone for their donations of money and toys. They also collected for the Sheriff's office who had a great year as well. The leftover toys and items went to the Atlantic Fire Company who helped 96 families.

### Public Works

Public Works Director Spurlock reviewed the current drainage situation. They repaired the pump at the traffic circle. They plan to clean ditches within the next couple of weeks.

Councilwoman Bowden asked about the traffic light at Maddox Boulevard and Main Street.

Public Works Director Spurlock responded that the local signal tech from VDOT was here today. There is a faulty detector on Maddox Boulevard, and it should be repaired by the end of the week.

### Emergency Services

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush reviewed the monthly EMS report. He stated that in 2019 they ran 905 EMS calls and in 2020 they ran 902 EMS calls. They have to decontaminate the ambulance after calls and are going through PPE. He added that there are more COVID patients now than in the beginning.

## **8. Review of State of Emergency**

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush reported on the recent COVID statistics. He also reported on the vaccines. He mentioned that there is a mutated strain now in the U. S. which they believe is more contagious but no more dangerous. They are still in response and recovery operations. He encouraged the public to keep out of group settings, wash your hands, wear your mask and watch your distance.

## **9. Committee Reports**

### Public Works Committee

Councilwoman Richardson reported that they discussed the Multi-Modal Transportation Project.

### RCEC

Councilman Taylor advised they had a very productive meeting where they reviewed and continued plans for playground equipment at the new park on Smith Street. He commended the fundraising efforts. He also announced that a caring citizen has offered to match the funds raised for park equipment. He urged Council to put this in the budget.

## **10. Adoption of the Minutes for the December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Council Meetings.**

**Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adopt the minutes of the December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Council meeting as presented. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.**

**Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: McComb**

## **11. District 1 Supervisor Report**

Accomack County Supervisor Billy Joe Tarr gave an update on the CARES Act funds the County received which was about \$6 million. He reported where it was disbursed. They have \$1.2 million to help with the food shortage. He continued that they partnered with different agencies to help with relief from food shortages, internet and hotspots and utility bill assistance. They also gave hazard pay to the County's first responders. They are working on an Urgent Needs Grant to help in another round of assistance for hunger. They are also working on

childcare. RH Contracting was given an extension to complete the Library. He also reported that the Governor has put in the 2022 budget, Cost of Obtaining Adjustment. This is a study of teachers' salaries around the state. This could lead to a raise in the teacher's salaries on the Shore making the salaries competitive and keeping teachers here.

Councilwoman Bowden asked how much the study would cost for the teachers' salaries.

Supervisor Tarr responded that it wasn't specified. He thanked everyone and offered to be back the 1st meeting in April. He also announced that he will be the Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors this year and the Chairman the following year.

## **12. Consider Preliminary FY 22 Trolley Budget**

Town Manager Tolbert explained that the Operating Budget for the Trolley is due next month. He briefly reviewed the budget stating that the Trolley Service is funded by a federal and state grant totaling 71% and the Town funds 29%. He stated that there is a capital expenditure this year where they have to replace a trolley that is 11 years old. The funding of the new trolley will be 80% paid by the government, 16% paid by the state and the Town would pay the remaining 4%. They have a capital account for a trolley and can only be used with approval from DRPT. Once they replace the trolley, they will come before Council to ask to surplus the trolley. The trolley will bring in more than the Town would pay out. He added that they plan to run the Trolley this year as they normally would as opposed to weekends only.

**Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to approve the preliminary FY 22 Trolley Budget. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.**

**Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: McComb**

## **13. Mayor & Council Announcements/Comments**

Councilwoman Bowden asked everyone to pray for Councilman McComb as he will be in Baltimore early tomorrow for surgery. She wished everyone a Happy New Year. She also stated that they made it through 2020 and together they can get through 2021. They have a lot to look forward to.

Councilman Taylor prayed for Councilman McComb.

Mayor Leonard concluded with "Roll Tide".

## **14. Closed Meeting in Accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia to Discuss Appointees for Filling the Vacant Council Seat.**

**Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson move that the Council convene a closed meeting pursuant to Sec. 2.2-3711 A.1 Code of Virginia for**

**discussion and consideration of the appointment to fill the vacant council position. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.**

**Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: McComb**

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

**Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson in accordance with §2.2-372 (D) of the Code of Virginia that the Council certify that to the best of each Council Member's knowledge.**

**(1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from opening meeting requirements under this chapter and**

**(2) only such public business matters are were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened,**

**were heard, discussed or considered.**

**All present were in favor and the motion was carried.**

**Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: McComb**

**Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to go back into regular session. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.**

**Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: McComb**

**16. Adjourn**

**Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to adjourn. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.**

**Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: McComb**

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J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

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Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager