

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2021
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
Council Chambers

Council Members Present:

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

Council Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager
Mr. Robby Fisher, Police Chief

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation

Councilman Savage offered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Leonard led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comment

There was none.

5. Agenda Adoption

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

6. Review of State of Emergency

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush reviewed the statewide and local statistics: cases to date, new cases, hospitalizations, and vaccination phase. He reminded everyone, "Wash your hands, wear your mask, and watch your distance".

7. Presentation of Updated Emergency Operations Plan

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush explained the process, and all involved in the update of the Emergency Operations Plan. He reviewed the updates to the appendices. He asked Council to review it and let him or Town Manager Tolbert know of any changes or corrections to be made. He plans to present the final updated document to Council on June 7th, for adoption. He thanked everyone involved.

8. Consider Modification to Elevated Tank Painting Contract

Town Manager Tolbert advised that D & M Coatings was the company who painted the high-rise water tower. The Town, at that time, decided not to have the ground water storage tank painted. The Public Works Committee recently approved to have it painted as soon as possible because it will have to be taken out of service for a couple of weeks. They did not want it out of service during the peak season. The current budget line item is \$80,000. However, they can have it painted for \$39,000. They will modify the original contract to conduct the additional work.

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb to approve the painting of the groundwater storage tank and the modification to the elevated tank painting contract. Unanimously approved.

9. Consider Smith Street Deed of Gift

Town Manager Tolbert explained that Mr. David Landsberger donated the corner lot on Smith Street provided the Town agrees to put a structure complimentary to the Park. He asked the pleasure of Council.

Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to accept the Deed of Gift for the Smith Street Property. Unanimously approved.

10. FY22 Budget Workshop 4th Draft

Vice Mayor Bott reported that the FY22 Budget is in balance. He advised of increases and decreases in funds.

Town Manager Tolbert reviewed the highlighted changes and updates to the draft FY22 Budget.

There was discussion about the SRO for the Police Department.

Town Manager Tolbert continued with the review and concluded that the FY22 Budget is in balance.

Councilwoman Bowden and Councilman McComb commented on a great job with the budget.

Town Manger Tolbert added that they have great staff.

Councilman Taylor also commented on a good job and about paying extra on the water bond.

Town Manager Tolbert reported that Finance Director Lewis reviewed the Bond Contract and found that there would be no penalty to pay off early. He added that the interest is 2%: .5% is the interest and 1.5% is administration cost. He advised that they have a bond that will be paid off in May. His plan is to use this payment on the water bond to help pay this off early.

Councilman Taylor stated that the Town is at the point that when they replace a road, they should also schedule to replace the water lines.

11. Consider Public Hearing Advertisement for FY22 Budget

Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to approve the advertisement of public hearing for the FY22 Budget. Unanimously approved.

12. Mayor and Council Announcements/Comments

Councilwoman Bowden thanked Emergency Management Coordinator Rush for all of his efforts and all he does. She thanked Town Manager Tolbert and staff for their work on the budget. She commented that the Town's staff can be put against anyone. She wished Councilman McComb good luck on his surgery tomorrow.

Vice Mayor Bott advised he attended a VML WebEx for updates from the State Legislature. He advised of the marijuana sales and will begin in Virginia July 1, 2021. He stated that the State is allowing the localities to opt out of the State mandates. He urged Council to aggressively look into this and create an ordinance opting out of retail sales, prohibit consumption, and open marijuana products in schools, parks, playgrounds, streets, sidewalks, etc. He stated that this is a family destination community. He feels if they don't regulate it, it could get out of control. If the Town establishes an ordinance, then the businesses can establish their own policies.

Councilwoman Bowden added that the Town doesn't allow open containers of alcohol and they should really think about this.

Vice Mayor Bott added that the state just released the recorded bills, they need to be aggressive because it starts in July. He stated that dispensaries will be allowed in 2022 and the Town should look into this as well.

Councilman McComb commend on a great job on the budget prep and Emergency Operations Plan. He stated that it is Law Enforcement Telecommunicators Week and thanked them for all they do every day.

Councilman Taylor stated that Councilman McComb is in his prayers. He stated that the Town is blessed with all the people we have including the visitors. He praised God for where we are adding that He's working with us. He agreed with Vice Mayor Bott that the Town needs restrictions on marijuana. He wants families to continue to come here and allowing marijuana isn't what we're about.

Councilman Savage also advised he is praying for Councilman McComb. He commended staff on a great job. He expressed his concerns about legalizing marijuana. He added that the reason families come to the Island is to get away from atmosphere of where they're from. He stated that we need to nix it.

13. Adjourn

Councilwoman Bowden and Councilman McComb motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Bott to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager