

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19, 2023
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL 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. Bryan Rush, Director of Emergency Services

Call to Order

Mayor Leonard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation

Councilman Savage offered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Leonard led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Adoption

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

Proclamation of State Pony

Town Manager Tolbert read the Proclamation.

Mayor Leonard stated that he was advised by the Governor to state that as soon as they send it to Richmond, they will sign it as soon as it is received.



PROCLAMATION PROPOSING TO ADOPT A STATE PONY

WHEREAS, The Chincoteague Pony has lived and thrived on the Islands of Chincoteague and Assateague, Virginia since the 17th century where they have not only survived but thrived and multiplied, and

WHEREAS, The Chincoteague Pony, due to its heartiness and through the efforts of authors, filmmakers and the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company, is known not only in the State of Virginia and the United States but throughout the world to adults and children alike, and

WHEREAS, The Chincoteague Ponies are rounded up each year by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company, where the ponies swim the channel between Assateague and Chincoteague Islands to the thrill of thousands of onlookers, and

WHEREAS, The annual Pony Penning and Round Up is now the oldest known annual roundup in the Country and the Pony Swim an event revered for its uniqueness, consistency, and historical tradition, and

WHEREAS, The Chincoteague Ponies through this notoriety are responsible for providing considerable recognition and likewise attract significant tourism to the Eastern Shore and the State of Virginia, and

WHEREAS, The Chincoteague Pony In 1994, due to its rare DNA was designated a unique breed of pony where upon hundreds of owners now proudly claim ownership of these exceptional animals,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Council of the Town of Chincoteague respectfully proposes to the Virginia General Assembly that the animal known and recognized throughout the world as the Chincoteague Pony, be distinguished by this historic body with the title of Official Pony of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Adopted this 19th day of January, 2023

Members of Council:

Signed: _____
John A. Leonard
Mayor

Christopher D. Bott, _____

Ellen Richardson, _____

Denise P. Bowden, _____

Gene W. Taylor, _____

William T. McComb, _____

K. Jay Savage, _____

Councilman Savage motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb to adopt the Proclamation of the State Pony. Unanimously approved.

Public Hearing – Boundary Line Vacation

Mayor Leonard advised that this is the public hearing for the vacation of lot lines on South Main Street for Greg and Debbie Christman.

This is 3 lots to be made into 2 lots. There is 1 septic system to be used by both lots.

Councilman Taylor motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to approve the boundary lines vacation as presented. Unanimously approved.

FY24 Budget Review – General Government, Police Department, and Emergency Medical Services

Town Manager Tolbert reviewed the proposed FY24 Budget for General Government, Police Department and Emergency Medical Services. He explained the salaries, revenues, grants, etc. There was further discussion about EMS staffing and funding.

Councilman Taylor suggested using the Cigarette Tax and possibly the Public Safety Funds for the EMS additional staff funding.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilwoman Bowden commented on revenue streams and agrees with the suggestions of using the Cigarette Tax. She feels they need to look into the income further.

Closed Meeting in Accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia to discuss specific personnel matters.

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by McComb to go into a closed meeting in accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia to discuss perspective business opportunities and personnel matters. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, McComb, Richardson, Savage, Taylor

Nays: None

Absent: None

Certification of Closed Meeting in Accordance with §2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia: Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb 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 only such public business matters 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, McComb, Richardson, Savage, Taylor

Nays: None

Absent: None

Adjourn

**Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb to adjourn.
Unanimously approved.**

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

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