

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 21, 2024**  
**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

**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.

**Presentation by Rocket Lab**

Ms. Jennifer Goodrum, Director of State and Local Government Operations with Rocket Lab, gave a presentation about Rocket Lab. She discussed past launches and projects, what they are currently working on and plans for future launches and projects.

Mr. Aaron Kuipers, Director of the East Coast Test and Launch Operations with Rocket Lab, advised they are talking about possible beach landings. He stated that they've been invited to judge science fair projects at the schools as a part of the Space Flight Academy. Rocket Lab wants to be a part of the Island community and wants the Island community to be a part of Rocket Lab.

Councilwoman Bowden asked about the payload weight and how many launches they plan in a year.

Mr. Kuipers advised that it is 8,000 to 15,000 tons. He added that the number of launches will increase over the years, which depends on market and demand and ideally range up to 1 launch per month.

Ms. Goodrum advised how the rockets are made to be reused. She also added that they plan to launch larger rockets in Virginia.

Councilwoman Bowden feels this is awesome and the partnership between the Town and Rocket Lab will be good for all and the community.

### **Public Comment**

Mayor Leonard opened the floor for public comment.

- Mr. Ben Nolan, Underground Connections, advised he was in attendance if they had any questions about the sewage project bid and installations.

### **Proclamations**

Councilman Savage read the Certificates of Recognition.



## **CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION**

**PRESENTED TO**

**Mr. Terry Savage**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Savage was born on January 8, 1934, and is a lifelong and valued citizen of the Town of Chincoteague; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Savage was honored by relatives and friends on the occasion of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Savage married Betty Jean Daisey on March 30, 1956 and was blessed with a son, 2 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Savage served his country in the United States Coast Guard and enjoyed long careers as a Waterman and NASA Wallops Employee; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Savage is a 62-year life member of the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company and dedicated life member of the Union Baptist Church having served as Deacon, Campground Ministry Leader, Men's Choir Director, Nursing Home Visitation Leader, and Vacation Bible School Coordinator.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Town of Chincoteague, I do hereby deem it an honor and pleasure to extend this tribute to Mr. Terry Savage on the occasion of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, with sincere congratulations and best wishes for many more happy and productive years.

Presented this 21st day of November 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor John A. Leonard

Attest:

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Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

Town Manager Tolbert read the Certificate of Recognition



## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

PRESENTED TO

**Mrs. Ruth Marion Tolbert**

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Tolbert was born on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1934, and has been a lifelong and valued citizen of the Town of Chincoteague; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Tolbert will be honored by relatives and friends on the occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Tolbert married Mr. Fred H. Tolbert on July 3, 1952 and has been blessed with 2 children, 4 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Tolbert is a lifetime member of Christ United Methodist Church where she served in many capacities including Vacation Bible School Director, Teacher and Chancel Choir Director for over 40 years and was a founding member of the Opportunity Shop, an Island institution: and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Tolbert's experiences in her career, include administrative assistant, business owner and realtor attaining the one-time distinction of being top selling agent for Virginia's Eastern Shore;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Town of Chincoteague, I do hereby deem it an honor and pleasure to extend this tribute to Mrs. Ruth

Marion Tolbert on the occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, with sincere congratulations and best wishes for many more happy and productive years.

Presented this 21st day of November 2024.

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Mayor John A. Leonard

Attest:

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Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager  
Mayor Leonard read the Certificate of Recognition.



## **CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION**

**PRESENTED TO**

**Mr. John Graham**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Graham was born on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1929, and has been a and valued citizen of the Town of Chincoteague for many years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Graham was honored by relatives and friends on the occasion of his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Graham was blessed with 6 children, 11 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Graham enlisted in the United States Navy in 1952 and served his country for 8 years as an Aviation Mechanic, is and honorary member of the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company and faithful member of St. Andrews Catholic Church; and

**WHEREAS**, For his service to his community Mr. Graham was awarded Chincoteague Citizen of the Year in 2002;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Town of Chincoteague, I do hereby deem it an honor and pleasure to extend this tribute to Mr. John Graham on the occasion of his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday, with sincere congratulations and best wishes for many more happy and productive years.

Presented this 21st day of November 2024.

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Mayor John A. Leonard

**Attest:**

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Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

**Agenda Adoption**

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

**Consider Harbor Painting Contract**

Mayor Leonard advised that the Harbor Committee met to discuss painting the Harbor's fuel storage tank. They received 2 quotes and the quote submitted by Mr. Stewart Parks for \$16,125 was selected as the low bid. He added that Mr. Parks will complete the project in the next few weeks, weather permitting. If the weather becomes too cold during this time, the project will be done in the spring.

**Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to award the Harbor painting contract to Mr. Stewart Parks in the amount of \$16,125. Unanimously approved.**

**Consider Purchase of Replacement Street Sweeper**

Councilwoman Richardson advised that at the November 5<sup>th</sup> Public Works Committee meeting they reviewed staff recommendations for the purchase of a replacement street sweeper. The Public Works Committee voted to recommend its purchase to Council. The cost of the new unit is \$302,500 and the Town's insurance carrier has provided replacement costs for the damaged unit. She asked when the Town would expect the street sweeper.

Town Manager Tolbert advised it is a matter of the gentleman driving it here as it is currently in Charlotte. He anticipates it within the next several weeks and would like to get it here before the Christmas parade.

**Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb to approve the purchase of a new Regen X Regenerative Air Sweeper in the amount of \$302,500. Unanimously approved.**

### **Consider Contract Recommendation for Commercial Sewer Line**

Town Manager Tolbert advised that the sewer collection system was bid on November 12<sup>th</sup> with 3 bids received and Underground Connections, LLC from Onancock, VA was the low bidder. Davis Bowen and Friedel made a recommendation as well as the Public Works Committee to award the contract to Underground Connections, LLC. Town Manager Tolbert explained that with the current bid the Town is able to do all 3 phases and pay for design fees. He added that this leaves a little money left to dedicate to be encumbered by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. He stated that the Town can use the remainder with replacement revenue. This project will be assigned to ARPA funds as well as the design.

Mayor Leonard asked about the timeframe for the work.

Mr. Nolan advised they plan to begin in January and be done well before May.

There was brief discussion about how the work would be done and contacting business owners.

**Councilman Savage motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb to award the Sewer Collection System project to Underground Connections, LLC. Unanimously approved.**

**Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb to apply \$2,531,811.17 of ARPA funds toward the total project cost of the Sewer Collection System. Unanimously approved.**

### **Mayor and Council Comments**

Councilwoman Richardson asked for an update on the Septic Partnership Project.

Town Manager Tolbert advised they have had 10 approvals to date. He has been in contact with the ANPDC who will get prices on the design and construction of the systems. They will go out and do the contract work for the Town. He submitted the 1st application for reimbursement today. Once the project is done the costs are applied to the ANPDC, once approved the DEQ will issue reimbursement per project/application. They have approved \$115,000 to date out of the total funding of \$912,000. He will advertise again for more applications. He added that the design is currently for residences and if they don't get enough applications, they may redesign for commercial.

Councilman Savage congratulated the Police Department for the Senior Luncheon. He thanked Mayor Leonard and the Town for his father's recognition. He offered prayers for Mrs. Ernestine Bowden.

Councilwoman Bowden agreed with Councilman Savage regarding the Senior Luncheon. She stated that it is nice to see everyone get together and to fellowship. She is glad to see the tradition continue. She stated that they lost a part-time Town employee, Mr. Eddie Moran, who was also a long-time member of the CVFC. She also hopes everyone has a good Thanksgiving.

Councilman Taylor wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving as well.

Mayor Leonard concluded the meeting with “Roll Tide”.

**Closed Meeting in accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (3) for the discussion of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose.**

**Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb to go into a closed meeting in accordance with §2.2-3712 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia for the discussion of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose. Unanimously approved.**

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

**Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb to certify the Closed Meeting was in accordance with §2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia. Unanimously approved.**

**Adjourn**

**Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb to adjourn. Unanimously approved.**

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J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

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Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager