

MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2024
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Council Chambers
7:00 p.m.

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. Tyler Greenley, Chief of Police
Mr. Wes Parks, Public Works Director

Call to Order

Mayor Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Invocation

Councilman Taylor offered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Leonard led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Mayor Leonard opened the floor for public comment.

- Mr. David Landsberger, 5611 Amrien Circle, gave an update on the YMCA gymnasium project. He also advised that he asked the Town Manager about the funds for the Brianna's Kindness Park that the Island Community House raised and donated. He also questioned that the walking path is complete and asked why the exercise equipment hasn't been installed.

- Mrs. Jeanne Knight, 8139 Sea Shell Drive, requested that the spelling of her name in the June 3rd Council meeting be corrected. She thanked the Town for the efforts in getting the mailboxes installed. She requested that the Town pave the area in front of the mailboxes that currently has gravel. She stated that with the water it will cause problems that occurred before.

Town Manager Tolbert advised of all the steps taken over the last few years to have the mailboxes installed at the entrance to Ocean Breeze. He added that Mrs. Pullin was the driving force to get this done. He stated that the Chincoteague Postmaster requested the Town sign a contract to maintain the mailboxes and site in perpetuity and if not signed there would be no mail delivery. He stated that he refused as the Town has nothing to do with mail or delivery. The

Town of Chincoteague and Town Council has gone above and beyond to get the mailboxes and install them. He stated that the Postmaster then advised everyone they would not deliver mail in Ocean Breeze because the Town wouldn't sign the contract. He stated that he refused as the Town has nothing to do with mail or delivery. Town Manager Tolbert reported that he contacted the U. S. Post Office District Supervisor who advised that the keys would be handed out this week for the mailboxes. He thanked and commended the Public Works staff on an excellent job of the facility.

Councilwoman Bowden asked if the Town spent around \$10,000.

Town Manager Tolbert advised it was not quite there, but the Town has spent several thousand.

Councilwoman Bowden feels the Town did their due diligence and thanked everyone.

Agenda Adoption

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

Proclamations

Mayor Leonard read the Certificate of Recognition:



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

PRESENTED TO

Mrs. Peggy Ann Daisey Bowden

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bowden was born on June 9th, 1934, and has been a lifelong and valued citizen of the Town of Chincoteague; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bowden will be honored by relatives and friends on the occasion of her 90th birthday; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bowden has been blessed with 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and 6 great great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Bowden's experience in her career as a server, includes several local landmarks comprising the Flagship, Wrights, Beachway, Landmark Crabhouse, Bills and Island Family restaurants, including owning and operating Floyd's drive in; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her Chincoteague Island home, Mrs. Bowden has enjoyed traveling throughout the United States and Europe including England, Scotland and France;

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. Peggy Ann Daisey Bowden on the occasion of her 90th birthday, with sincere congratulations and best wishes for many more happy and productive years.

Presented this 1st day of July 2024.

Mayor John A. Leonard

Attest:

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

Mayor Leonard also read a Certificate of Recognition:



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

In Memory of

Mrs. Jane Celly Peake

WHEREAS, Mrs. Peake was born in Baltimore in 1945, educated at Virginia Tech, served as a systems engineer and manager and retired after 25 years of stellar service with IBM; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Peake relocated to the Town of Chincoteague upon her retirement and dedicated her energies to improving the community, serving multiple civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Peake served the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary for 16 years in multiple roles including Flotilla Commander, making significant contributions to the command and leading the way for more community support of the Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Peake directed the Chincoteague Island Arts Organization for several years and was instrumental in developing the organization's appeal and outreach to Island residents; and

WHEREAS, Upon her leaving this world, a giant void was created which cannot be easily filled or repaired as she will be sorely missed by the entire community,

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Town of Chincoteague, I do hereby deem it an honor to extend this tribute in memory of Mrs. Jane Celly Peake whose involvement, dedication and endless energy made the Town of Chincoteague a better place to work and live.

Recognized this 1st day of July, 2024 .

Mayor John A. Leonard

Attest:

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

Staff Reports

General Government

Town Manager Tolbert reported on the Septic Local Partners Program. He also reported on the abandoned and derelict vessel removal progress. He reported on the Trolley ridership for June. He stated that he requested VDOT add "Right on Red" signs at the Deep Hole and Chicken City

Intersections. He reported on the ESVA 911 Upgrade Project which should be completed over summer and testing in the fall. He gave the Meals and Transient Occupancy Tax Report for May along with the Financial Report. He reviewed the Building and Zoning statistics for May as well.

Councilwoman Bowden asked if the Trolley Service has a schedule and asked for some at the Carnival. She also asked if it was in the Code regarding when the agendas are published. She advised she received a couple of questions about the agenda not being online for tonight.

Town Manager Tolbert stated that they strive to publish the agenda 3 days before it is due. He added that the agenda for this meeting should have been posted on Wednesday by 5:00 p.m. He advised that it was not posted until Thursday. He added that once it is posted it should stay there. Sometimes there are revisions and it is taken down, revised, and reposted. However, he stated that he took it down Friday to make a revision and forgot to repost it.

Police Department

Chief Greenley reported in addition to the report in the packet, on June 4th Lt. Gladding attended the Training Coordinators meeting at the Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy. On June 20th, Accreditation Manager Butler attended a Power DMS training seminar. On June 24th Accreditation Manager Butler and Pfc. Adams attended an intox EC/IR II recertification training at the Virginia Beach Training Academy. He added that on June 25th he and Lead Dispatcher Adams successfully completed the Departmental VCIN Audit. He added that Lead Dispatcher Adams did an outstanding job on this audit.

Councilwoman Bowden asked if it would be in the best interest of the Police Department and Town to handout the State Code regarding golfcart regulations to the campgrounds.

There was brief discussion and Chief Greenley feels it's a good idea and suggested conducting an inspection at the office.

Mayor Leonard commented about bicycles and a golfcart riding in the bicycle lane going the wrong way.

Public Works Department

Public Works Director Parks reported on the Piney Island directional bore and tie-in to the existing watermain on Piney Island. He reported that the motor to one of the mosquito truck sprayer was not working for about a week and Public Works staff replaced the motor. He showed pictures of the mailboxes in Ocean Breeze that Public Works staff installed. He advised that the Piney Island Storm drain crossings were replaced overnight of June 17th and 18th, he showed pictures of the riprap that was installed to protect against erosion. He also advised of the waterline installation for the fire suppression system at the YMCA. Public Works Director Parks stated that in July they plan asphalt paving, began on Willow Street today, tomorrow they will be paving Piney Island and then back on Willow Street Wednesday. He reported that all concrete sidewalks have been done. In July they plan to continue spraying weeds, mowing, curb painting and support Pony Penning.

Councilwoman Bowden asked about the equipment for ditches.

Public Works Director Parks advised the equipment has been ordered from Spartan Tools.

Vice Mayor Bott asked if this was their 1st directional bore on the water system.

Public Works Director Parks advised they did Wildcat, but it was at the same time.

Town Manager Tolbert advised the Town received a tap equipment at a reasonable price. They practiced on it one time and were able to do a wet tap at the YMCA which kept from turning off water on Maddox Blvd. He added that this gives Public Works a new capability and deserve a lot of credit for it.

Emergency Services

Director of Emergency Services Rush reported they ended June with 104 calls, which is 8 less than June of 2023. Staff have been busy with protocols and testing that started July 1st. Paramedics Drewer and S. Northam attended a Safety Day at NASA. He advised the Horton ambulance will be here somewhere between the middle to the end of 2025. He also reported that the new ambulance has been in the shop since April 10th. He stated that they continue to monitor the weather. They continue to participate and partner Regional Catastrophic Planning Workgroup and plans to bring them to the Island in August. He completed the iPause training to get it integrated into the CodeRed system. He and Town Manager Tolbert attended a weather exercise at the Chesapeake EOC. They are planning for the fireworks Thursday evening. He also reported that he attended “Coffee with Kelly” at WESR to talk about hurricane preparedness. He advised the Burn Ban is still in effect for Accomack County and Chincoteague. He reminded everyone to prepare as hurricane season is active.

Mayor Leonard discussed the need for a highwater vehicle.

Director of Emergency Services Rush advised he would look into it and commented further.

Center

Center Director Leonard showed the calendar, pictures, and reviewed the June events advising that it was a busy month. She also reviewed the upcoming events adding that there isn't an available weekend during the months of September, October, and November.

Councilwoman Bowden stated she's been watching Center Director Leonard and doesn't feel the Center has ever done as well as it is now. She stated that Center Director Leonard is doing a fantastic job.

Center Director Leonard asked those who were listening from home if they're interested in setting up a crafts night to contact the Center.

Mayor Leonard asked what is needed at the Center.

Center Director Leonard advised they need a new floor cleaner. They are currently sharing one with the Fire Company. She advised that on Sunday morning she mopped the entire floor, adding that the floor is 9,500 square feet. She also stated they need chairs.

Committee Report

Budget & Personnel Committee

Vice Mayor Bott advised he had nothing to report as it was taken care of in workshop meeting.

Adoption of Minutes of June 3rd and June 20th Council Meetings

Councilman McComb motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adopt the minutes of the June 3rd and June 20th Council meetings with the correction of the spelling of Ms. Knight's name . Unanimously approved.

Mr. Eric Collins – Charter Government Affairs

Mr. Eric Collins explained why Charter had so many outages over the past months. He advised of the steps taken to keep that from happening again.

Councilman McComb asked why they didn't just issue a credit as opposed to making the customer call for their credit. He suggested issuing the credit based on zip code.

Mr. Collins explained that this is the company policy where they allow the customer to call in.

Councilman McComb feels it would be less burden on the call centers if it was just taken care of instead of having everyone call in, and less frustration for the customer.

Councilwoman Bowden stated that the customers would call in to report an outage and was advised it wasn't out.

Mr. Collins explained they have call centers that are spread apart. When they identify an outage, the notification goes out by way of email. He then state that when there is no service, you can't get the email. He will go back with this question.

Vice Mayor Bott requested a diligent effort to oversee the contractors as they seem to be flagrant with their augers and digging machines. They're disregard for using Miss Utility and looking at the schematics.

Mr. Collins stated that it goes both ways and they're getting cut by providers as well. He will make the VP of Operations aware of this.

DRPT Authorization

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb to approve and execute the DRPT Certification and Assurance for the Trolley Grant. Unanimously approved.

Council Comments

Councilwoman Bowden reminded everyone of the busy season with a lot happening. They opened the carnival this past weekend. She stated there are a lot of people moving out there. She wants everyone to have a good time and enjoy the summer. She asked everyone to be kind. She thanked Town Manager Tolbert for taking care of the mailboxes in Ocean Breeze and things like that. She stated the Police Officers, EMS staff, and Public Works Staff are on top of it all. She expressed her appreciation to them with a busy season ahead that will be hot and miserable. She added that they have the best of the best.

Councilman McComb explained that he lived in an HOA years ago and the boxes can get expensive. He gave hats off to Public Works Director Parks and his team for a great improvement to that community. He thanked them and wished everyone a Happy 4th of July.

Councilman Taylor expressed how blessed they are to have people like Mrs. Jane Peake and feels they take them for granted. He addressed Mr. Landsberger who listed things they don't have, stated there are a lot of things they did at that park, the land and everything, and it's taken for granted. The volunteers put in a lot of time. He added that Councilwoman Bowden suggested having a place for the elderly and that was provided. He stated the Town isn't taking this for granted, and they appreciate each volunteer for their time, effort and money. He thanked them and urged them not to get frustrated but to keep on doing things for the youth and elderly because we need kindness now more than ever.

Councilman Savage gave kudos to the Public Works Department and has seen the boxes in Ocean Breeze. He feels it's a great job where the Town has gone above and beyond to help the citizens of this community. He also gave a shout-out to Center Director Leonard for doing a great job.

Mayor Leonard also congratulated Center Director Leonard. He stated that she is there more than home. It isn't just the activities while she's there, it's setup, cleanup, meeting with people and is time consuming. He stated that she loves it and anyone that leaves a profession of 28 years to do this must love it.

Adjourn

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb to adjourn.

Unanimously approved.

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager