

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 5, 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. Robby Fisher, Chief of Police  
Mr. Wes Parks, Public Works Director  
Mr. E. Bryan Rush, Director of Emergency Services

**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. There was none.

**Agenda Adoption**

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

**Staff Reports**

**General Government**

Town Manager Tolbert reported on the Chincoteague Center events and activities for June reminding that they are preparing for the Blueberry Festival and Buckaroo Bingo. He reported that the HVAC project small equipment has been delivered and the larger equipment will be shipped this week. He advised that the Curtis Merritt Harbor is full. The recent surveillance camera installations are providing excellent coverage including the fueling facility and boat ramp. He also reported that Mr. Marsh with ANEC advised they are ready to begin the pilot phase of their EV charging station project. They met earlier today to select the location and the chargers will be shipped in the next few weeks. Town Manager Tolbert also reviewed the

Financial Report. He reviewed the Building and Zoning report. He also gave an update on the sewage treatment plant.

Councilman Taylor asked if the vehicle owner would be responsible to pay for charging their vehicles.

Town Manager Tolbert advised they would. He added that ANEC is creating a subsidiary who will run and operate the chargers.

### Police Department

Chief Fisher gave the Department's report. He also advised he attended the graduation for Pfc. Matthews and Pfc. Renas on June 6<sup>th</sup>. On June 15<sup>th</sup> DMV Program Manager, Mr. Dwight Jenkins conducted a grant site visit with Major Greenley and Cpl. Gladding. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, Major Greenley and Town Manager Tolbert attended an Accomack County School Board meeting to request the resigning of the MOU for School Resource Officers. On June 22, Chief Fisher attended the Pony Swim meeting with Town officials. All officers were fitted for new bullet proof vests that were obtained through an ARPA grant. He reported that they are able to get a new police vehicle with the ARPA grant. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, Chief Fisher, Investigator Barnes, and SRO Carmody assisted with traffic control for the American Legion Legacy Ride. He added there were between 250-300 motorcycles here. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, Chief Fisher, Captain Greenley, and Investigator Barnes had training on how to handle people with mental illness.

Mayor Leonard asked if there has been an uptick in overdoses.

Chief Fisher advised lately they have had 2 which is rare.

There was further discussion.

### Public Works Department

Public Works Director Parks advised that he and Waterworks Supervisor Quillen attended training on Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. They are required to replace all lead pipes. He advised that there are none left, and gooseneck lines don't count. He added that they are requiring the Town to inventory all lead pipes.

Town Manager Tolbert explained the requirement further. He asked what the deadline was.

Public Works Director Parks advised they have until October 15, 2024.

Councilwoman Bowden asked how they identify the lines.

Public Works Director Parks responded that they would have to dig. They can rule out properties that were built after 1983 as lead was banned. The Town would be responsible for the replacement of the water mains.

Public Works Director Parks reported that the Cropper Street project is complete, the Maddox Boulevard paving and markings are complete, the width is now 37' leaving a 7' bike lane on each side. He reported that 37 security cameras have been installed and operational.

There was discussion regarding the camera placements, views, storage, and nighttime views.

Public Works Director Parks added that the Public Works staff also held safety meetings. He added that for July they are planning for Pony Penning, weed control and right-of-way cutting, complete Memorial Park boat parking and pavement markings, and continue maintenance of equipment and vehicles.

#### Emergency Services

Director of Emergency Services Rush advised of the EMS calls for June. They had dual training with CPD. He showed pictures of a helicopter patient pickup with Thunderbirds in the background. He also advised they attended fireworks planning, Pony Swim planning meetings. He reported that the Antares launch is scheduled for August 1<sup>st</sup>. They're still working on POD-X. They're watching tropical storm activity. He summarized that June's calls for service were up, the AEDs are back ordered, and he reminded everyone to be weather aware. He added that he is working with Accomack County on staffing and standby while both ambulances are out. He reminded everyone that fireworks will be on July 29<sup>th</sup> and Antares launch is August 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Public Works Committee**

Councilwoman Richardson advised they met June 6<sup>th</sup> and this was discussed at the last Council meeting.

##### **Ordinance Committee**

Councilman Savage reported they met June 8<sup>th</sup> to consider commercial dumpster regulations and parking regulations.

Town Manager Tolbert further explained that the Committee reviewed the Health Department regulations pertaining to dumpsters and the Committee decided to adopt ordinances that parallel the regulations. He reviewed the changes. He was asked to send notification to all business owners along with notice about flags.

Councilwoman Bowden asked if letters were sent to Highland Park residents.

Town Manager Tolbert advised they have not, but signage has been ordered for each entrance.

There was further discussion about parking part way in the ditches, ditch maintenance, and filling ditches. They continued discussion about the dumpster ordinance.

#### **Adoption of the Minutes of the June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>, Council Meetings**

**Councilman Savage motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adopt the minutes of the June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>, Council meetings as presented. Unanimously approved.**

## **Mayor and Council Comments**

Councilwoman Bowden commended Director of Emergency Services Rush, Chief Fisher and Public Works Director Parks and their departments for a fantastic job with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events. She stated that she sees it all in the information stand and she stated that they looked fantastic. She also stated that the Town needs to get on the bandwagon and hire a planner. She feels they're getting too much, too quick, too soon and feels a planner will give direction and guidance.

Vice Mayor Bott agreed and felt there are 2 good examples here with parking and dumpsters. Their job would be to research all angles of things. He feels it will be an invaluable benefit.

Councilman McComb concurred on hiring a planner and he also concurred on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July planning, adding that it went well.

Councilman Taylor stated they are very blessed with the employees. He added that you don't know what you've got until they're gone, and he wants to take care of what we have with the Town. He stated that when July is gone, he bets they'll beat or be close to the 2021 levels. He also wants to show the employees that they appreciate them.

Councilman Savage gave kudos to the staff for doing a fine job. He expressed his appreciation for what they're doing. He also stated that he appreciates the Town Manager for what he's doing. He too agreed that they need a Town planner.

Mayor Leonard stated that he had a couple of conversations over the last couple of days to readdress the golf cart issue. He also understands that there have been calls in the office as well. He feels the traffic light at Maddox and Chicken City is causing problems in the afternoon.

There was discussion.

## **Adjourn**

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

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J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

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Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager