

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 18, 2022**  
**CHINCOTEAGUE STUDENT GOVERNMENT**  
**TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Council Chambers**

**Student Government:**

Council Members:

Mayor Caitlyn Kerchner

Emma Jackson

Kendyl Farrell

Lola Watson

Lindsay O'Shea

Allie Bell

Lindsay Bailey

Town Manager, Megan Horner

Chief of Police, Jiarre Lankford

Director of EMS, Victor Aipia

Director of Public Works, Joseph Beal

**Council Present:**

Mr. J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

Mr. Bryan Rush, Emergency Management Coordinator

Mr. Robby Fisher, Police Chief

**Call to Order**

Student Government Mayor Kerchner called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Student Government Mayor Kerchner led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment**

- Town Manager Tolbert thanked the Chincoteague High School Student Government for participating. He stated that it has been an eye-opening experience and staff has enjoyed it. He hopes the students enjoyed this and can take something positive away. He congratulated everyone for making it through school.

- Chief Fisher he also thanked the participants. He feels it's great where the younger generation gets into our government to see what they do and how it works. He stated that maybe when they complete their college careers and return to Chincoteague, they could become councilmembers or staff. He concluded that they had a good time, and it has been good working with them.

- Emergency Management Coordinator Rush complained about the drainage at the bridge and Main Street intersection. He then congratulated the Student Government on their endeavors through high school and going to college. He also thanked them for participating today. He advised he also sat in the Student Government chair many years ago. He ended up at almost 32 years with the Town of Chincoteague. He advised they can go as far as they want, but they can also come back home. He also stated that it was good working with Student Government Emergency Coordinator Aipia and he as glad he got the opportunity to drive a firetruck and ambulance today. He wished them all luck and congratulated them.

- Mayor Leonard stated that he hopes they learned some things as it's not all glitz and glamour on Council. He complained about the mosquitoes. He advised not to wait as long as he did. He explained that if they see something they want to see in the Town to bring it up to Council, the Mayor, or the Town Manager and they shouldn't sit on it adding if Council doesn't know it, it will never be resolved. He suggested that after they return from college to add to the community.

### **Agenda Adoption**

**Student Government Councilwoman O'Shea motioned, and second by Student Government Councilwoman Bell to adopt the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.**

### **Staff Reports**

#### General Government

Student Government Town Manager Horner advised she attended a meeting with the Town Officials, Refuge Manager, and the Nations Park Service Manager. They discussed changing the traffic light schedule before Memorial Day. They also discussed the building of concrete facilities on Assateague during mid-summer and the destruction of piping plovers due to the high tides and nor'easters in Maryland. She added that there are still some piping plovers in Virginia and there is still time for them to nest. They feel the erosion of the beach has caused a problem for the Pony Walk that takes place during the summer. She advised that tomorrow's workshop meeting will include the budget surplus, budget amendment, and the approval of the FY23 budget

#### Police Department

Student Government Police Chief Lankford advised for the month of May the Chincoteague Police Department received 221 calls for service that resulted in 7 investigations into criminal offenses that included: 2 assault and batteries, 1 destruction of property, 1 theft, 1 fraud, and 2 driving under the influence of alcohol. There were 3 arrests as a result of the investigations. The Department also responded to 8 accidents, 4 alarms, 1 animal complaint, 5 suspicious activities, 5 civil problems, 3 verbal domestics, 2 fights in progress, 5 control burn checks, 15 assisting other agencies, and 4 welfare checks. In addition, 9 security checks, and 6 public service calls were conducted. The Department issued 23 citations and 4 warning tickets. In support of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service of Virginia, the Department dispatched 1 accident. On May 7<sup>th</sup> the Department assisted the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce with the Annual Seafood Festival. On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Gladding and Patrolman Matthews assisted the CVFC and EMS with a mock vehicle accident at the Chincoteague High School for prom attendees. Sgt. Adams is

attending the Leadership Institute at Christopher Newport this week. Today the Department participated with the Town for Student Government Day.

### Public Works

Student Government Public Works Director Beal advised that the Public Works Department repaired a damaged water line on Monday that was caused by a subcontractor on Maddox Boulevard. Monday the Donald Amrien Recreation Center parking lot was paved in preparation for the pickleball courts. Today they continue Brianna's Kindness Park construction with the siding being assembled. They replaced a damaged street sign on Pension Street and completed hanging the Hometown Hero banners. The Public Works crew completed cutting grass at the Redmen's Cemetery and they started Mechanic's Cemetery today.

### EMS

Student Government Emergency Management Coordinator Aipia reported they had 53 EMS responses; 23 ALS, 17 BLS, and 13 others including: by fireside, standby, public assistance calls, etc. They conducted 4 B/P screenings at the station this month, and a meeting with Town staff and U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff regarding the upcoming summer events. The main topics were lifeguards and Pony Penning. They discussed the After-Action Report of the plane crash, rocket launches, and severe weather. They reviewed action items: AED maintenance and today, they conducted AED maintenance at the Donald J. Amrien Recreation Center, and the Curtis Merritt Harbor adding they were operational. Finance: They reviewed the Emergency Services budget and ensured expenses were met efficiently and effectively, they are currently under-budget. They are underbudget in salaries, social security, and overtime which means they have more money to spend. The Emergency Management Division has checked the daily weather and COVID-19 reports. Monitoring is ongoing. Upcoming plans are 2 fireworks displays for July 4<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of July 5<sup>th</sup>, and July 30<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of August 1<sup>st</sup>. The planning continues for Pony Penning week with a Beachwalk, Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, through the swim back on July 29<sup>th</sup>. They maintain weekly situational awareness with Accomack and Northampton Counties, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, FEMA, and the joint-information center.

### **Council Reports**

Student Government Mayor Kerchner introduced the Student Government Council and Staff.

Student Government Councilwoman O'Shea reported their primary focus today was providing specific recreational activities for the teenage population of the community. She stated that instead of building new implements their focal point is to rejuvenate the appliances they already have. They feel it would be more economically beneficial, rather than tearing down what they currently have and reconstructing it. They spend most of their time today analyzing different parks on the Island and how to incorporate all aspects of the community into one. They realized they need to be doing the opposite. Teenagers and children don't want to share a park, it is not realistic and wouldn't be a valuable depletion of money. Instead, they propose creating parks for specific age groups. They want to utilize Brianna's Kindness Park to aid to younger kids and older adults. Memorial Park should be for older youth. They want to replace the basketball courts, blacktops, and double rims with a beach volleyball court at Memorial Park. They also want to remodel the restrooms for obvious reasons. They suggested a mural at Brianna's

Kindness Park to animate and enliven the youthful theme of the Park. She reported they spoke to many business owners and the common suggestion was expanding events like the Decoy and Art Festival and the Blueberry Festival around Town as opposed to one set location to increase exposure to the downtown businesses. There was also a suggestion to form a Maddox Merchants Group similar to the Main Street Merchants. Businessowners overall want more fares and opportunities to bring the community together and exhibit their merchandise.

Student Government Councilwoman Jackson stated they feel it is unsafe to bicycle on the Causeway. They spoke with constituents and feel there should be a rule/law stating such.

#### **Student Government Mayor and Council Announcements/Comments**

Student Government Mayor Kerchner stated she had a lot of fun today. She thanked Council and Town Staff for giving them the opportunity.

#### **Adjourn**

**Student Government Town Manager motioned, seconded by Student Government Councilwoman Bell to adjourn. Unanimously approved.**