

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2021**  
**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

**Council Members Absent:**

Gene W. Taylor, Councilman

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager  
Mr. Robby K. Fisher, Chief of Police

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Leonard called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. Invocation**

Councilman Taylor offered the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Leonard led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to allow Councilman McComb to attend remotely. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.**

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

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Taylor**

**4. Public Comment**

There was none.

**5. Agenda Adoption**

**Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to adopt the agenda as presented. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.**

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

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Taylor**

**6. Matthews Property Lease**

Mayor Leonard advised the same farmer wants to rent the property again.

**Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to renew the lease of the Matthews property. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.**

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

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Taylor**

## **7. Inlet Study Review**

Mr. Chris Hein stated that he came before Council in June 2019 regarding an Inlet Study. He gave an in-depth review of the Study reviewing updates and history. He advised that the Virginia Barrier system stated that all the islands within the system have either grown or eroded. He explained the history of changes to the islands and causes, such as hurricanes, nor'easters, etc. They discussed storms and what a storm does, the breaches, and growth. He stated that the Inlet has largely widened, and they all know the problems that it causes.

They also discussed the depth, dredging, along with how and why they track the changes. He reviewed the map of where they drilled in different parts of the Island and what they found. He reported that the beach has been there since 1930 and over by the lighthouse before that. He also reported on other areas giving the years that specific samples dated back to. He showed mapping of how the sand shifts from Wallops Island to Chincoteague. He explained how Assateague moved over 1,000 years. He also explained the predictions using collected data and comparisons.

They reviewed the sandbar, waves, tides, and conditions. Mr. Hein explained the different layers, barriers, samples, material, and currents. He also discussed the timelines and mentioned building grids by putting it together to accurately show the model. He continued with the seasonal factors, and experimental models. They further discussed core samples and some of the areas of the samples. They also talked about the shorelines north that are pumping sand onshore could change the type of sand here on the Island. The trend going from north to south is that the sand gets finer. He reviewed other areas as well. Mr. Hein offered to give a presentation of the history of the Island.

Council agreed that the citizens would enjoy this. They thanked Mr. Hein.

## **8. Mayor and Council Comments**

There was none.

## **9. Closed Meeting in Accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (1,5) of the Code of Virginia to discuss discipline of specific personnel and prospective business opportunities.**

**Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to go into a closed meeting in accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (1,5) of the Code of Virginia to discuss specific personnel and perspective business opportunities. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.**

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

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Taylor**

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

**Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson 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, Savage, Richardson**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Taylor**

**11. Adjourn**

**Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to adjourn. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.**

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

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Taylor**

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J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

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Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager