

MINUTES OF THE JULY 5, 2022
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, Police Chief
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.

- Mrs. Pat Farley, 3243 Lisa's Lane, advised Council that she has a neighbor who has a house that was abandoned. He began demolishing his home in January. She added that he is doing the demolition himself and without a dumpster. He has also removed 4 large trees. Although the neighbors are glad the property is being cleaned up it is causing problems. He is burning piles of debris. Nearby rentals had to leave and was reimbursed because of the burning, and hazard. She asked Council to consider new ordinances for burning laws and demolitions.

Agenda Adoption

Mayor Leonard asked to add EMS Personnel Citations to the agenda.

Councilman McComb motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adopt the agenda adding EMS Personnel Citations. Unanimously approved.

EMS Personnel Citations

Director of Emergency Services read; on Sunday, May 15th, 2022, at 6:46 a.m. Chincoteague EMS providers, Paramedic Jamie Wheatley, EMT Madison Savage, and EMT Seth Jonczak were

dispatched for breathing difficulties at Jellystone Campground. While enroute the 911 Dispatcher advised the EMS crew the patient was unconscious. EMS crews arrived on the scene in 5 minutes after dispatch. They found a 66-year-old man in cardiac arrest. The EMS crew immediately began CPR and advanced life support care. After approximately 20 minutes of CPR and several rounds of medications, the patient regained a heartbeat and began breathing on his own. The patient was transported to Tidal Health emergency room for further treatment. Mr. Don Lukens was later discharged home and here with us this evening. He stated that Mr. Lukens is here with his family. He read the citations: and presented them to Mr. James Wheatley and Ms. Madison Savage. Mr. Seth Jonczak was unable to attend this evening.

Director of Emergency Services also advised that this patient was unable to be in attendance this evening. He read; on Saturday, June 19th, 2021, at 4:20 a.m. Chincoteague EMS providers, Paramedic Patty Drewer, and Paramedic Tom Copenhaver were dispatched for a pregnancy childbirth on Fleming Road in Atlantic. Upon arrival at the scene, the Chincoteague EMS met with the Accomack County Department of Public Safety Paramedic, who advised that the baby has been delivered and was in cardiac arrest. Once in the residence crews immediately began life saving efforts to include CPR and utilizing a bag valve mask to breathe for the patient. It was learned that the baby was delivered prematurely at approximately 6 months gestation and weighing approximately 2 pounds. Shortly after the EMS crew began transporting the infant to Tidal Health emergency room, the infant began to breathe on her own and gained a heartbeat. The EMS providers continued providing oxygen to the baby and chest compressions until the infant's heartrate increased to a viable rate. Mucus secretions were noted in the baby's airway that would require immediate suction. Once the airway was clear of mucus secretions the baby began to breathe better and began to cry spontaneously. The patient was delivered to the emergency room where she received further treatment and now baby Arura is living a healthy life at home with her family. He read the citations and presented them to Paramedic Patty Drewer and Paramedic Tom Copenhaver.

Council thanked them for all they do.

Staff Reports

General Government

Town Manager Tolbert reported on the floating dock will be installed in the fall. He also advised of the new kayak floating platform will be placed at Memorial Park. They received the permit last week. He advised they didn't have a Financial Report and would have it at the Budget and Personnel Committee meeting next week. He reported that he spoke with Mr. Jeremy Acres with Goddard to discuss the well legislation. They have included in the language that the Town will receive \$14 million to move all 10" wells off of NASA property. There were 2 changes necessary: 1) Extension from 5 years to 10 years as it will take some time for permitting and moving. 2) Generalize language to include desalination as source as well as ground water. They're working on these changes and the bill is in Conference Committee. He reported that Meals Tax is down 11.7% from the same month last year and Transient Occupancy Tax is down 18.5% from the same month last year.

Town Manager Tolbert advised that the Building Department is busy and getting closer to deciding on the online permit service that Council approved. He reported that the tennis courts

are done and beautiful along with the basketball and pickleball courts. They have finished the roof decking on the pavilion at Brianna's Kindness Park and the metal roof should be done within the next few weeks. The kayak launch platform has been installed. They're working on the gangway and should be completed in the next few weeks as well. They have ordered the materials for the FY23 Project Virginia Port Authority Grant material to replace the final wood pier at the Harbor. They have created no parking zones and participated in the 4th fireworks celebration. He congratulated Director of Emergency Services Rush and Chief Fisher for getting this going and doing a great job. He added that the mosquito count has dropped since the flight on the 30th.

Police Department

Chief Fisher gave an update to the report in the packet. He stated that June was busy. They assisted in traffic control for the final CVFC clam fritter fundraiser. They also held safety classes at the Chincoteague Elementary and Middle Schools for e-bikes and e-scooters. He added that Captain Greenley completed the FBI Academy 10-week training. They were approved for the SRO Grant with no Town match. Captain Greenley has applied for another SRO Grant for an officer at each school.

Councilwoman Bowden asked how long it would be to know if they are approved for the grant for the SRO in the elementary school.

Chief Fisher hopes this month.

Mayor Leonard asked if the elementary school was the only school in Accomack County that doesn't have an SRO.

Chief Fisher advised that none of the elementary schools have an SRO.

Emergency Services

Director of Emergency Services Rush advised that they finished June with 110 calls which is up 15 from last year. He stated that July 4th was a successful event because of everyone's engagement. Everyone knew their role and executed it well. This was the quickest year clearing traffic after the fireworks. They will begin the After-Action Report to plan with fireworks scheduled for July 30th. They had some community engagement with the 3C's about medications, emergency management and preparing for storms. They had CPR, ACLS, and PALS recertification. He added that those kinds of trainings pay off. He added that the training pays off because of the engagement of Council. COVID statistics are up with the 7-day average of 21.6% compared to last year's average of 5.6%. He advised of the new CDC approval of vaccines for 6 months and up.

Councilwoman Bowden asked about if the Health Department had any changes regarding quarantine.

Director of Emergency Services Rush advised that quarantine is 5 days once symptoms begin. They should be masked and considered cleared when they are 24 hours without fever. Those

who are in close contact should be quarantined. He stressed the importance of recognizing the symptoms and protect those who are immunocompromised.

Budget and Personnel Committee

Vice Mayor Bott advised that everything was discussed at the June 16th Council meeting.

Adoption of the Minutes of the June 6th, and 16th Council Meetings

Mayor Leonard read a memo from Finance Director Lewis regarding changes in the minutes. 1) Mayor Leonard was absent and didn't lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. 2) Councilman Savage was also absent and didn't offer the invocation.

Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb to adopt the minutes of the June 6th, and 16th Council meetings as corrected. Unanimously approved.

Mayor and Council Comments

Councilwoman Bowden stated that she can't say enough about Director of Emergency Services Rush and Chief Fisher along with all other agencies for the 4th of July traffic control. She feels everyone was in a good mood and happy. She stated that this was very well appreciated by the Fire Company, and all other agencies and who came to help get it done. She asked that the Town consider planning for a ribbon cutting ceremony in November for the 100th anniversary of the bridge to Chincoteague. She stated that it brought us to the world and the world to us. She asked Director of Emergency Services Rush to possibly recognize the 2 who saved the hunters in the winter boating accident. She concluded that she hopes everyone had a good July 4th and thanked the Fire Department, EMS, and Police.

Councilman Savage reiterated what Councilwoman Bowden stated and added that he appreciates the effort of the EMS, Fire Company, and Town employees. He appreciates their dedication and service.

Councilwoman Bowden added that the Town employees did well.

Closed Meeting in Accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (1 & 8) of the Code of Virginia to discuss evaluation of senior staff, discussion of specific personnel and cost estimates for potential sale of real property.

Councilman McComb motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to go into a closed meeting in accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (1 & 8) of the Code of Virginia to discuss evaluation of senior staff, discussion of specific personnel and cost estimates for potential sale of real property.

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Certification of Closed Meeting in Accordance with §2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia:
Councilman McComb motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden 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, Richardson, Savage, Taylor

Nays: None

Absent: None

Adjourn

Councilman McComb motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adjourn.

Unanimously approved.

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager