MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 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, Chief of Police

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

Invocation
Councilman Savage offered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance
Mayor Leonard led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment
There was none.

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

Special Presentation
Mayor Leonard read and presented Certificates of Recognition to Mr. Leonard Jester, Mrs. Nora Walker, and Mrs. Winnie Rose Barrett in recognition of their 90th birthdays.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

PRESENTED TO

Mr. Leonard Jester

WHEREAS, **Mr. Leonard Jester will be honored by relatives and friends on the occasion of his 90th birthday; and**

WHEREAS, **Mr. Jester was born on August 12, 1932, and has been a lifelong and valued member of this Chincoteague community; and**

WHEREAS, **Mr. Jester married Mary Grace Mears and raised 2 children and 3 grandchildren; and**

WHEREAS, **during a long and productive lifetime, he has owned and operated several businesses critical to the Town's growth and development; and**

WHEREAS, **Mr. Jester served his community as a member of the Chincoteague Town Council, Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Department and Union Baptist Church, is dedicated to the welfare of others and has earned the respect and affection of people from all walks of life and all ages;**

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 Mr. Leonard Jester on the occasion of his 90th birthday, with sincere congratulations and best wishes for many more happy and productive years.**

DATED this 15th day of September 2022.

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Mayor John A. Leonard

Attest:

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Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

PRESENTED TO

Mrs. Winnie Rose Barrett

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

WHEREAS, **Mrs. Barrett was born on August 16, 1932, and has been a long-time member of this Chincoteague community; and**

WHEREAS, **Mrs. Barrett married Mr. Winfred Barrett and raised three children, 5 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren; and**

WHEREAS, **during a long and productive lifetime, she has operated a long-term rental business and enjoyed being a member of Union Baptist Church where she taught children's Sunday School for 55 years; and**

WHEREAS, **her dedication to the welfare of others has earned the respect and affection of people from all walks of life and all ages;**

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. Winnie Rose Barrett on the occasion of her 90th birthday, with sincere congratulations and best wishes for many more happy and productive years.**

DATED this 15th day of September 2022.

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Mayor John A. Leonard

Attest:

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

PRESENTED TO

Mrs. Nora Adams Walker

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

WHEREAS, **Mrs. Walker was born on August 28, 1932, and has been a long-time member of this Chincoteague community; and**

WHEREAS, **Mrs. Walker married Mr. Ray Walker Jr. and this union produced four children, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren; and**

WHEREAS, **during a long and productive lifetime, she has operated several business ventures including a farm, decoys sales and tourist homes and enjoyed being a member of Union Baptist Church; and**

WHEREAS, **her dedication to the welfare of others has earned the respect and affection of people from all walks of life and all ages;**

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. Nora Walker on the occasion of her 90th birthday, with sincere congratulations and best wishes for many more happy and productive years.**

DATED this 15th day of September 2022.

Mayor John A. Leonard

Attest:

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

Mr. Jester expressed his appreciation.

Councilwoman Richardson advised Mr. Jester was one of the carpenters that worked on the 2nd part of the firehouse in 1957. She added that it was Mr. Jester along with Mr. Frank Tolbert

Mrs. Barrett stated she has enjoyed having the Mayor's children in Sunday School. She also expressed her appreciation.

Mrs. Walker also appreciated the award. She too stated she enjoyed the children in Sunday School. She thanked Council.

Consider Recommendations of Budget and Personnel Committee
Vice Mayor Bott advised they met Tuesday night. They discussed the surplus left from the FY22 fiscal year. They previously decided to allocate funds to the reserves. This meeting was to tackle the remining funds of the surplus. The conclusion of the Committee's discussion was broken down into two separate paths. The first was that the Committee voted to allocate funds for a one-time employee bonus.

Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to approve the recommendation of the Budget and Personnel Committee to allocate and distribute $30,000 as a one-time employee bonus. Unanimously approved.

Vice Mayor Bott continued that the 2nd part of the discussion was for the remaining balance.

Town Manger Tolbert gave a list of select projects to prioritize the rest of the funding of $401,522. He reported there are 8 projects: 1st priority is to replace the sidewalks on Cropper Street. 2nd priority is for phase 2 of the Center's HVAC. 3rd priority is a unified Town surveillance system to provide surveillance in all of the parks, Municipal Center, Public Works, and the Center. 4th priority is upgraded audiovisual system at the Center. 5th priority is lighting at the Brianna's Park. 6th priority will be to install a new gym floor at the Amrien Center. 7th prior to overlay the parking lot at Memorial Park. 8th priority Memorial Park spinner.

Councilwoman Bowden stated that the first 3 priorities come to $451,000.

There was discussion as to the projects and possibly paying out of different funds.

Mayor Leonard feels they should do projects: 1) Cropper Street sidewalks, 2) 2nd phase of Center's HVAC, 4) upgrade the audiovisual system at the Center, and 6) installation of a new gym floor at the Amrien Center.

Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden, and Councilman McComb to complete, and pay for: **Projects 1) Cropper Street sidewalks, 2) 2nd phase of Center's HVAC, 4) upgrade the audiovisual system at the Center, and 6) installation of a new gym floor at the Amrien Center and allow Town Manager Tolbert to move forward with the expenditures. Unanimously approved.**

Mayor and Council Comments
Councilman Savage stated that the 3 recipients were well worthy of the honor.

Councilman Taylor hopes and prays to see each of the recipients again.

Councilman McComb congratulated them as well.

Vice Mayor Bott also congratulated them.

Councilwoman Bowden stated she was looking back at Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Barrett as Sunday School teachers. She also stated that the 3 of them, who went down different paths, have no idea what impact they've had on future generations. She stated that when you hear the names, Mr. Leonard Jester, Mrs. Nora Walker, and Mrs. Winnie Rose Barrett, there aren't many people that wouldn't have a smile on their face when they hear their names. She expressed her appreciation for every single thing they have contributed to this community and to the young people that have grown up in their presence.

Councilwoman Richardson agreed. She stated that being teachers not only in the Sunday School class but school, you never know what impact you have on a child's life, it means a lot. She thanked them and hoped they have many more years.

Mayor Leonard thanked them adding they don't know the impact they all have had throughout the generations. They made Chincoteague what it is.

Closed Meeting in Accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (3,7) of the Code of Virginia to discuss prospective business opportunities and pending legal matters.

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to go into a closed meeting in accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (3 & 7) of the Code of Virginia to discuss perspective business opportunities and personnel matters. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.
Ayes: Bott, Bowden, McComb, Richardson, Savage, Taylor
Nays: None
Absent: None

<u>Certification of Closed Meeting</u> 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, Richardson, Savage, Taylor
Nays: None
Absent: McComb

Adjourn
Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

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J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager