

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

TOWN OF CHASE CITY, VA

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM

525 North Main Street, Chase City VA 23924

Phone: (434) 372-5136 | www.chasecity.org

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Fahringer.

PRESENT

Mayor Alden Fahringer

Council Member Brenda Hatcher

Vice-Mayor James Bohannon

Council Member Marshall Whitaker

Council Member Pauline Keeton

Council Member Michelle Wilson

Council Member Latrisha McCargo

ABSENT

Town Manager Dusty Forbes

Invocation

Mayor Fahringer led the group in prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Citizen's Recognition

Beverly Wood of 700 Sweetwater Lane addressed the Town Council and thanked them for their support of the Mecca. She said the Mecca had raised over \$65,000.00. She said they would be replacing the marquee and having a lighting ceremony.

Mary Ann Wood of 1 Norwood Drive addressed the Town Council and thanked them for their support of the Mecca, saying she hopes everyone will continue the support. She thanked Beverly Wood for all her hard work and dedication. Mary Ann Wood presented each Town Council member with a Mecca t-shirt.

Derrick Bowers of 11384 Hwy 92 addressed the Town Council thanking them for making the Autumn Jubilee such a success. He also thanked them for making the basketball game a success. Bowers said they had 5 teams. Mr. Bowers wants the Police Department, First Responders, Town Council and Donald Long to participate in a basketball game fundraiser for the Everybody is Somebody Organization. He said he wants the community to learn to respect and work with the Police Department and First Responders.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to accept the minutes as presented for 9/9/24 and 9/18/24. It was seconded by Council Member Hatcher.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hatcher, Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

1. The minutes from the 9/9/24 meeting submitted to the Town Council for approval.
2. The minutes from the joint public hearing on 9/18/24 submitted to the Town Council for approval.

New Business

3. Bills Paid in the Month of September 2024

Motion made by Council Member Hatcher to approve the bills paid for the month of September 2024. It was seconded by Council Member Whitaker.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hatcher, Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

4. Report to Council/Operating Budget September 2024

Motion made by Council Member Keeton to approve the September 2024 operating budget. It was seconded by Council Member Wilson.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hatcher, Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

5. The Charge Off report for September 2024 submitted to the Town Council for approval.

Motion made by Council Member Keeton to approve September 2024 Charge Off Report. It was seconded by Vice-Mayor Bohannon.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hatcher, Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

6. The Chase City Police Department report for September 2024 submitted to the Town Council for approval.

Mayor Fahringer read through the Chase City Police Department report for September 2024. He thanked Chief Jordan and his guys for all they do.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to accept the Chase City Police Department report for September 2024. It was seconded by Council Member McCargo.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hatcher, Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member

Whitaker, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

7. The public works report for September 2024 submitted to the Town Council for approval.

Mayor Fahringer read through the public works report for September 2024. He addressed Donald Long thanking him and his guys for all their hard work.

Motion made by Council Member Whitaker to accept the September 2024 public works report. It was seconded by Vice-Mayor Bohannon.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hatcher, Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

8. The Chase City Volunteer Fire Department report for Sept 2024 submitted to the Town Council for approval.

Mayor Fahringer read through the Chase City Volunteer Fire Department report for September 2024. Member Whitaker said they also had a fish fry fundraiser that was not mentioned. The Mayor also mentioned that Christian Clair Anderson and Greg Sizemore were going through fire fighter 1.

Motion made by Council Member Keeton to accept the Chase City Volunteer Fire Department report for September 2024. It was seconded by Council Member Hatcher.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hatcher, Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

9. *Item:* To authorize the Chase City Treasurer to use \$3,000.00 of the Contingency Fund to purchase two new computers for the Chase City Police Department.

Discussion: The Chase City Police Department is requesting two new computers.

Recommendation: The Town Council to vote to authorize the Chase City Treasurer to use \$3,000.00 of the Contingency Fund to purchase two new computers for the Police Department.

Chief Jay Jordan addressed the Town Council members saying two of their computers were out dated.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to approve the \$3000.00 purchase for two new computers. It was seconded by Council Member Wilson.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hatcher, Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

10. Water Deposit Increase - First Reading

Item: To obtain approval to revise Deposit charges Sec. 5-1-37(b).

Discussion:

1. Sec. 5-1-37(b) currently reads as:

The amount of such required deposits shall be as follows: \$250.00 for in town dwellings; \$275.00 for out of town dwellings and \$300.00 for all in town commercial establishments; \$325.00 for all out of town commercial establishments.

Recommendations:

1. The Town Council change the code to reflect the following price changes/increase:

\$275.00 for in town dwellings; \$300.00 for out of town dwellings

2. The Town Council to vote to approve the ordinance change as a first reading.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to approve the first reading of the ordinance changes to Sec. 5-1-37(b). It was seconded by Council Member Hatcher.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hatcher, Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

11. Water Bill Penalty Date Change - First Reading

Item: To obtain approval of revised Penalty and disconnection dates per Sec. 5-1-39(a) (b) to reflect the changes to the Virginia Code.

Discussion:

1. Sec. 5-1-39 currently reads as:

(a) Water service shall be billed as the first of each month with a 20 percent penalty to be added on the 24th of the month. If any such bill is not paid by the fourth day of the following month service will be disconnected.

(b) Any payment not received by close of business on the 23rd shall be assessed the 20 percent penalty on the morning of the 24th. This penalty then becomes due and payable prior to the fourth day of the following month in order to preclude disconnection.

Recommendations:

1. The Town Council change the code to reflect the following changes/increases:

(a) Water service shall be billed as of the first of each month with a 20 percent penalty to be added on the 24th of the month. If any such bill is not paid by the 8th day of the following second month service will be disconnected.

(b) Any payment not received by close of business on the 23rd shall be assessed the 20 percent penalty on the morning of the 24th. This penalty then becomes due and payable prior to the 8th day of the following second month in order to preclude disconnection.

2. The Town Council to vote to approve the ordinance changes as a first reading.

Motion made by Council Member Whitaker to approve the first reading of ordinance changes to Sec. 5-1-39 (a) (b). It was seconded by Vice-Mayor Bohannon.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hatcher, Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

12. The Town of Chase City to discontinue offering dumpster rentals

Item: To obtain approval from the Town Council to discontinue dumpster rentals and remove it from the town code.

Discussion:

1. The Town Council will decide on whether to discontinue offering dumpster rentals through the town.

2. The Town Council will decide on whether to proceed with a first reading next month to remove the Dumpster rentals from the Town Code.

Recommendation:

1. The Town Council will vote on whether to discontinue offering dumpster rentals after 2024.

The mayor addressed the Council explaining the dumpster truck issues and how the truck had been out of service for almost 3 months. He said it would be \$400,000.00 to purchase a new dumpster truck. He referenced the figures sent to Council Members by the Town Manager and explained that the town would be losing \$5,000.00 monthly if they had to purchase a new dumpster truck. Therefore, that is the reasoning behind discontinuing the dumpster truck services offered by the town and allowing independent contractors to come in and do the work. He went on to say we have been borrowing South Hill's dumpster truck but they are also discontinuing their dumpster services, so we will lose that option soon. Vice Mayor Bohannon asked Donald Long how much we have sunk into the current dumpster truck so far. Mr. Long said \$9,000.00 recently and that something else on it had broken today. Member Whitaker asked how old is our truck? Donald said about 20 years old. Member Wilson said she was concerned that an outside company coming in might charge the dumpster customers more. Member McCargo said she thinks if we are going to save our constituents we need to do it. Member Whitaker said he did not feel that the Council had enough information to vote on this. Mayor Fahringer said this vote would be postponed until more information was obtained.

13. Funding for the upper Chase City Police parking lot striping

Item: The upper Chase City Police Department parking lot needs to be striped.

Discussion:

1. The upper parking lot needs to be striped.
2. It will cost \$2,000.00 to have the upper parking lot striped professionally.

Recommendation:

1. The Town Council to vote to approve the Chase City Treasurer to use \$2,000.00 of the contingency fund to pay to have the upper Chase City Police Department parking lot professionally striped.

Mayor Fahringer addressed Public Works Superintendent Donald Long and asked if his public works employees could do the striping. Long said yes, they could, they had done other striping. Fahringer said he felt \$2000.00 for striping seems high to him. Member Whitaker addressed Superintendent Long asking if he was sure they could do the striping. Mr. Long again said yes. Member Whitaker said the Town use to do its own work, now everything is being outsourced.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to not approve the striping purchase but instead have our employees do it themselves. It was seconded by Council Member Keeton.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hatcher, Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

14. Item:

The Chase City Police Department would like to impose a \$0.15 cent tax per pack of cigarettes sold.

Discussion:

1. The Chase City Police Department is requesting the Town Council to approve a \$0.15 cent tax on each pack of cigarettes sold in the town.
2. The Chase City Police Department is requesting the funds collected for that tax be allocated to the Police Department to be used for equipment.

Recommendation:

The Chase City Town Council will vote whether they are willing to levy a \$0.15 cent tax on each pack of cigarettes sold in the town limit and create an ordinance to support that vote.

Chief Jay Jordan addressed the Town Council. He gave each member a hand out breaking down costs of equipment, vehicles, etc. He went on to point out the rising costs of vehicles, equipment, computers in the cars that need to be updated, body cameras, etc. He said the body cameras alone cost about \$50,000.00. Chief said he believes if Council will approve the cigarette tax it would cut costs to the town for

all this. Council Member Wilson asked how it would be monitored. Chief Jordan said there was a check and balance. He said that each pack of cigarettes would get a stamp and the stamps help monitor the sales. Council Member Wilson said she feels we should move forward with this. Council Member Whitaker said he thinks the police do a great job but we might should tighten our belts some.

Motion made by Council Member Keeton to move forward with the cigarette sales tax and set a date for the public hearing. It was seconded by Council Member McCargo.

Voting Yea: Council Member Hatcher, Council Member Keeton, Council Member Wilson, Council Member McCargo

Voting Nay: Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker

A public hearing date was set for November 6, 2024 at 5:30p.m.

Mayor/Council Comments

Mayor Fahringer thanked everyone that came out to support the rodeo. He said he was grateful for the community's support of the fire department. He reminded everyone that November 2, 2024 is the stew sale for the fire department. He said he took his brother to MacCallum More Gardens and it was beautiful.

Council Member Whitaker told everyone if you want to purchase any fire department stew let him know. He went on to compliment Donald Long saying East Sycamore trimming looks great! He thanked all the public works guys for all they do. He said Trunk or Treat starts at 6:00 p.m. on October 31, 2024 and the fire department will be doing hotdogs like they always do.

Council Member McCargo said the Southside Virginia Community College will be doing a free movie night on October 30, 2024. They will be showing Hocus Pocus.

Vice Mayor Bohannon said the last fly in will be Saturday, October 26, 2024. He went on to address Chief Jordan saying we are not against you. I am trying to think of other ways to get your money. He said Chase City Health & Rehab has been here 20 years and on October 18, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. they will be having a celebration. All are invited to attend.

Council Member Keeton addressed Chief Jordan saying we got your back. She also reminded everyone to exercise their right to vote.

Town Manager's Oral Report

15. The Town Manager's Report to Council for September 2024.

The Town Manager was at a conference and could not attend the meeting so the Mayor read through his report.

Contacts/ Meetings

Contractor for Landfill and WWTP ground water monitoring
B street Phase I and II

Streets

Ogburn St washout submitted for Insurance claim

Pot hole patch work on South Main and E. Sycamore completed.
Dodd and Main St intersection work complete.

Water/Sewer

Working on Lead line inventory report
Upcoming projects include new waterline in the B street project area.
Waterline repair on S. Main St.

Waste Water Treatment Plant

Waiting for insurance claim to be completed for SCADA system which was damaged due to lightning and power surge.

Police Department

Live Scan fingerprint system installed. Will be fully functioning October 15
Several vehicles have been down due to maintenance issues.

Airport

Nothing new to report

Town Shop

Ray Kyle new hire mechanic.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m. by Mayor Fahringer.

Alden Fahringer, Mayor

Stacey R Pafford, Clerk of Council