

# PUBLIC HEARING CIGARETTE TAX ORDINANCE

TOWN OF CHASE CITY, VA

Wednesday, November 06, 2024 at 5:30 PM

525 North Main Street, Chase City VA 23924

Phone: (434) 372-5136 | [www.chasecity.org](http://www.chasecity.org)

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## MINUTES

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Fahringer.

#### PRESENT

Town Manager Dusty Forbes

Mayor Alden Fahringer

Vice-Mayor James Bohannon

Council Member Marshall Whitaker

Council Member Brenda Hatcher

Council Member Pauline Keeton

Council Member Michelle Wilson

Council Member Latrisha McCargo

### Urgent Meeting Items

#### Item:

The Chase City Police Department would like to impose a \$0.15 cent tax per pack of cigarettes sold in Chase City. This hearing is to allow the public time to speak on their opinions on this proposed tax.

#### 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 limits.
2. The Chase City Police Department is requesting the funds collected for that tax to be allocated to the Police Department to be used for equipment purchases.

#### Recommendation:

The Chase City Town Council will hear public comment on the imposing of this cigarette tax. They will then vote on whether to move forward with writing a new town ordinance that will allow this tax to be imposed.

Mayor Fahringer explained the public could come forward and speak. They would need to state their name and address. Each would be given 3 minutes to speak. No one came forward. The Mayor then opened discussion for Council Members.

Member Whitaker said he is not against the police department getting what they need, he is however, against this tax. He went on to say he feels the money can be found by some other means.

Vice-Mayor Bohannon agreed saying he believes there is some other way to find it. He feels this tax is singling out a small group of individuals. That is the part he does not like.

Member Wilson spoke saying lets move forward.

Member Keeton said we have got to get funds from somewhere.

Member Hatcher asked the group if there was another way to get the funds.

Mayor Fahringer spoke next saying moving the Lee building to new ownership would help. The money saved from not having upkeep could be put toward the police department. He also said that discontinuing the town dumpster service would help free up money and keep the payment of a new dumpster truck from hanging over their heads. The Mayor said he believes this money that would be freed up with these two moves would be similar or equal to what we would make with the cigarette tax.

Member Wilson said that money could go to something else and we could still use the cigarette tax for the police department.

Member Keeton said freeing up that money could go to fix things that were previously ignored and the cigarette tax could go to the police department. She went on to say she is all for selling the Lee building.

Member McCargo said the \$30,000.00 collected from the cigarette tax could be used for years to come.

Motion made by Council Member Wilson to move forward with writing the new ordinance to include cigarette tax. It was seconded by Council Member Keeton. Mayor Fahringer called for a roll call vote that went as followed:

Council Member Brenda Hatcher - Yea  
Council Member Marshall Whitaker - Nay  
Vice-Mayor James Bohannon - Nay  
Council Member Pauline Keeton - Yea  
Council Member Michelle Wilson - Yea  
Council Member Latrisha McCargo - Yea

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business regarding the cigarette tax the meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

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**Alden Fahringer, Mayor**

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**Stacey Pafford, Clerk of Council**