

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

TOWN OF CHASE CITY, VA

Tuesday, November 12, 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

Town Manager Dusty Forbes

Invocation

Mayor Fahringer led everyone in prayer & the pledge of allegiance.

Citizen's Recognition

Michelle Hector of 109 5th Street, Clarkesville addressed the Town Council Members. She introduced herself as the YMCA Fundraising Coordinator. She went on to say she sees a lot of potential in Chase City. The current YMCA space here in Chase City is maxed out and she is trying to find a larger building. Nathan White had showed her the Lee Building and she can see a gymnasium where the auditorium currently is. In the side rooms she can see classrooms and a child care center. She said the YMCA wants to make a proposal. She said she needs 60 days and would like for the Town Council to postpone the sale of the building until she could come up with a proposal.

Monty Hightower of 247 Autumn Lane spoke next. He said he wanted to ask council to give the YMCA the time to make a proposal.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Council Member Whitaker to accept the consent agenda as presented. 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

1. The minutes from 10/15/24 submitted to the Town Council for approval.

2. The 11/6/2024 minutes from the public hearing on the new cigarette tax submitted to the Town Council for approval.
3. The minutes from the joint public hearing on 11/6/24 submitted to the Town Council for approval.

Old Business

4. **Water Deposit Increase - Second 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 second reading and price increase of the ordinance changes as presented.

3. The Town Council to vote to adopt the new ordinance.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to approve the second reading. 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

Motion made by Council Member Whitaker to adopt the ordinance change. 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

5. **Water Bill Penalty Date Change - Second 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 second reading of the ordinance changes as presented.

3. The Town Council to vote to adopt the new ordinance.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to approve the second reading of water bill penalty date change. 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

Motion made by Council Member Whitaker to adopt the water bill penalty date change. 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

New Business

6. Bills Paid in the Month of October 2024

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to approve the bills paid for the month of October 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

7. Report to Council/Operating Budget October 2024

Motion made by Council Member Wilson to approve the October 2024 operating budget. 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

8. The Charge Off report for October 2024 submitted to the Town Council for approval.

Motion made by Council Member McCargo to approve the October 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

9. The Chase City Police Department report for October 2024 submitted to the Town Council for approval.

Mayor Fahringer read through the Chase City Police Department report for October 2024. He thanked Chief Jordan and his team for all their hard work.

Motion made by Council Member Whitaker to accept the October 2024 Chase City Police Department 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

10. The Public Work report for October 2024 submitted to the Town Council for approval.

Mayor Fahringer read through the public works report for October 2024. He went on to thank Donald Long and his team for all the hard work.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to accept the public works report for October 2024. 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

11. The October 2024 Chase City Volunteer Fire Department Report submitted to the Town Council for approval.

Mayor Fahringer read through the October 2024 Chase City Volunteer Fire Department report. He thanked Dusty for the bleachers they now have for the rodeo. He went on to say the recent stew fundraiser was the biggest they ever had. He thanked the community for participating.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Bohannon to accept the Fire Department report. 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

12. Item: To add Article F-Cigarette Tax to the Town of Chase City codes and ordinances.

Discussion: Article F- Cigarette Tax will need to be added to the Chase City codes and ordinances in order to start collecting the \$0.15 tax per pack of cigarettes.

Recommendation: The Chase City Town Council vote to approve the first reading of the Article F-Cigarette Tax.

Mayor Fahringer asked if the council members had anything to discuss regarding Article F. Vice-Mayor Bohannon spoke saying he was not opposed to helping the police department but is opposed to this sales tax. He went on to say he felt we are singling out certain people. He said he would like to see everyone have to pay for it.

Motion made by Council Member McCargo to approve the first reading of Article F. It was seconded by Council Member Keeton.

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

Voting Nay: Vice-Mayor Bohannon, Council Member Whitaker

13. Item: To approve the sale of the Lee Building at 121 E Second Street, Chase City.

Discussion:

1. Selling the Lee Building would alleviate maintenance and up keep that is currently costing the town over \$10,000.00 a year.

2. Selling to a private entity would bring additional yearly real estate tax revenue to the town.

3. Once the building is converted to apartments it would bring additional water and sewer revenue to the town monthly.

4. Once the building is converted to apartments it would bring additional personal property taxes to the town yearly.

Recommendation:

The Town Council vote to sell the Lee Building to Edward Gaskin to develop into apartments.

Motion made by Council Member Whitaker to postpone the sale of the Lee building for 90 days, giving the YMCA time to come up with a proposition. 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

Mayor/Council Comments

Mayor Fahringer started by thanking everyone for the wonderful turn out for the Fire Department stew fundraiser. He said the community support was much appreciated. He also said he appreciated everyone that voted for him to continue as Mayor. He said he had really enjoyed his time thus far and he loves this town.

Council Member Whitaker said the rodeo was a big success and already booked for next year. He thanked everyone that bought stew from the fire department. He said this past fly in was the last for this year. He said they had a very good breakfast and good people helping. He went on to say he could not give Tina Wood enough credit. She works so hard. He said Santa would be at the fire house December 7, 2024 from 9am to 11am. He said for everyone to come out, eat breakfast with Santa and bring the phone to take pictures. He reminded everyone of the Christmas parade that is December 8, 2024. He thanked everyone for the votes he received and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Vice-Mayor Bohannon said the fly in was a great place to get something to eat. He said 80 people showed up at the last one. He thanked Tina Wood and the Chamber of Commerce for a wonderful meal and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Keeton thanked the community for the support during the recent election. She also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Wilson thanked the community for voting her back in and said she is looking forward to the next four years. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Town Manager's Oral Report

Town Manager Forbes thanked everyone that came out to the meeting tonight. He said he had attended the B Street monthly meeting and the DEQ meeting with Jim Patterson. He thanked Tina Wood for a great Chamber Banquet. Forbes said the Ogburn Street washout has been submitted to the insurance company. The town has a \$25,000.00 deductible but that is still better than the \$80,000.00 it is going to cost. He said the leaf season is underway. The Town Manager said the lead line inventory is completed and they only found 1 lead line in town. He said the waste water treatment plant lightning strike claim has been submitted to VRSA. The Town Manager welcomed our new town officer Gary Carrington and said Officer Carrington would be going to the academy in January 2025.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Alden Fahringer, Mayor

Stacey R Pafford, Clerk of Council