

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 4, 2014**  
**CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**Council Members Present:**

John H. Tarr, Mayor  
Ellen W. Richardson, Vice Mayor  
J. Arthur Leonard, Councilman  
Gene W. Taylor, Councilman  
Ben Ellis, Councilman  
James T. Frese, Councilman  
John N. Jester, Jr., Councilman

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Tarr called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION**

Councilman Taylor offered the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Tarr led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Tarr opened the floor for public participation.

- Mrs. Peggy Thomas addressed a letter she received about poles in the driveway at the garage on East Side Road. She explained that the letter states that FEMA requires the poles to be anchored. She asked if everyone was issued a letter.

Mayor Tarr advised that she was not the only one who received a letter. He advised that FEMA gave them a list of violations and this was one of them. He stated that the Town has to correct some of those violations to keep the flood insurance program rebates.

Mrs. Thomas stated that she is only trying to keep her parking lot decent. She explained what happened in the past without the poles.

Town Manager Ritter advised that quite a few letters have been sent. He explained that the poles need to be tied down or anchored.

Mrs. Thomas advised that her poles will be fixed.

Town Manager Ritter explained that FEMA is concerned that these flotation devices in a huge storm will be a battering ram on the adjacent properties. He added that FEMA regulates the program.

Mrs. Thomas feels it's not right and if she corrects hers then everyone else will correct theirs.

Vice Mayor Richardson advised that she spoke with a member of the Fire Company who was very upset about the letter also. She stated that the point was that someone should have talked with the Fire Company instead of a letter.

Mayor Tarr stated that something in writing has to be issued to prove to FEMA that they are attempting to correct the violation.

Vice Mayor Richardson added that a courtesy phone call that it was being sent as a formality could have helped.

Mayor Tarr stated that the floating poles were quite a problem at the last storm.

## **STAFF UPDATE**

### **Planning Department**

Town Planner Neville expanded on the report already in Council's packet. He stated that August 14<sup>th</sup> is the end of the review period of the Field Study of the FEMA maps. He mentioned the appeal process. He also advised of the meeting earlier regarding the draft CCP. He stated that the land use study will be released this month.

There were a couple of questions and comments about the FEMA maps, where to view them and about the appeals.

### **Police Department**

Chief Lewis stated that he had nothing further than the monthly report that has been included in Council's packet.

Councilman Jester commended the Police for their traffic control during Pony Swim Day.

### **Public Works Department**

Public Works Director Spurlock advised that the monthly report has been included in Council's packet. He updated Council on the paving project.

### **General Government**

Town Manager Ritter reported that the monthly report is included in the packet. He stated that the EMS response for July is 105 which is 15 less than July of 2013 and the ALS response was 57 which is 2 more than July of 2013. He also pointed out that the EMS has compiled information for a grant for the Department of Fire Programs for \$10,000. He stated that the entrance to Post Office Street has been paved. He reported that the fishing pier is complete. He stated that there will be an official grand opening of the fishing pier on August 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. He stated that in July they initiated the contract to purchase computer software with Southern Software.

Town Manager Ritter also reported that on Pony Penning they parked more cars than they have in the last 4 or 5 years. He stated that cars were parked in the Donald Leonard Park, the high school parking lot, the softball field, the football field, around the baseball field and down Hallie

Whealton Smith Drive past the nature trails. He added that in 2006-2007 they actually made it to the Elementary School parking lot.

There were comments and questions about the pier, the LOVE chairs and the next phase of the downtown project

Councilman Jester stated that there is a lot of cars downtown because of the way it looks. He added that Mr. Thornton has done a fantastic job.

Town Manager Ritter asked for comments or information to put in the upcoming newsletter. He stated that Public Works Director Spurlock is working on a gate valve the new bridge.

### **AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS AND ADOPTION**

Councilman Leonard motioned, seconded by Councilman Jester to adopt the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.

#### **1. Consider Adoption of the Minutes**

- **Regular Council Meeting of June 2, 2014**
- **Special Joint Council Meeting with Beach Access Committee of June 11, 2014**
- **Special Council Meeting of June 19, 2014**

Councilman Leonard motioned, seconded by Councilman Jester to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2014 and the Special Joint Council Meeting with Beach Access Committee of July 16, 2014 Council meetings. Unanimously approved.

#### **2. Update on the VML Conference for New Councilmembers**

Councilman Ellis reported that he attended the VML Conference that Town Manager Ritter recommended. He thanked Town Manager Ritter for making the conference available and Finance Director Hipple for making the arrangements. He stated that the conference was from July 10<sup>th</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup>. He reported that there were 91 newly elected officials in attendance. He stated that it consisted of 10 training workshops. He listed the different speakers. He felt the workshops were all relative to him with discussion and dialogue. He described the different sessions. He stated that it wasn't until he read the Employee Handbook and the Code book that he understood the complexity of the Town Manager's job. He expressed his gratitude and respect for Town Manager Ritter and the job he does.

Councilman Ellis continued to review the different sessions in regards to the budget, FOIA, the VML and its duties, conflict of interests, land use basics which included building and zoning. He stated that the final session addressed the role of local officials and economic development. He also talked about the guided tour of Richmond. He added that he made some excellent contacts with people and the conference was a learning experience. He stated that he wants to be as effective as he can and will put the time in doing his homework. He thanked the Town for providing him with the opportunity to attend the conference.

Mayor Tarr thanked Councilman Ellis.

### **3. Mayor & Council Announcements or Comments**

Councilman Taylor concurred with Councilman Ellis that he appreciates his and everyone else's willingness to serve. He added that it's not easy to find people to serve. He also stated that he appreciates the Town Manager too and looks forward to the positive relationship.

Councilman Ellis stated that as a new resident and councilman he thanked the Police Department and Fire Department for a successful Pony Penning week. He added that he hasn't heard a single negative comment.

Councilman Jester reiterated Councilman Ellis' comments. He commended everyone for a great job.

Councilman Leonard stated that the events seem to run flawless and advised that Pony Swim Day was a beautiful day. He added that the auction went well and the people seemed to do well. He stated the Town employees did a good job behind the scenes.

Vice Mayor Richardson thanked the Public Works Department and the Police Department for their hard work as it was a long day. She added that it's a lot of hard work that goes into this. She also thanked the Town Manager and everyone including the State Troopers.

Councilman Leonard added that he noticed at the carnival this year, that there is no traffic crossing guard. He feels there should be a crossing guard for the safe crossing especially with the Trolley stop. He suggested adding it in the next year's Town budget.

Mayor Tarr thanked Finance Director Hipple for all the planning and details. He stated that she has done it for a long time.

Vice Mayor Richardson also stated that she appreciates Finance Director Hipple and the office staff.

Mayor Tarr reminded everyone of the joint Council and Beach Access Committee meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup> and also an Open House on the 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. He stated that this is to help with the comments on the CCP. He also added that the deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjourn**

Vice Mayor Richardson motioned seconded by Councilman Leonard to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

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Mayor

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Town Manager