

MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2014
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Council Members Present:

John H. Tarr, Mayor
J. Arthur Leonard, Vice Mayor
Ellen W. Richardson, Councilwoman
John N. Jester, Jr., Councilman
Tripp Muth, Councilman
Gene W. Taylor, Councilman
Terry Howard, Councilman

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

Councilman Howard 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.

- Ms. Nancy Lane, Mrs. Margaret Papadopoulos both with the CIAO and Mrs. Evelyn Shotwell the Director of the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce, approached the Council. They invited Council to the Open House at the Island Theatre, Thursday May 8th at 6:00 p.m. They thanked Public Works Director Spurlock for the new brick walk in front of the theatre. They advised that they will be unveiling the Misty hoof prints at the Open House also. They added that it is a free event with a prize giveaway, music and the unveiling of the new stage. They advised of the upgrades made to the Island Theatre. They also added that there will be a showing of the music video “Happy” where some of the Town employees have made them very proud.

Mrs. Shotwell added that she feels it will be a special night for the Beebe Family with the unveiling of the Misty hoof prints and the Misty movie. She hopes that those who were in the movie will be in attendance as well to share their stories of Misty and the movie.

- Mr. Bruce Scott advised that the Eastern Shore of Virginia once again has a Civil Air Control Unit. He stated that they have a great cadet troop and would like to recruit more members.

Mayor Tarr asked Mr. Scott to give his information to Mr. Bryan Rush the Emergency Coordinator. He asked Town Manager Ritter to arrange a meeting with Mr. Scott and Mr. Rush.

- Mr. Bob Marz mentioned a problem with the drainage on Bunting Road. He advised that the water was pooling on a lot on the corner of Bunting Road and Hook Drive. He stated that because of a house that was built on that lot it is not draining properly on Bunting Road, Hook Drive that he maintains. He suggested a catch basin or help getting it to drain in Fowling Gut.

Mr. Marz also advised that he filled out the form to have the Police Department check his property during his vacation. He was informed by his neighbor of what a great job the police did with checking the property each evening during his absence. He expressed his appreciation.

Public Works Director Spurlock advised he is working on the drainage problem there to resolve the issue.

- Mr. Mike Meyers, of Salt Marsh Lane, discussed the potential problems the Island would see if there was a storm causing the beach to overwash over in July. He mentioned those visitors who would want their money back and leave. He asked if the Town had a “Plan B” and asked what it was.

Mayor Tarr advised that there isn’t an official plan but, there is an emergency plan. He stated they have contacted the Park Service and the motel owners. He agreed they need to develop an official plan.

Mr. Meyers wondered if the Refuge would allow buses to transport people and possibly use the service road.

Mayor Tarr stated that in 1997 there was a storm and this happened. He advised that they worked out a plan at that time for parking and beach access.

- Mrs. Shotwell thanked the Police Department, the Town of Chincoteague and Mr. Van Dame with the Trolley Service for all of their help to make the Seafood Festival a huge success.

Mayor Tarr thanked the Chamber for hosting this huge event that had a positive impact on the motels and local businesses.

Mrs. Shotwell advised that ticket sales were up from last year too. She again thanked all those involved.

STAFF UPDATE

Planning Department

Town Planner Neville expanded on the report already in Council’s packet. He advised that the Planning Commission is approximately halfway through with the 5 year update and review of the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that they are looking forward to the Council Workshop to discuss those items, some of which are included in the packet.

Town Planner Neville discussed the draft FEMA floodplain maps advising of the upcoming open house and stated the maps will be available for public viewing with FEMA representatives on May 13th.

Councilman Muth asked for an update on the CCP.

Town Planner Neville advised the Town Manager Ritter will include information on the CCP in his report adding that it is scheduled to come out this month.

Police Department

Asst. Chief Mills advised that the monthly report was included in the agenda packet.

Councilman Howard stated that he was at the forum where an issue was raised on how the Police Department was enforcing laws. He stated that regarding a particular case that individual felt that the Police was over-doing it. He asked about the report and the number of calls, the type and number of tickets issued. He wanted to know if it was all public information.

Asst. Mills advised that if there is a criminal arrest, it is public information. He stated that as far as traffic incidents or stops and warnings they are not public knowledge. He asked if there was a specific incident that he could help him with.

Councilman Howard advised that the person he was talking with presented this to the candidates at the forum. He asked if the report was public information.

Mayor Tarr responded that the report is public information.

Asst. Chief Mills also advised that the names are not public information and were not included in the report.

Councilman Howard stated that the report is relative to the tickets that they actually wrote. He feels that if people actually knew this they would have a different perspective and know if the Police Department was going too far. He believes that the Police Department is considerate and added that 'discretion is the better part of valor'.

Asst. Chief Mills added that they try to be fair.

Public Works Department

Public Works Director Spurlock reported that the monthly report was in the agenda packet. He updated Council regarding the fencing project at the Harbor. He stated they started today and should be done by the end of the week.

Councilman Howard asked about the sailboat that has sunk.

Town Manager Ritter advised that they are working hard to have this removed. He stated that letters have been sent and they have discussed this matter with the individual and at this time they are working on a plan so that they can raise it.

Councilman Jester asked if once it is raised, would it be leaving the marina.

Town Manager Ritter advised that it would be.

General Government

Town Manager Ritter reported that in addition to the Emergency Medical Report there was CPR training of 17 citizens. He added the OEMS Hardware Fund Grant was awarded, where they purchased 3 electronic tablets to facilitate moving all patient care reports to digital format. He stated that the ANTARES rocket launch has been postponed and will be June 9th. He reported on the progress of the Downtown Revitalization.

Town Manager advised that the Business License renewals were due by April 30th. He stated that if anyone hasn't renewed their Business License they need to do so. He also stated that the vehicle decals were due on the vehicles by April 15th and enforcement is in effect. He added that they have finalized the draft FY15 Budget which will be published in the paper.

Town Manager reported that Mr. Joe McCauley plans to present the draft CCP for the Wildlife Refuge on the 15th or 16th. He reminded Council of Student Government Day on the 15th, which wouldn't be a good day to meet with Mr. McCauley. He stated that he spoke with Mr. McCauley and May 14th would be the best day at 5:00 p.m for a briefing.

Mayor Tarr advised that this is a meeting to roll out the CCP to the public officials countywide so they can set meetings and timelines.

Councilman Taylor added that a beach is supposed to be wide with dunes, fencing and dune grass and maintained.

There was brief discussion and comments regarding the current situation of the beach.

Mayor Tarr reminded Council that the meeting is May 14th at 5:00 p.m. at the Refuge.

Councilman Howard would like to inform the public of the Town's revenues as they are all on the plus side. He added that we are a blessed community. He announced that there is an Ordinance Committee meeting scheduled for May 8th at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS AND ADOPTION

Mayor Tarr asked to add item 7a to the agenda for Poppy Day Proclamation.

Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Leonard to adopt the agenda adding item 7a Poppy Proclamation. Unanimously approved.

- 1. Consider Adoption of the Minutes**
 - **Regular Council Meeting of April 7, 2014**
 - **Budget Workshop Meeting of April 9 & 16, 2014**

Vice Mayor Leonard motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to adopt the minutes of April 7, 2014 and April 9 & 16, 2014, as presented. Unanimously approved.

- 2. County Update from Island Supervisor Honorable Wanda Thornton**

Supervisor Thornton reported about the bridge opening issues. She advised that she has contacted the U. S. Coast Guard. She stated that she will contact the gentleman from VDOT to change the schedule.

There was discussion about the inconvenience and Town Manager Ritter advised that he will send a letter from the Town.

Supervisor Thornton discussed the Draft FEMA Floodplain Maps. She advised that she spoke to some people who agree that those coming out of the floodplain shouldn't be required to have flood insurance. She stated that she supplied the Town with a list of the properties that were coming out of the flood plain.

Councilman Howard asked about not buying flood insurance for those homes coming out of the flood plain.

Supervisor Thornton added that she only heard this. She also reported that the household hazardous waste will be May 10th. She stated that they still have not adopted the Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan for the County. She mentioned a couple of items on the agenda that have to be taken care of. She listed a few items. She added that there will be another meeting May 28th at 5:00 p.m.

Supervisor Thornton reported that a portion of the Atlantic Town Center was approved for the building of businesses there. She advised that the County decided to administer the Storm Water Ordinance instead of letting DEQ do it. She stated that they are shrinking the Enterprise Zone on the Shore. She added that the biggest issue is that in order to put an area into the Enterprise Zone, the entire parcel has to be included adding that it could become a serious limitation on how many areas may be included.

Mayor Tarr asked if it would have to include the already developed larger businesses.

Supervisor Thornton stated that if there is little or no potential of development they shouldn't include that property in the Enterprise Zone.

There was brief discussion and comments.

Supervisor Thornton also reported that that County is expected to receive the reimbursement for well over \$500,000 as a result of Hurricane Sandy. She noted that Perdue was refunded \$292,000 for personal property taxes by the County from 2010 – 2013 because of the change in classifications. She added that they were overcharged. Supervisor Thornton added that they are now accepting credit card payments at the landfill. She announced that the groundbreaking for the Research Park is June 9th at noon. She stated that they are working with Chesapeake Gas Company to possibly get natural gas in Accomack County. She spoke with the Public Works Director regarding the Recycling and Convenience Center on the Island and was advised that they will begin the improvements next week. She reported on the EMS and Fire calls per district stating that Chincoteague is up there in both. She reviewed the report: EMS: Greenbackville

13, Chincoteague 56, Saxis 3, Bloxom 52, Parksley 78, Onancock 51, Melfa 54, Wachapreague 11, Exmore 5, Onley 38, Oak Hall 85 and Tangier 11.

Supervisor Thornton mentioned the County's budget and stated that the reassessment was an eye opener. She stated that Chincoteague's 2013 value was \$923,928,700. She added that when they adjusted Chincoteague the total real estate value was \$906,704,200 dropping only 1.9%. She also added that Captain's Cove dropped 14.5%, which was the most. She advised of the real estate tax rate which is \$0.58 per hundred for everyone except Chincoteague which is \$0.49. She discussed the teacher's salaries focusing on administration and the early retirement program. She also mentioned the pay retired school employees receive for substituting. She mentioned that this isn't accounted for in the budget and could be a liability for the County.

There was further discussion.

Mayor Tarr thanked Supervisor Thornton for attending.

3. Resolution on the Annual Spring Clean-up, Paint-up, Fix-up Week

Mayor Tarr explained the resolution.

Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Leonard to adopt the Resolution on the Annual Spring Clean-up, Paint-up, Fix-up Week. Unanimously approved.



Resolution for Spring Clean up, Paint up, and Fix up Week

A RESOLUTION of the Town of Chincoteague Island, Virginia, to acknowledge the importance of Earth Day and support the community-wide activities and events that remind us of our Island's connection to the rest of the planet.

WHEREAS, we are fortunate to live in a Town so abundantly blessed with natural assets and we have a continuing responsibility for conserving our environment by keeping it clean, healthy, and beautiful; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chincoteague Island and our citizens are committed, through the goals of the Comprehensive Plan, ordinances, policies and our actions, to the conservation and stewardship of our natural landscape, open space and sensitive environmental areas; and

WHEREAS, Chincoteague's Mother Earth Day is Saturday, May 10, 2014; Mother Earth Day will celebrate the beauty of our Island and involve people around the world over the course of several days; and

WHEREAS, during this celebration, we have the opportunity to demonstrate to ourselves, our neighbors, and our visitors, our commitment to a clean and beautiful town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE, IN COUNCIL MET:

1. That the week of May 10th – May 17th, 2014 is designated as **SPRING-CLEAN UP, PAINT UP, & FIX UP WEEK** in the Town of Chincoteague to coincide with the Mother Earth Day Celebration
2. That all organized and individual segments of our population participate in this noble effort by developing and carrying out imaginative clean-up, paint-up, and fix-up projects which will serve to enhance, restore, or maintain the beauty of all properties in our Island community.
3. All Spring Cleanup debris should be placed for pickup during the week of May 10 –May 17, 2013 so that our Town of Chincoteague will exemplify cleanliness and beauty and to kick off the Tourist Season. Calling the Town Office with the items to be picked up will ensure collection of said items.

John H. Tarr, Mayor

Attest: _____
Robert G. Ritter, Jr., Town Manager

4. Resolution on the 2015 Virginia Department of Transportation Revenue Sharing Litter Grant Program

Town Manager Ritter explained the Resolution stating that it's a housekeeping item that's done every year.

Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Leonard to adopt the Resolution of the 2015 Virginia Department of Transportation Revenue Sharing Litter Grant Program.
Unanimously approved.



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Town of Chincoteague, Incorporated desires to submit an application for an allocation of funds of up to \$5,000 through the Virginia Department of Transportation, Fiscal Year 2015 Revenue Sharing Program; and,

WHEREAS, \$5,000 of these funds are requested to fund recycling collection fees along with the Spring and Fall Town Cleanup Projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Town Council of the Town of Chincoteague, Incorporated hereby supports this application for an allocation of up to \$5,000 through the Virginia Department of Transportation Revenue Sharing Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Town Council of the Town of Chincoteague, Incorporated hereby grants authority for the Town Manager to execute project administration agreements for any such approved revenue sharing project.

ADOPTED by unanimous vote of the Town Council on May 5, 2014.

John H. Tarr, Mayor

Attest:

Robert G. Ritter, Jr., Town Manager

5. Resolution on Designating Hurricane Awareness Week

Mayor Tarr explained the Resolution.

Vice Mayor Leonard motioned, seconded by Councilman Jester to adopt the Resolution on Designating Hurricane Awareness Week. Unanimously approved.



RESOLUTION Hurricane Preparedness Week 2014

Whereas, The Town of Chincoteague hurricane season officially begins June 1st and ends November 30th of each year. In order to heighten awareness, the week of May 25-May 31, 2014 has been designated "Hurricane Preparedness Week"; and

Whereas, with the Town of Chincoteague being an Island, is vulnerable to the devastating effects that a hurricane or tropical storm can cause. With the average land elevation of 3.5 feet above mean high tide could face loss of life and property if such a disaster occurs; and

Whereas, both public and private entities should develop emergency response and recovery plans in accordance with the local jurisdiction and local emergency management office. Such preventative action could save lives; and

Whereas, the Town of Chincoteague Emergency Management Division, the National Weather Service, and the Commonwealth of Virginia strongly suggest that all residents and visitors to the Town of Chincoteague be aware of the high winds, flooding and severe weather that may occur in conjunction with a tropical storm or hurricane.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Town Council' of the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia does hereby proclaim the week of May 25th – May 31st, 2012 as "Hurricane Preparedness Week: in the Town of Chincoteague.

John H. Tarr, Mayor

Attest:

Robert G. Ritter, Jr., Town Manager

6. Certificate of Recognition for National Public Works Week
Public Works Director Spurlock read the Certificate of Recognition.

Mayor Tarr thanked Public Works Director Spurlock and the Public Works employees for all they do.

Vice Mayor Leonard motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to adopt the Certificate of Recognition for National Public Works Week. Unanimously approved.



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION
for
NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

WHEREAS, the Town of Chincoteague's Public Works Department is responsible for all Town facilities, mosquito control, roads, and water supply, treatment and distribution which are vital to the health, safety, and wellbeing of the people that reside on or visit Chincoteague Island; and

WHEREAS, such facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of Chincoteague's public works professionals; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council are grateful to all those who plan, design, build, operate and maintain the infrastructure which is essential to our people: and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the people of the Town of Chincoteague are educated about, and participate in, the shaping of public works programs in our community: and

WHEREAS, the year 2014 marks the 54th annual National Public Works Week sponsored by American Public Works Association;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John H. Tarr, Mayor of the Town of Chincoteague, do hereby designate May 18 – 24, 2014, as **NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK** in the Town of Chincoteague.

ADOPTED May 5, 2014.

John H. Tarr, Mayor

Attest:

Robert G. Ritter, Jr., Town Manager

7. Proclamation for Safe Boating Week

Mayor Tarr explained the Proclamation.

Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Leonard to adopt the Proclamation for Safe Boating Week. Unanimously approved.



PROCLAMATION

Americans are increasingly heading to the water for recreation and relaxation as the opportunities for on-the-water activities that grow each year. But with this growth comes additional responsibility. It is vital that both novice and experienced boaters alike practice safe boating habits---especially wearing a life jacket. Approximately 88 percent of those who die in boating-related drownings were not wearing life jackets.

WHEREAS, hundreds of lives could be saved each year by wearing life jackets and the law requires that wearable life jackets be carried for each person on board a boat.

WHEREAS, responsible boaters will learn the local boating regulations, master the “rules of the road”, not drink alcohol and boat, wear their life jacket, and respect fellow boaters.

WHEREAS, U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 12-06 Chincoteague provides safe boating instruction for all ages in order to prevent boating accidents and to teach rescue and survival techniques in case one does occur.

WHEREAS, boaters nationwide are wearing their life jackets this week and year round to recognize National Safe Boating Week with the theme, “Life Jacket. WEAR IT! a habit we can live with!”

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED I, Mayor John H. Tarr, proclaim May 17 through 23, 2014 as National Safe Boating Week within the Town of Chincoteague and encourage all boaters to wear their life jacket, boat responsibly, and enroll in a safe boating class.

DATED this 21st , day of April, 2014

Mayor John H. Tarr
Town of Chincoteague, Inc.

BMC. Hank Deatrich
Officer in Charge
U. S. Coast Guard
Station Chincoteague

Jane C. Peake
Flotilla Commander 12-06
U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

7a. Proclamation for Poppy Day

Town Manager Ritter advised that they received the request for a Proclamation from the American Legion Auxiliary. He then read the Proclamation.

Councilwoman Richardson asked where they could get a poppy.

Mayor Tarr advised that the American Legion will have them and distributing them, May 17th along with requesting donations to keep this day going.

Councilman Taylor motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Leonard to adopt the proclamation for Poppy Day. Unanimously approved.



Poppy Day Proclamation

Whereas, America is the land of freedom, preserved and protected willingly and freely by citizen soldiers; and

Whereas, millions who have answered the call to arms have died on the fields of battle; and

Whereas, a nation must be reminded of the price of war and the debt owed to those who have died in war; and

Whereas, the Red Poppy has been designated as a symbol of sacrifice of lives in all wars; and

Whereas, the American Legion Auxiliary has pledged to remind America annually of this debt through the distribution of the memorial flower,

Now, therefore, I, John H. Tarr, Mayor of the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, do hereby proclaim, May 17, 2014 as Poppy Day and ask that all citizens pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom by wearing the Memorial Poppy during this week.

Dated this 5th day of May, 2014.

Mayor

Attest:

Town Manager

8. Mayor & Council Announcements or Comments

Councilwoman Richardson wished Mayor Tarr a "Happy Birthday".

The Town Council and meeting attendees all sang “Happy Birthday” to Mayor Tarr at the suggestion of Councilman Howard.

Vice Mayor Leonard wished the candidates well and encouraged citizens to vote. Councilman Jester thanked those who attend the Council meetings.

Councilman Muth encouraged everyone to vote at the elections tomorrow.

Councilman Taylor expressed that he was going to miss not voting for Councilman Howard. He stated that it is great after so many years to see the smile on his face. He mentioned how much it takes to come together to make the Town and special events a success. He added that he will miss Councilman Howard as it won’t be the same without him. He advised that he hopes the one who fills the seat is deserving of it.

Councilman Howard stated that whenever he feels down wherever he goes that he hopes Councilman Taylor is there. He stated that Councilman Taylor makes him feel good. He stated that it’s been a pleasure. He appreciates everything everyone does in the community. He also stated that he likes the expression “let’s build bridges instead of walls”. He added that it behooves us to listen and learn from the people. He concluded that if they do build walls instead of bridges the Island would suffer.

Vice Mayor Leonard announced that the Chincoteague Middle School both softball and baseball teams went undefeated this season. He added that this is a feat and wanted to inform the public.

Mayor Tarr reminded everyone to vote tomorrow. He asked about AED training. He directed Town Manager Ritter to ask Coordinator Rush form an AED class.

Adjourn

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

Mayor

Town Manager