

The Smithfield Town Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members present:

T. Carter Williams – Mayor
Michael Smith – Vice Mayor
Valerie Butler
Randy Pack
Beth Haywood
Wayne Hall
Renee Rountree

Staff present:

Michael Stallings - Town Manager
Lesley King – Town Clerk
Ellen Minga – Town Treasurer
William H. Riddick, III – Town Attorney
Alonzo Howell – Chief of Police
Sgt. Eric Phillips – Smithfield Police Department
Officer Ryan Polk – Smithfield Police Department
Officer Donna Nolan – Smithfield Police Department
Officer Jacob Norton – Smithfield Police Department
John Settle – Community Development & Planning Director
Ashley Rogers – Human Resource Director
Amy Novak – Director of Parks and Recreation
Judy Winslow – Director of Tourism
Jack Reed – Director of Public Works

Press: Nate Delesline

Citizens: 10

Mayor Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting, and everyone stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Michael Stallings reported that the February Activity Report was included in the packets. He was available for questions.

Councilwoman Haywood asked about the turnout for the Comprehensive Survey.

The Community Development & Planning Director stated that it was a large turnout with approximately twice as many as the original request for public input.

Councilwoman Haywood asked about the Smithfield 2020 meetings. She asked if the organization would be continuing since it is now 2021.

The Town Manager stated that it was discussed and continues to be an agenda item. He was not sure if they had reached a decision to continue to operate or not. Smithfield 2020 is still meeting and actively participating with events in the community.

Mayor Williams asked if the Comprehensive Survey was over.

The Community Development & Planning Director stated that it was.

Upcoming Meetings and Activities:

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| March 2 | - | 6:30 p.m. – Town Council Meeting |
| March 9 | - | 6:30 p.m. – Planning Commission |
| March 16 | - | 6:30 p.m. – Board of Historic and Architectural Review |
| March 22 | - | 3:00 p.m. - Town Council Committee Meetings (Consecutive)
Public Safety Committee
Water and Sewer Committee
Finance Committee |
| March 23 | - | 3:00 p.m. – Town Council Committee Meetings (Consecutive)
Parks and Recreation Committee
Public Works Committee
Public Buildings and Welfare Committee |

Public Comments:

Mayor Williams explained that the public was invited to speak to Council on any matter, except scheduled public hearings. There will be a separate signup sheet for public hearings. For public comments, please use the appropriate sign-up sheet and include your preferred method of contact. Comments are limited to five (5) minutes per person. Any required response from the Town will be provided in writing following the meeting.

There were no public comments.

Activity Report for Smithfield High School:

Miss Anika Eng reported current activities for Smithfield High School. The Packer Debate Team will participate in CFL State after winning the CFL qualifier. For the first time, in Smithfield High School's 115-year history, the Smithfield High School basketball team became the state champions. Miss Eng also gave updates on the wrestling team, football team, cheerleading team, BETA Club, and SHS Band.

Briefing by Dick Grice, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors, Smithfield District:

Supervisor Grice stated that preliminary discussions were held on three possible tax revenue sources. The first is a county cigarette tax that would provide approximately \$250,000 to the county's general fund. It would not impact the Town's cigarette tax. Legislative action is required and would permit counties to tax cigarette sales for the first time. The second tax would allow the county to implement a sales tax which excludes taxes on groceries. The revenues from the tax could only be used for school capital projects. It would require a referendum which would offer county residents an alternative means for paying for bonds to finance the Hardy and Westside Elementary replacement schools. Since the proposed bill was tabled, the county will only have one option to pay for the new schools which will be to raise real estate taxes. The county intends to try again next year for the sales tax bill. If the bill is ever approved then real estate taxes would be adjusted back to the present amount. The county also discussed a possible five cent tax for each plastic bag used by most retail stores. The monies from this tax could only be used for policing trash from public lands, roads, and highways. The concern is for the county's favorable tourism traffic getting here by filthy roadways. Staff has been directed to develop a program strategy. The Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors also discussed various options for the confederate monument. No decisions were made. The Town of Windsor

rejected the county's request to relocate the monument in the old section of the Windsor Cemetery. According to state code, the county is soliciting sites where the monument can be relocated. Supervisor Grice explained that the county received an update on vaccination registration and distribution. There is a central call center and the phone number is 1-877-829-4682. There are 750 call center handlers and pre-registration is less frustrating than before. Callers are able to get through to pre-register but not for scheduling the vaccine. The Board received a report on the walk thru of the old county's Clerk office with the Isle of Wight Historical Society. The joint facility use project would provide the Historical Society with a home office and climate-controlled storage facilities for their collection of historical artifacts. Other areas of the building can be used by both county staff and the Historical Society for training, meetings, overflow seating for boardroom events, and other meetings. There will be a meeting to keep the joint renovation and long-term use venture moving forward. The Board of Supervisors provided staff with their budget item requests for FY 2021. This will be the first of many budget meetings. Supervisor Grice was available for questions from Town Council.

Councilwoman Haywood asked if the county had ever looked into banning plastic bags.

Supervisor Grice stated that the county had researched it. There is no provision for the county to ever enforce such a provision nor is it within the state code. The county does not really want a five-cent tax but a plastic bag damages farming operations. A plastic bag can destroy an entire bale of cotton. The trash situation needs to be controlled. Action is needed.

Councilman Pack stated that the plastic bag issue tends to be from trash trucks not necessarily the public as he has seen. Much of the trash on the roadways is due to the trash trucks. He asked what happens to the Confederate monument if the county is unable to find a home for it.

Supervisor Grice stated that the monument is still standing and will continue to stand until a home is found for it. The task force has a number of recommendations. He is certain one of them will come to fruition.

Councilwoman Butler asked if the county had decided how much real estate taxes would increase since the cigarette legislation did not pass.

Supervisor Grice explained that there are two different taxes. The legislation was not approved for a 1% increase in taxes on sales of everything but groceries.

Since the legislation was not approved, Councilwoman Butler asked what the alternative would be for the capital improvements of the schools.

Supervisor Grice stated that it would be to raise real estate taxes. They would increase between four and four and a half cents. The new tax structure would start in December of 2021. He would prefer the sales tax option to help pay for the new schools instead of raising real estate taxes.

Presentation of Top Cop Award by James Pope of the Greater Hampton Roads Regional Crime Line:

Mr. Pope stated that he is the Chairman of the Greater Hampton Roads Regional Crime Line. He represents the Board of Directors to celebrate and honor law enforcement officers who have gone above and beyond. This year has been difficult for law enforcement. Modifications were made to ensure that everyone could honor and gather for the recipients of the Top Cop

Award. Seventeen awards have been given spanning from Gloucester to Virginia Beach. He explained that the website shows the sponsors and local businesses that make the awards possible. The sponsors also help to fund the local and regional crime line programs including the “tips” app and the 1-888 LOCK U UP phone line. The support of the citizens, law enforcement, and the business community is crucial to the crime line program which has been instrumental in capturing numerous criminals. The generous donations help to pay tipsters for information in solving crimes. Mr. Pope thanked the law enforcement officers, law enforcement families, sponsors, and the local program Board. He also thanked the directors and coordinators that serve on the regional Board. Everyone worked hard to continue the programs. He explained to the officers that the Greater Hampton Roads Regional Crime Line Board stands with them and behind them. Mr. Pope stated that Officer Polk of the Smithfield Police Department has been employed by Smithfield for two years. In January 2020, he was asked to assume the temporary role of detective. He held the position until April of 2020. The appointment was needed since the department was experiencing a number of unsolved serial crimes. It was further complicated by vacancies in the investigation staff. Officer Polk, without specialized training or experience, assumed the role with enthusiasm. He immediately began investigations into vehicle break-ins, vehicle theft, robberies, and other crimes. Officer Polk was instrumental in the resolution in many of the investigations. During his tenure, the series of repeated crimes effectively ended. He performed all of his duties with the efficiency expected of a veteran detective. His individual efforts directly improved the quality of life for citizens of the Town and dramatically reduced the department’s case load so they could perform more effectively.

Officer Polk came to the podium. Mr. Pope, on behalf of the Greater Hampton Roads Crime Line, presented Officer Polk with the award for his selection as the Smithfield Police Department’s Top Cop. Officer Polk also received a gift card for dinner since Covid restrictions prevented a formal presentation of the Top Cop Award.

Mayor Williams congratulated Officer Polk.

Council Comments:

Councilwoman Rountree explained that she had attended a Rotary meeting. She explained that the Smithfield Rotarians would be cleaning up the bypass area on the morning of April 14th. She has also been concerned about trash along the roadways.

Mayor Williams explained that the Green Team had planned to do some cleaning up but the pandemic stopped everything. The Green Team is planning to start again as soon as possible.

Consent Agenda:

Mayor Williams asked if any Council member would like to pull any item for further discussion. No items were pulled.

C1. Motion to Approve Contract with Lexipol Solutions:

The Town Manager explained that it is a software that helps the Town maintain policies and make sure they are up to date with federal and state law changes.

C2. Invoices Over \$10,000 Requiring Council Authorization:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| a. Isle of Wight County | \$ 47,250.00 |
| b. Kimley Horn Associates | \$169,812.50 |
| c. Allfirst LLC | \$ 73,279.43 |

Councilman Pack explained that the Isle of Wight County invoice was for IT services from July 2020 until January 2021 through the shared IT services agreement with the county. The Kimley Horn Associates invoice was for the Church Street water tower rehab. The Allfirst invoice is for damage to the Lakeside Pump station during the flooding from several months ago. He explained that the amount should be reimbursable through the Town's insurance less the deductible. He recommended all three invoices for approval.

C3. Motion to Approve Appropriation Resolution for CARES Act Funding Reimbursement:

Councilman Pack explained that reimbursement for CARES Act funds is just shy of \$91,000.00 which will move from the CARES fund to the general fund for items included in the funding.

C4. Motion to Approve Proposal for Construction Phase Services for Benn's Church Blvd. & South Church Street Intersection Improvement Project by Kimley Horn:

Councilwoman Haywood explained that the proposal is for construction of the intersection improvements.

C5. Resolution to Commend and Congratulate the 2021 Smithfield High School Boys Basketball Team:

Councilwoman Butler explained that the basketball team won the state championship for their division.

Vice Mayor Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented and Councilman Pack seconded the motion. Mayor Williams stated that the Town Council will be presenting the resolution and congratulations to the Smithfield High School's basketball team on March 11th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Smithfield High School auditorium. With no further discussion, Mayor Williams called for the vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilwoman Rountree voted aye, Councilman Hall voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Councilwoman Haywood voted aye, Vice Mayor Smith voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Motion to Approve the Town Council Summary Minutes of February 2nd, 2021:

The Town Attorney recommended approval of the minutes as presented.

Vice Mayor Smith made the motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Pack seconded the motion. Mayor Williams called for the vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Hall voted aye, Vice Mayor Smith voted aye, Councilwoman Rountree voted aye, Councilwoman Haywood voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

Closed Session:

The Town Attorney stated that the Council needed a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the disposition of publicly held real property pursuant to 2.2-3711.A-3 of the Code of Virginia.

Councilman Pack make the motion to go into closed session and Vice Mayor Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Williams called for the vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Hall voted aye, Councilwoman Haywood voted aye, Councilwoman Rountree voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Vice Mayor Smith voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

The Town Council went into closed session at 6:59 p.m.

The Town Council returned to open session at 7:48 p.m.

The Town Attorney stated that a motion was needed to go back into open session. Councilman Pack made a motion to go back into open session. Councilman Hall seconded the motion. Mayor Williams called for the vote.


On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilman Hall voted aye, Councilwoman Haywood voted aye, Councilwoman Rountree voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Vice Mayor Smith voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

The Town Attorney stated that a motion was needed that during the closed session there was only a discussion of the disposition of publicly held real property pursuant to 2.2-3711.A-3 of the Code of Virginia.

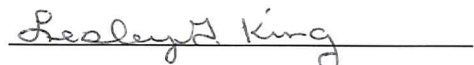
Vice Mayor Smith made the motion and Councilwoman Haywood seconded. Mayor Williams called for the vote.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Councilwoman Haywood voted aye, Councilman Pack voted aye, Councilwoman Butler voted aye, Councilwoman Rountree voted aye, Councilman Hall voted aye, Vice Mayor Smith voted aye, and Mayor Williams voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



T. Carter Williams - Mayor



Lesley King - Town Clerk