

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Mayor:	Roy M. Gladding
Council Members:	Kay Carlton Fleet Dillard Kenneth A. Gillis Troy L. Balderson Anita J. Latane
Town Manager:	Eric Pollitt
Town Clerk:	Patsy K. Scates
Town Attorney:	Diane M. Lank
Chief of Police:	James G. Ashworth, Jr.

ABSENT

Vice Mayor: Marcia W. Jenkins

VISITORS:

Joey, Reinhardt, Tappahannock/Essex Volunteer Fire Department
Kyle Durham, Tappahannock/Essex Volunteer Fire Department

This meeting was conducted by zoom

Mayor Gladding called the meeting to order.

On motion of Troy L. Balderson, seconded by Anita J. Latane, Council voted unanimously to approve the November 8, 2021, work session meeting minutes and the November 8, 2021, council meeting minutes.

Votes were cast as follows:

Kay Carlton:	Aye	Troy L. Balderson:	Aye
Fleet Dillard:	Aye	Anita J. Latane:	Aye
Kenneth A. Gillis:	Aye		

Council Member Gillis reported that the maintenance department personnel repaired ruptured water lines located at Jeannette Drive, Church Lane (17 North). The department staff also made repairs on a sewer line located at Newbill Drive. The personnel have begun collecting loose leaves and will continue December thru January. He reported that the plant operators are preparing for colder temperatures for optimum treatment this winter. He reported that normal operations were maintained with good treatment and the test results for the month of November were within compliance limits with no violations. He reported that the sanitary crew continues to work at maintaining refuse collection for our citizens and business owners.

Council Member Balderson stated that on the agenda we will be discussing the Old St. Margaret proposed park options so he will wait to discuss this at that time.

Council Member Latane reported that Tappahannock Main Street Winterfest and the Christmas parade was a success and well attended. She thanked all the volunteers.

Council Member Carlton thanked everyone from Tappahannock Main Street that participated in this wonderful event.

Town Manager Pollitt stated that he met with the finance committee (Balderson/Latane) to review the financial report since Vice Mayor Jenkins is out with health issues. He stated that we are doing well with the revenues, and we collected more than anticipated.

On motion of Anita J. Latane, seconded by Troy L. Balderson, Council voted unanimously to approve the financial report for the month of November 2021.

Votes were cast as follows:

Kay Carlton:	Aye	Troy L. Balderson:	Aye
Fleet Dillard:	Aye	Anita J. Latane:	Aye
Kenneth A. Gillis:	Aye		

Council Member Dillard stated that there was a typo on the monthly financial report for November 2021. He stated he believes it should say five of twelve months instead of four of twelve months.

Mayor Gladding stated that the correction would be noted.

Town Manager Pollitt stated that he does not have a monthly town manager report this month.

Mayor Gladding recognized Joey Reinhardt, TEVFD.

Joey Reinhardt presented the council members with a presentation for the purchase of a heavy vehicle rescue engine. He provided the council members with trucks capabilities, projected budget planning, and the projected timeline.

There was some discussion about the equipment.

Council Member Balderson asked if any federal funds available that the Town of Tappahannock or Essex County could apply for on behalf of the TEVFD.

Kyle Durham, TEVFD stated no he is not aware of any.

There was some discussion about the total cost of the project and projected timeline.

Mayor Gladding stated council should consider the adoption of a resolution approving the Town's participation in the proposed settlement of opioid related claims.

On motion of Fleet Dillard, seconded by Kay Carlton, Council voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF TAPPAHANNOCK TOWN COUNCIL APPROVING OF THE TOWN OF TAPPAHANNOCK'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID-RELATED CLAIMS AGAINST MCKESSON, CARDINAL HEALTH, AMERISOURCEBERGEN, JANSSEN, AND THEIR RELATED CORPORATE ENTITIES, AND DIRECTING THE TOWN OF TAPPAHANNOCK ATTORNEY TO EXECUTE THE DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE TOWN OF TAPPAHANNOCK PARTICIPATION IN THE SETTLEMENTS

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic that has cost thousands of human lives across the country also impacts the Commonwealth of Virginia and its cities and counties by adversely impacting, amongst other things, the delivery of emergency medical, law enforcement, criminal justice, mental health and substance abuse services, and other services; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia and its cities and counties have been required and will continue to be required to allocate substantial taxpayer dollars, resources, staff energy and time to address the damage the opioid epidemic has caused and continues to cause the citizens of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, settlement proposals have been negotiated that will cause McKesson, Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen, and Janssen to pay up to \$26 billion nationwide to resolve opioid-related claims against them;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tappahannock Town Council, this 13th day of December, 2021, approves of the Town of Tappahannock's participation in the proposed settlement of opioid-related claims against McKesson, Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen, Janssen, and their related corporate entities, and directs the Town of Tappahannock's Attorney to execute the documents necessary to effectuate the Town of Tappahannock's participation in the settlements, including the required release of claims against settling entities. *Resolution – Opioid*

Votes were cast as follows:

Kay Carlton:	Aye	Troy L. Balderson:	Aye
Fleet Dillard:	Aye	Anita J. Latane:	Aye
Kenneth A. Gillis:	Aye		

Mayor Gladding stated the council should consider ratifying the rates for the 2022 Business License in the Town of Tappahannock. Staff is recommending no rate revisions in FY 2022.

Council Member Carlton asked if these rates would include internet sales tax revenue?

Town Manager Pollitt stated that the sales tax revenue is a different source of revenue. He stated that the business license tax would be based on total gross receipts.

There was some discussion.

On motion of Fleet Dillard, seconded by Anita J. Latane, Council voted unanimously that the Business License Rates (BPOL) would remain the same for the year 2022 to become effective January 1, 2022.

Votes were cast as follows:

Kay Carlton:	Aye	Kenneth A. Gillis:	Aye
Marcia W. Jenkins:	Aye	Troy L. Balderson:	Aye
Fleet Dillard:	Aye	Anita J. Latane:	Aye

Mayor Gladding stated that council should discuss and recommend which of the proposed options for the old St. Margaret's Park property the council members would like to move forward with.

Town Manager Pollitt reported that at the November 8, 2021, Council Meeting the council had a work session to discuss the proposed park options. He stated that you have been provided in your packet with emails from the public about their input for the park and now he is looking for direction and feedback from the council member as to how they would want to proceed forward with the design of the proposed park. He reported that some of the items he highlighted was keep the third tennis court, have a utility storage building, install pathway lighting, and install an entrance structure.

Council Member Dillard stated that the council members have been presented tonight with emails from the public that indicated whether they preferred option #1 and option #2 of the proposed St. Margaret Park property. He stated that it looks like option #2 of the St. Margaret's Park property which has the three tennis courts seems to be the one the public prefers.

Council Member Balderson stated that he feels that option #2 of the proposed park seems to be the most liked and commented on. He suggested that option #2 of the proposed St. Margaret Park property is the option we should move forward with.

Council Member Dillard stated that there was some input from the public about some of the structures that were listed on option #1 be possibility included into option #2 of the proposed St. Margaret's Park property. He stated that he feels option #2 would be the best option but there are some things on option #1 that we could include into option #2.

On motion of Troy L. Balderson, seconded by Fleet Dillard, Council voted unanimously to move forward with option #2 (to include all three tennis courts) of the St. Margaret's Park property project and have the Public Facilities Committee meet to discuss.

Votes were cast as follows:

Kay Carlton:	Aye	Troy L. Balderson:	Aye
Fleet Dillard:	Aye	Anita J. Latane:	Aye
Kenneth A. Gillis:	Aye		

Town Manager Pollitt presented the council members with a power point presentation about what options were available for the use of federal funds. He stated that these funds were the latest round of COVID related funds that would be available to the town. He reported that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds could be used for revenue replacement, relative to revenues collected in the most recent fiscal year prior to the emergency, negative economic impacts of COVID-19, including assistance to small businesses, households and hard-hit industries, premium pay for essential works, and investment in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Town Manager Pollitt discussed the ARPA funds could be utilized for sewer line and manhole rehab in downtown, marsh street rehab and compressor station replacement, water meter upgrade, and contingency and or additional sewer line rehab.

Town Manager Pollitt asked the council members if they had any comments or questions.

There was some discussion regarding the ARPA spending summary, projects, funds available and what manholes would need the most rehab.

Council Member Dillard asked Town Manager Pollitt that out of all the proposed projects if he felt that the rehab of the manhole's downtown was top propriety.

Town Manager Pollitt answered yes, he would suggest that the sewer line and manhole rehab in downtown be top priority, since the lines are deteriorating. He suggested that the second priority would be Marsh Street rehab and compressor station replacement and then finally the water meter upgrade.

Council Member Balderson stated that he feels that the list of projects that was presented was accurate as to the order of priority.

There was some discussion.

On motion of Troy L. Balderson, seconded by Fleet Dillard, Council voted unanimously to allow Town Manager Pollitt to move forward and utilize the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the plan as presented.

Votes were cast as follows:

Kay Carlton:	Aye	Kenneth A. Gillis:	Aye
Marcia W. Jenkins:	Aye	Troy L. Balderson:	Aye
Fleet Dillard:	Aye	Anita J. Latane:	Aye

Town Manager Pollitt reminded the council members of their goals from the January 2021 retreat and what has been accomplished in fiscal year 2021.

Mayor Gladding thanked the council member for their hard work and wish everyone wonderful holiday.

Mayor Gladding asked the members for any further business.

There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20p.m.

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Roy M. Gladding, Mayor

Patsy K. Scates, Town Clerk