

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 12, 2021  
7:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT**

Mayor:	Roy M. Gladding
Council Members:	Kay Carlton Fleet Dillard Troy L. Balderson ( <i>Zoom</i> ) Kenneth A. Gillis 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:**

John Hardy, Tappahannock Main Street Program  
Vanessa Hopkins  
Spencer Gervesoni,  
Stephanie Heinatz, Consociate Media  
Charles Pence, Fortiline Water Works  
Rodney Sidney

*This meeting was conducted by zoom.*

Mayor Gladding called the meeting to order.

On motion of Kenneth A. Gillis, seconded by Anita J. Latane, Council voted unanimously to approve the August 9, 2021, Public Hearing and the September 13, 2021, Council Meeting Minutes.

**Votes were cast as follows:**

Kay Carlton:	Aye	Troy L. Balderson:	No vote taken
Fleet Dillard:	Aye	Anita J. Latane:	Aye
Kenneth A. Gillis:	Aye		

Council Member Gillis reported the maintenance department repaired two ruptured water lines, made repairs on alleyways, mowed grass, bush hogged several locations, picked up trash on roadways, collected recyclable materials and maintained town parks along with continuing their daily duties. There were normal operations were maintained, and the test results were in compliance with no violations at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the sanitary crew continues to work diligently at maintaining refuse collection for our citizens and business owners.

Council Member Balderson reported that the Gateway/Welcome Signs have been installed and the landscaping the site will follow. He reported that the next step is a possible site visit by the conservatist and contractor to statue/monument located on Prince Street.

Council Member Carlton stated that she has had several citizens question why we are getting new Gateway Signs and she wanted to clarify that we are installing new signs because the old signs were rotting out and they had to be replaced because they were going to fall down.

Council Member Carlton stated that the Farmers Market event is scheduled for October 16, 2021, and October 21, 2021, is the Third Thursday event. She reported that the Tappahannock Main Street Program has scheduled a transformation strategy development meeting at the Tappahannock Fire House located on Airport Road on October 19, 2021, from 9:00 am to 6:00 p.m. The schedule of events was reviewed, and the council members were invited to attend.

Council Member Carlton stated an Essex County Business Forum event is scheduled for Monday, October 18, 2021, at the Beale Sanctuary 202 South Church Lane from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

John Hardy, Tappahannock Main Street Program, stated that the Tappahannock Main Street Program will host a “meet and greet” event on November 4, 2021, from 5:30p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for business owners at the Historical Essex Inn.

Town Manager Pollitt stated that he reviewed the financial report with Council Member Latane and Council Member Balderson since Vice Mayor Jenkins has been having some health issues. He stated that if the council members have any questions or would like him to review anything with them to please contact him.

On motion of Anita J. Latane, seconded by Kenneth A. Gillis, Council voted unanimously to approve the financial report for the month of September 2021.

**Votes were cast as follows:**

Kay Carlton:	Aye	Troy L. Balderson:	No vote taken
Fleet Dillard:	Aye	Anita J. Latane:	Aye
Kenneth A. Gillis:	Aye		

Town Manager Pollitt stated that Council Member Carlton, Council Member Latane, Beth Shape, TMS and Meredith Tribble, TMS and himself have been working on the Town’s Logo make over with Spencer Gervesoni and Vanessa Hopkins. He stated that after the presentation he will follow up with the council members for their feedback.

Mayor Gladding recognized Spencer Gervesoni and Vanessa Hopkins.

Spencer Gervesoni introduced himself and gave the council members some background information on how they were introduced to this project.

Vanessa Hopkins gave the council members a preview of the town’s proposed draft logo and gave them some ideas on the different ways they could use the proposed draft logo.

Town Manager Pollitt stated that they are also working on redoing the Town’s proposed slogan in no particular order as Heritage, History and Hospitality

On motion of Kenneth A. Gillis, seconded by Anita J. Latane, Council voted unanimously to adopt the following ordinance to move the elections from May to November:

**PROVIDING FOR THE ELECTION OF MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL  
MEMBERS IN NOVEMBER OF EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS PURSUANT TO THE VIRGINIA  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MANDATE**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Tappahannock Town Charter § 3.1(B) provides for the election of the Mayor and members of the Town Council on the first Tuesday in May of even-numbered years for terms of office of four years, with the term of office beginning on the first day of July following their election; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2021 General Assembly passed Senate Bill 1157 (Spruill), shifting all municipal elections for city and town council from May to November, beginning with elections held after January 1, 2022. Effective January 1, 2022, the new law will become effective, and will apply notwithstanding any charter provision to the contrary; and

**WHEREAS**, the Code of Virginia § 15.2-1500 is being amended pursuant to the language in approved Senate Bill 1157, effective January 1, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2022 amended Code of Virginia § 15.2-1400(E) provides that “Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 24.2-222 and 24.2-222.1, any city or town charter, or any other provision of law, general or special, beginning with any election held after January 1, 2022, elections for mayor, members of a local governing body, or members of an elected school board shall be held at the time of the November general election for terms to commence January 1”; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2022 amended Code of Virginia § 15.2-1400.2 provides “[t]hat any city or town currently providing for the election of its mayor, governing body, or school board at a May election shall, by ordinance, provide for the transition of such elections to the November general election date;” and

**WHEREAS**, the 2022 amended Code of Virginia § 15.2-1400 further provides that “Mayors and members of a council or school board who were elected at a May general election and whose terms are to expire as of June 30 shall continue in office until their successors have been elected at the November general election and have been qualified to serve;” and

**WHEREAS**, Town Code § 2-34 shall be added as follows:

§ 2-34. Election of mayor and town council members at the November general election in even numbered years.

A. Pursuant to amended Code of Virginia § 15.2-1400 and notwithstanding the provisions of the Town Charter § 3.1(B) and Code of Virginia § 24.2-222, the election of the mayor and members of the town council shall be held on the general election date in November of even-numbered years, beginning in November 2022, and biennially thereafter, in accordance with the following cycles:

1. The election of the mayor and three town council members filled by the election of May 2018 shall be held on the November 2022 general election date and every four years thereafter.
2. The election of three town council members filled by the election of May 2020 shall be held on November 2024 general election date and every four years thereafter.
3. In accordance with the provisions of the 2022 amended Code of Virginia § 15.2-1400, the mayor and members of the town council elected at a May general election and whose terms are to expire as of June 30, 2022, shall continue in office until their successors have been elected at the November 2022 general election and have been qualified to serve.
4. The terms of office for those elected at the November general election shall commence on January 1 immediately following said election.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Town Council of the Town of Tappahannock, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021, that § 2-34, Election of mayor and town council members at the November general election in even-numbered years be added to the Town of Tappahannock Town Code to become effective immediately. *Ordinance to move elections from May to June*

**Votes were cast as follows:**

Kay Carlton:	Aye	Troy L. Balderson:	No vote taken
Fleet Dillard:	Aye	Anita J. Latane:	Aye
Kenneth A. Gillis:	Aye		

Mayor Gladding recognized Stephanie Heinatz, Consociate Media.

Stephanie Heinatz, Consociate Media stated they are a marketing firm, and she was contacted by Town Manager Pollitt and Beth Sharpe, TMS to help put together an outline on how to utilize the funds that was received from the Virginia Tourism Corporation through a marketing leverage grant. She stated that this grant is tourism focused and she discussed possible ways to utilize the funds.

Stephanie Heinatz, Consociate Media asked if anyone had any questions.

There were none.

Mayor Gladding stated that the next item is council should consider granting approval to Town Manager Pollitt to move forward with the water meter project update. He recognized Charles Pence, Fortiline.

Charles Pence, Fortiline gave some background information on the company. He reviewed the two types (AMR Automated meter reading and AMI Advance metering infrastructure) of meters that were available and the difference in how the meters collect the data.

There was some discussion.

Chief Ashworth, TPD reported that Trick or Treating will be Sunday, October 31, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Town of Tappahannock and we will follow the VDH guidelines for COVID. He reported that the guidelines will be posted on the Tappahannock Police Departments face book page, and he will make it available so that the Town of Tappahannock could post them as well.

Rodney Sidney stated that he is addressing the council members as a concerned citizen. He stated that he respected the discussion made by the council members, but he is opposed to the decision of having the name plates remain on the statue/monument located on Prince Street. He reported that it was brought to his attention in which a member of the Town Council who voted on the decision has mass head on their website which includes a picture of the confederate monument across from the courthouse. He stated that he believes this member should recuse themselves in the decision-making process.

Rodney Sidney suggested the statue/monument remain in tack and be moved to a war memorial or a cemetery. He stated that he would be in support of that action. He stated that he will continue to fight until the statue is removed.

Council Member Dillard asked Mr. Sidney if he was referring to him and his business website.

Rodney Sidney stated yes sir.

Council Member Dillard stated that his business website has a picture of his office, a picture of a sign Dillard and Katona Attorney at Law, and a picture of courthouse displayed and a picture of monument that has stood there for 120 years. He asked Mr. Sidney if those were the grounds that he felt he should recuse himself from a vote.

Rodney Sidney stated that although he is not aware of his political affiliations, he would assume that he is in support of the statue/monument.

Council Member Dillard stated that he is an advocate of the six to nothing vote that the council members took on the statue/monument and he asked if he was present to ask them to do something different.

Rodney Sidney stated that although he respects their decision as a council, he is not in favor of it. He stated that he was present tonight to make a suggestion.

Council Member Dillard asked if he would like to have the statue/ monument located on Prince Street removed.

Rodney Sidney stated yes sir.

Mayor Gladding stated that council should consider the purchase of a Christmas Tree for Wakefield.

Council Member Carlton suggested that the location of the Christmas Tree be at the Town Office. She felt that if it was located at the Town Office then everyone could enjoy it and not one neighborhood would be singled out to have a Christmas Tree.

Mayor Gladding stated that was a good suggestion but the reason it was proposed to be placed in Wakefield is because the Town owned the property.

Council Member Gillis stated that he was not in favor in purchasing a Christmas tree for the Wakefield area.

On motion of Kenneth A. Gillis, seconded by Anita J. Latane, Council voted to not purchase a Christmas Tree to be placed in the Wakefield area of Tappahannock.

**Votes were cast as follows:**

Kay Carlton:	Aye	Troy L. Balderson:	No vote taken
Fleet Dillard:	Nay	Anita J. Latane:	Aye
Kenneth A. Gillis:	Aye		

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

**WHEREAS:** The Town of Tappahannock, VA (“Borrower”) has previously determined to undertake a project for the financing of a new equipped police cruiser and to pay issuance costs (the “Project”), and the Finance Officer has now presented a proposal for the financing of such Project.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as follows:**

1. The Borrower hereby determines to finance the Project through Truist Bank (“Lender”) in accordance with the proposal dated October 1, 2021. The amount financed shall not exceed \$47,000.00, the annual interest rate (in the absence of default or change in tax status) shall not exceed 1.96%, and the financing term shall not exceed five (5) years from closing.

2. All financing contracts and all related documents for the closing of the financing (the “Financing Documents”) shall be consistent with the foregoing terms. All officers and employees of the Borrower are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any Financing Documents, and to take all such further action as they may consider necessary or desirable, to carry out the financing of the Project as contemplated by the proposal and this resolution.

3. The Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to hold executed copies of the Financing Documents until the conditions for the delivery of the Financing Documents have been completed to such officer's satisfaction. The Finance Officer is authorized to approve changes to any Financing Documents previously signed by Borrower officers or employees, provided that such changes shall not substantially alter the intent of such documents or certificates from the intent expressed in the forms executed by such officers. The Financing Documents shall be in such final forms as the Finance Officer shall approve, with the Finance Officer's release of any Financing Document for delivery constituting conclusive evidence of such officer's final approval of the Document's final form.

4. The Borrower shall not take or omit to take any action the taking or omission of which shall cause its interest payments on this financing to be includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of the registered owners of the interest payment obligations. The Borrower hereby designates its obligations to make principal and interest payments under the Financing Documents as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" for the purpose of Internal Revenue Code Section 265(b)(3)].

5. The Borrower intends that the adoption of this resolution will be a declaration of the Borrower's official intent to reimburse expenditures for the Project that are to be financed from the proceeds of the Lender financing described above. The Borrower intends that funds that have been advanced, or that may be advanced, from the Borrower's general fund or any other Borrower fund related to the Project, for project costs may be reimbursed from the financing proceeds.

6. All prior actions of Borrower officers in furtherance of the purposes of this resolution are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed. All other resolutions (or parts thereof) in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed, to the extent of the conflict. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

*Resolution- Finance police car*

**Votes were cast as follows:**

Kay Carlton:	Aye	Troy L. Balderson:	No vote taken
Fleet Dillard:	Aye	Anita J. Latane:	Aye
Kenneth A. Gillis:	Aye		

Mayor Gladding recognized the Town Staff for doing a good job on the fall decorations at the Town Office. He recognizes some of the business for their donations.

Mayor Gladding stated that he would like the Cemetery Committee (\*Latane/Carlton) to review the guidelines for the cemetery to see if they need to be updated and discuss a way how to communicate the guidelines to purchaser of the lots.

Mayor Gladding asked everyone to keep Vice Mayor Jenkins in our thoughts and prayers as she is dealing with some health issues.

Mayor Gladding commended Town Manager Pollitt on doing a wonderful job on following the council member guidance. He commended Town Manager Pollitt and the Town Council members for getting a lot accomplished over the past year.

Town Manager Pollitt thanked Mayor Gladding and the council members for the opportunity to serve and he invited them a staff appreciation lunch.

Mayor Gladding stated that Town Manager Pollitt would like council to consider granting him approval to move forward with the water meter project upgrade in the future.

Town Manager Pollitt stated we have some federal funds that we may could use for this water meter project upgrade or we could submit the upgrade as a budget item for next year which we could discuss further in the future

Mayor Gladding asked the council member if they want to move forward with the water meter project upgrade.

Council Member Carlton asked if the upgrade was needed because the water meter was old and out of date.

Town Manager Pollitt stated that the some of the water meters were very old and time consuming for the staff. He reported that this system could allow the customers who choose to participate to eventually be able to access their account online and that would be a big benefit for the customers to detect any leaks and track their usage. He stated that if the council members wanted to upgrade then he feels this would be the way to go.

After some discussion some of the council members indicated that they would like Town Manager Pollitt to move forward with the water meter project upgrade.

Mayor Gladding asked that Town Manager Pollitt research this project and present the council members with the data he finds so that they would decide if they wanted to move forward with the project.

Council Member Dillard stated that he would like to remind the council members that at the workshop session we had in January 2021 a water meter upgrade was one of their goals.

Council Member Dillard asked Town Manager Pollitt to research the amount of federal funds that are available and a present the members with the figure and a list of items he feels the funds should go towards for their consideration.

Mayor Gladding asked for any further business.

There being none the meeting was adjourned.

*Track 71*

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**Roy M. Gladding, Mayor**

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**Patsy K. Scates, Town Clerk**