

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2021
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Council Chambers

Council Members Present:

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor
Christopher D. Bott, Vice Mayor
Denise P. Bowden, Councilwoman
Ellen W. Richardson, Councilwoman
Gene W. Taylor, Councilman

Council Members Absent:

William T. McComb, Jr. Councilman

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager
Mr. Bryan Rush, Emergency Management Coordinator
Mr. Robby Fisher, Police Chief
Mr. Harvey Spurlock, Public Works Director

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation

Councilman Taylor offered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Leonard led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comment

Mayor Leonard opened the public comment. There was none.

5. Agenda Adoption

Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adopt the agenda as presented. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor

Nays: None

Absent: McComb

6. 2020 Christmas Decoration Recognitions

Mayor Leonard announced the winners of the 2020 Christmas Decorated Homes:

Most Traditional:

Mr. Jason Young
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Pertsch, Honorable Mention

Most Festive:

Mr. & Mrs. William Kambarn
Mr. Sonny Rodgers, Honorable Mention

Best Overall

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Birch

Mrs. Yvonne Daisey, Honorable Mention.

7. Staff Reports

General Government

Town Manager Tolbert reported that tax collections are at 89%. He advised that the GAC Plant testing and sampling is complete. They are waiting for the final approval from the Office of Drinking Water to begin operations. The CARES Act grant is completed. He reported that they received \$503,922 through 2 awards. All monies have been applied, spent, received, and reimbursed. He feels it was a success.

Town Manager Tolbert reviewed the Financial Report. He reported that the Meals Tax revenues are down from last year and the Transient Occupancy Tax revenues are within a couple of hundred dollars from last year. He added that the floating dock for the Harbor should be here the 3rd week of January and scheduled to be installed within that week.

Police Department

Chief Fisher advised he and Town Manager Tolbert attended a virtual Zoom meeting with the Academy who is conducting investigation of having their own firing range. He reported that he, Capt. Greenley and Dispatcher Lewis attended a virtual meeting with VRSA. He explained that President Trump ordered that law enforcement could only use a chokehold in life-or-death situations. It also has to be incorporated to their policy. Chief Fisher advised that the DCJS directed the accreditation staff to conduct the compliance reviews on this. He reported that they submitted all policies within a few days to the DCJS who approved the changes to their policy. He added that if they did not complete the changes, they would not receive federal money.

Chief Fisher announced they were able to help 10 families and 24 children for Christmas. He thanked everyone for their donations of money and toys. They also collected for the Sheriff's office who had a great year as well. The leftover toys and items went to the Atlantic Fire Company who helped 96 families.

Public Works

Public Works Director Spurlock reviewed the current drainage situation. They repaired the pump at the traffic circle. They plan to clean ditches within the next couple of weeks.

Councilwoman Bowden asked about the traffic light at Maddox Boulevard and Main Street. Public Works Director Spurlock responded that the local signal tech from VDOT was here today. There is a faulty detector on Maddox Boulevard, and it should be repaired by the end of the week.

Emergency Services

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush reviewed the monthly EMS report. He stated that in 2019 they ran 905 EMS calls and in 2020 they ran 902 EMS calls. They have to decontaminate the ambulance after calls and are going through PPE. He added that there are more COVID patients now than in the beginning.

8. Review of State of Emergency

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush reported on the recent COVID statistics. He also reported on the vaccines. He mentioned that there is a mutated strain now in the U. S. which they believe is more contagious but no more dangerous. They are still in response and recovery operations. He encouraged the public to keep out of group settings, wash your hands, wear your mask and watch your distance.

9. Committee Reports

Public Works Committee

Councilwoman Richardson reported that they discussed the Multi-Modal Transportation Project.

RCEC

Councilman Taylor advised they had a very productive meeting where they reviewed and continued plans for playground equipment at the new park on Smith Street. He commended the fundraising efforts. He also announced that a caring citizen has offered to match the funds raised for park equipment. He urged Council to put this in the budget.

10. Adoption of the Minutes for the December 7th, 2020 Council Meetings.

Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adopt the minutes of the December 7th, 2020 Council meeting as presented. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor

Nays: None

Absent: McComb

11. District 1 Supervisor Report

Accomack County Supervisor Billy Joe Tarr gave an update on the CARES Act funds the County received which was about \$6 million. He reported where it was disbursed. They have \$1.2 million to help with the food shortage. He continued that they partnered with different agencies to help with relief from food shortages, internet and hotspots and utility bill assistance. They also gave hazard pay to the County's first responders. They are working on an Urgent Needs Grant to help in another round of assistance for hunger. They are also working on childcare. RH Contracting was given an extension to complete the Library. He also reported that the Governor has put in the 2022 budget, Cost of Obtaining Adjustment. This is a study of teachers' salaries around the state. This could lead to a raise in the teacher's salaries on the Shore making the salaries competitive and keeping teachers here.

Councilwoman Bowden asked how much the study would cost for the teachers' salaries.

Supervisor Tarr responded that it wasn't specified. He thanked everyone and offered to be back the 1st meeting in April. He also announced that he will be the Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors this year and the Chairman the following year.

12. Consider Preliminary FY 22 Trolley Budget

Town Manager Tolbert explained that the Operating Budget for the Trolley is due next month. He briefly reviewed the budget stating that the Trolley Service is funded by a federal and state

grant totaling 71% and the Town funds 29%. He stated that there is a capital expenditure this year where they have to replace a trolley that is 11 years old. The funding of the new trolley will be 80% paid by the government, 16% paid by the state and the Town would pay the remaining 4%. They have a capital account for a trolley and can only be used with approval from DRPT. Once they replace the trolley, they will come before Council to ask to surplus the trolley. The trolley will bring in more than the Town would pay out. He added that they plan to run the Trolley this year as they normally would as oppose to weekends only.

Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to approve the preliminary FY 22 Trolley Budget. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor

Nays: None

Absent: McComb

13. Mayor & Council Announcements/Comments

Councilwoman Bowden asked everyone to pray for Councilman McComb as he will be in Baltimore early tomorrow for surgery. She wished everyone a Happy New Year. She also stated that they made it through 2020 and together they can get through 2021. They have a lot to look forward to.

Councilman Taylor prayed for Councilman McComb.

Mayor Leonard concluded with "Roll Tide".

14. Closed Meeting in Accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia to Discuss Appointees for Filling the Vacant Council Seat.

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson move that the Council convene a closed meeting pursuant to Sec. 2.2-3711 A.1 Code of Virginia for discussion and consideration of the appointment to fill the vacant council position. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor

Nays: None

Absent: McComb

15. Certification of Closed Meeting in Accordance with § 2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson in accordance with §2.2-372 (D) of the Code of Virginia that the Council certify that to the best of each Council Member's knowledge.

(1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from opening meeting requirements under this chapter and

(2) only such public business matters are were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened,

were heard, discussed or considered.

All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor

Nays: None
Absent: McComb

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to go back into regular session. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor
Nays: None
Absent: McComb

16. Adjourn

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson to adjourn. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor
Nays: None
Absent: McComb

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2021
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
Via Zoom

Council Members Present:

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor
Christopher D. Bott, Vice Mayor
Denise P. Bowden, Councilwoman
William T. McComb, Jr. Councilman
Ellen W. Richardson, Councilwoman
Gene W. Taylor, Councilman

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager
Mr. Bryan Rush, Emergency Management Coordinator
Mr. Robby Fisher, Police Chief
Mr. Harvey Spurlock, Public Works Director
Mrs. Kelly S. Lewis, Finance Director

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation

Councilman McComb offered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Leonard led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comment

Mayor Leonard opened the public comment. There were none.

5. Agenda Adoption

Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adopt the revised agenda which added item: Consider Part-Time Employee Raises. Unanimously approved.

6. Review of State of Emergency

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush reported on the COVID-19 positive rates. He also reported on the vaccine schedule and stated that the Eastern Shore is only receiving about 25% of the vaccines as ordered. He listed the Round 1B category of those to be administered the vaccination. He stated that the Health Department has been helping and they are training EMS staff to assist in administration of vaccinations. He feels that around May they should see things slow down. He reported on the hospitalizations as well.

Councilwoman Bowden asked about the holdup on vaccines.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush feels it could be a number of reasons.

Councilwoman Bowden also asked if there is a timeframe on easing restrictions.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush responded that there has been no discussion on easing restrictions. The current restrictions are in effect until January 31st.

Councilman McComb offered the Community Center for vaccinations administration.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush stated that the Center Director and a Board member reached out to him as well.

7. Consider Smith Street Park Proposal

Councilman Bott explained that the Budget and Personnel Committee discussed funding of the Smith Street Park Project. They voted to recommend approval of the funding which includes a donation from a generous benefactor, donations from fundraising efforts by a local group and the Town.

Councilman Bott motioned, seconded by Councilman Taylor to approve the funding for the completion of the Smith Street Park allowing Town staff and the Recreation and Community Enhancement Committee to oversee the completion. Unanimously approved.

Mayor Leonard added that at a Committee Meeting in 2019 they agreed to name the park after Brianna Merritt. He asked Council if they would vote to name it “The Brianna Kindness Park”.

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman Taylor to name the Smith Street Park “The Brianna Kindness Park”. Unanimously approved.

Councilman Taylor thanked Mayor Leonard and Vice Mayor Bott for supporting the community with this project.

Mayor Leonard stated that the group that is raising money for the Brianna Kindness Park has already met their goal of \$40,000 and they plan to continue with fundraising efforts.

8. Consider Part-Time Employee Raises

Vice Mayor Bott advised that the Budget & Personnel Committee unanimously approved and recommends a 2.5% salary increase for all Part-Time employees.

Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to approve a 2.5% salary increase for all part-time employees. Unanimously approved.

9. Review of Salaries and Benefits FY 22 Budget

Town Manager Tolbert reviewed the proposed FY 22 Budget for Department Salaries and Benefits.

10. Mayor & Council Announcements/Comments

Councilwoman Bowden welcomed Councilman McComb back. She stated that she has watched over the last year and a half the Brianna Kindness Wishes. She stated that there are a lot of players in the fundraising efforts. She expressed her thanks for the generous efforts from Mr. David Landsberger, Ms. Cindy Faith and Ms. Donna Leonard along with so many others that played a hand in this. She can't wait to see it completed and come to light for this child. She feels it will be a nice thing and she thanks every single individual who helped.

Councilwoman Richardson asked about the 1% of Transient Occupancy Tax that is supposed to go toward the EMS division.

Town Manager Tolbert stated that the increase went into effect January 1st. He advised that this is for “Public Safety”.

Councilwoman Richardson asked if it would be listed on a separate line item.

Town Manager Tolbert stated that they will have an internal accounting of the 1% of Transient Occupancy Taxes for Public Safety for tracking.

Mayor Leonard proudly announced that his team, the Alabama Crimson Tides won the National Champions. He concluded with “Roll Tide”.

11. Closed Meeting in Accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia to Discuss Evaluation of Individual Personnel Performance Matters.

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb move that the Council convene a closed meeting pursuant to Sec. 2.2-3711 A.1 Code of Virginia for discussion and consideration of the appointment to fill the vacant council position. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor, McComb

Nays: None

Absent: None

12. Certification of Closed Meeting in Accordance with § 2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman in accordance with §2.2-372 (D) of the Code of Virginia that the Council certify that to the best of each Council Member's knowledge.

(3) only public business matters lawfully exempted from opening meeting requirements under this chapter and

(4) only such public business matters are were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened,

were heard, discussed or considered.

All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor, McComb

Nays: None

Absent: None

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman to go back into regular session.

All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, Richardson, Taylor, McComb

Nays: None

Absent: None

13. Adjourn

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2021
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Council Chambers**

Council Members Present:

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor
Christopher D. Bott, Vice Mayor
Denise P. Bowden, Councilwoman
Ellen W. Richardson, Councilwoman

Council Members Absent:

None

Gene W. Taylor, Councilman

Council Members Present Via Phone:

William T. McComb, Jr. Councilman

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

Mr. Bryan Rush, Emergency Management Coordinator

Mr. Robby Fisher, Police Chief

Mr. Harvey Spurlock, Public Works Director

1. Call to Order

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

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Bott to approve Councilman McComb attend via cell phone. Unanimously approved.

2. Invocation

Councilman Taylor offered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Leonard led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comment

There was none.

5. Agenda Adoption

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson and Councilman McComb to adopt the agenda. Unanimously approved.

6. Closed Meeting in Accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia to Discuss Appointees for Filling the Vacant Council Seat.

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb move that the Council convene a closed meeting pursuant to Sec. 2.2-3711 A.1 Code of Virginia for discussion and consideration of the appointment to fill the vacant council position. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, McComb, Richardson, Taylor

Nays: None

Absent: None

7. Certification of Closed Meeting in Accordance with § 2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia

Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb in accordance with §2.2-372 (D) of the Code of Virginia that the Council certify that to the best of each Council Member's knowledge.

(5) only public business matters lawfully exempted from opening meeting

**requirements under this chapter and
(6) only such public business matters are were identified in the motion by which the
closed meeting was convened,
were heard, discussed or considered.**

All present were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, McComb, Richardson, Taylor

Nays: None

Absent: None

**Councilwoman Bowden motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb to go back into
regular session. All present were in favor and the motion was carried.**

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, McComb, Richardson, Taylor

Nays: None

Absent: None

8. Consider Appointment for New Council Member

Mayor opened the floor for nominations from Council to fill the vacancy.

**Councilman Taylor nominated Mr. Jay Savage to fill the Town Council Vacancy, seconded
by Vice Mayor Bott. Unanimously approved.**

Ayes: Bott, Bowden, McComb, Richardson, Taylor

Nays: None

Absent: None

Mayor Leonard congratulated Councilman Jay Savage advising that he would begin at the next Council meeting.

9. Staff Reports

General Government

Town Manager Tolbert reported on the upcoming launch information, reviewing COVID precautions for the NASA contractors traveling here from out of the country. The Visitor Center will be closed for the launch. He reported on the Virginia Port Authority Grant that the Harbor received. They have received several over the past few years. This grant which was awarded in May was to install more floating docks adding 20 slips at the Harbor. They have another grant opportunity next week for this year's project of adding a fishing pier at Memorial Park. He added that the Harbor Master has already been receiving calls to rent the new slips. He briefly reviewed the matching grant information.

Vice Mayor Bott feels the floating piers are the greatest things. He asked if there are plans to take care of the parking lot at the Harbor.

Town Manager Tolbert advised that this can be done. He continued by reviewing the financial report revenues, expenditures and comparing them to last year. He feels they are living within their means. He reported on the Meals and Transient Occupancy Taxes.

Councilwoman Bowden asked about building permit approval timeframe.

Town Manager Tolbert stated that there is nothing on the books. However, occasionally they have to wait on the Health Department, Land Use Permits, etc., which could cause a delay.

Councilwoman Bowden feels the Harbor's floating docks look very nice.

Town Manager Tolbert reported that the floating docks were installed in 66 hours and the Public Works staff did a great job.

Councilwoman Bowden asked if something could be done with the very bright Convenience Center's lights.

Town Manager Tolbert advised he will contact the Accomack County Public Works to have them redirected.

Police Department

Chief Fisher advised he gave Council an updated report. He attended a Committee meeting for the new radio system for Accomack and Northampton Counties. He reported that he attended a grant workshop. He added they have the new signboard/safety trailer. They have been meeting with Emergency Management Coordinator Rush for upcoming Emergency Operation Plans. He advised of a 50/50 DCJS grant for body cameras. He stated that Watchguard has an upgrade to the body cameras that is waterproof. They will apply Friday.

Councilwoman Richardson asked if the new signboard had radar and camera. She also asked if it gives counts, speeds, times and if a camera could be put on it.

Chief Fisher responded it does have radar, traffic counts, traffic studies, reports, etc., but not a camera. He also stated that a camera could be put on it. However, when you put the camera on it the charge becomes a civil matter as they didn't witness the violation.

Mayor Leonard asked if there is a schedule for moving the signboard to different points on the Island.

Chief Fisher stated that they want to work on a schedule for this summer for traffic studies. He advised of the reports it has already generated.

Councilwoman Bowden asked about the cost to replace the body cameras.

Chief Fisher advised it would cost \$15,000 total.

Public Works

Public Works Director Spurlock reviewed a PowerPoint presentation with pictures of the installation of the floating docks at the Harbor showing the different stages. He stated that it was a total cost to the Town of \$37,000.

Councilwoman Richardson asked about the life expectancy of the floating docks.

Public Works Director Spurlock advised approximately 25 years.

Councilwoman Bowden asked about installation.

Public Works Director Spurlock thanked Dean Fisher with Fisher Marine for all his help.

Mayor Leonard reminded that the Public Works staff worked in 10-15 mph winds with a day of winds up to 30 mph in the cold and blowing sand.

Town Manager Tolbert commented that sand blowing off of the Bluewater site has been a problem. Bluewater has agreed to put a tarp up on the Town's fence along with keeping it wet eliminate the problem.

There were comments.

Public Works Director Spurlock reported that the DEQ groundwater withdraw permit is a 15-year permit. He added that the DEQ measures growth and it is steadily declining in the amount of withdraw due to the new radio read meters and the Water Conservation Management Plan. He suggested that there may be a few new projects within 15 years.

Councilwoman Richardson advised there is no Public Works Committee Meeting Tuesday.

Councilwoman Bowden asked when they would start ditch maintenance.

Public Works Director Spurlock advised that repairs are being made to the bucket and they would start soon.

Emergency Services

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush reviewed the monthly EMS report. He also compared the stats from January 2021 to January 2020. There were many more respiratory distress calls in January of 2020 than January of 2021. He advised that his staff is putting reports together to track the cause of the change. He stated that they hired 4 part-time EMS personnel. He also reported that Emergency Management has been working on the Hazard Mitigation Plan for a final adoption of next year. The EOP is also up for renewal. He plans to incorporate the changes to include public health and pandemic. They will continue to meet every few weeks. Once the EOP is in a good draft stage Council will review and make changes. They want it to meet all of their needs.

Vice Mayor Bott asked if Council will have to approve the final EOP.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush advised Council would have the final approval. He would like to have it adopted by the 1st part of June and Council should see it by mid-March. He also advised of minor coastal flooding for tomorrow.

10. Review of State of Emergency

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush gave stats on statewide and Town COVID-19 testing, positive rates, and hospitalizations. He also reviewed the vaccination phases. He stated

that they are seeing a decrease in numbers but warned of a possible increase in the next few weeks. He concluded that the public is the key, adding “Wash your hands, wear your mask, watch your distance”.

Mayor Leonard asked about the projection of people for the Antares launch.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush was unsure but reported that the Visitor Center will be closed for the launch Saturday, February 20th at 12:36p.m. They should plan for extra space.

Mayor Leonard asked if the Refuge would be closed all day or until after the launch.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush was unsure at this time.

Mayor Leonard was concerned about the Causeway.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush stated that the Virginia State Police would be monitoring the Causeway.

Councilwoman Bowden announced that the Fire Company was denied for the RFAF Grant to purchase a new ambulance.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush stated they were declined but will reapply in March for a possible award in July. He stated that a new ambulance is approximately \$259,000 and the grant is an 80/20 grant. He advised that the ambulances are in excellent shape and other agencies needed the grant more at this time.

11. Chamber of Commerce Annual Report

Chamber Executive Director, Mrs. Evelyn Shotwell reviewed their Mission Statement and goals. She also reviewed the regional overview from the Virginia Tourism Corporation. She went over stats, growth and the obtained goals. She advised of a marketing grant they received along with press releases, brochures, social media outreach and promotions. She reviewed the events expressing their success: DIY Oyster Festival, Business Christmas Decoration Contest, member services, ribbon cutting, Businessperson of the Year and Citizen of the Year.

Chamber Executive Director Shotwell continued reviewing the economic development, plans for a hospitality summit, and the travel guide. She thanked Accomack County Board of Supervisors and the Town of Chincoteague for all their help and support and for believing in them every year.

12. Committee Reports

Mayor Leonard dispensed of the Committee reports.

13. Adoption of the Minutes for the January 4th and January 21st, 2021 Council Meetings.

Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adopt the minutes of the January 4th and January 21st, 2021 Council meeting as presented. Unanimously approved.

14. Mayor and Council Announcements/Comments

Councilwoman Bowden asked everyone to keep Councilwoman Richardson in their prayers. She also welcomed Councilman Savage to Council and added she has no doubt that he will serve Council well.

Councilman McComb congratulated Councilman Savage. He thanked everyone who applied and hopes to see them at the poll running at the next election.

Councilman Taylor also congratulated Councilman Savage.

Mayor Leonard stated that he looks forward to working with Councilman Savage.

15. Adjourn

Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Bowden to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2021
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Council Chambers**

Council Members Present:

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor
Christopher D. Bott, Vice Mayor
William T. McComb, Jr., Councilman
Ellen W. Richardson, Councilwoman
K. Jay Savage, Councilman
Gene W. Taylor, Councilman

Council Members Absent:

Denise P. Bowden, Councilwoman

Staff Present:

Mr. Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager
Mr. Bryan Rush, Emergency Management Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Mayor Leonard called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Invocation

Councilman McComb offered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Leonard led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comment

There was none.

5. Agenda Adoption

Vice Mayor Bott motioned, seconded by Councilman McComb to adopt the agenda removing Item #8. Unanimously approved.

6. Review of State of Emergency

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush reviewed the most recent COVID-19 statistics for the state and the Eastern Shore. He discussed the positive cases, tests, and deaths. He reviewed the numbers of vaccinations and plans going forward. He also reviewed the plans for the ANTARES rocket launch scheduled for 12:36 p.m. Saturday, February 20th. He advised that the Refuge will be closed until after the launch. He added that the Health Department is the enforcement authority for the Governor's Executive Orders. He reported that the new COVID virus is in Virginia which could be more contagious but less serious.

Emergency Management Coordinator Rush also stated that you can call (877)-VAX-in-VA or (877) 829-4682. The call center is staffed from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. 7 days a week. If you have preregistered, you do not have to register again. You can go to the website to register as well: www.vaccinate.virginia.gov. He reminded everyone to wash your hands, wear your mask and watch your distance. He added to keep your circle small, if you're sick don't go out and get tested.

7. Presentation of Old Fire House Project

Mr. Grayson Williams with the ANPDC reviewed the updated proposed plans for the Old Fire House. He reviewed the checklist, parking, designs and funding. The overall goal is to have a continual asset that can give back to the community, creating more opportunities for the work force, create more foot traffic in the downtown going toward the Ropewalk. He reviewed the statistics of the survey and commented on the RFQ with Hill Studio, the design from Hill Studio, and identified rent. He discussed the sewage treatment system which will be on the Cropper Street property and budget constrictions,

Mr. David Hill, President of Hill Studios, reviewed the plans showing pictures. He also described and explained the proposed interior space, possible events, rental spaces, apartments, elevator, tax credits and several grants. He reviewed maintenance, the potential cashflow, and loans.

Mr. Williams explained that they researched other areas the size of Chincoteague showing pictures.

Mr. Hill stated they recommend that the Town approve a plan so they can explore the grants.

Mr. Williams feels this is the most feasible plan within the real estate market. He offered their help every step of the way. He asked for questions or comments.

Councilman Taylor asked if there is any subsidizing.

Mr. Williams advised he would check on that specifically.

Councilwoman Richardson thanked them for the presentation. She commented that this plan is what they need and the whole purpose for saving the Fire House. She thanked them and added that they've done a good job.

Mr. Williams thanked Council for meeting with them.

8. ~~FY22 Budget Discussion for Harbor, Water & EMS~~

9. Mayor & Council Announcements

Mayor Leonard welcomed the newest Councilmember, Mr. Jay Savage.

Councilman Savage expressed his appreciation for Council's confidence in him. He has been thinking about this for a while and feels it is time for him to serve the community. He added that he will do this to the best of his ability.

Councilman Taylor wished Councilwoman Richardson well, adding that God will be with her during her surgery. He wishes Councilwoman Bowden well and hopes to see her back with them. He thanked Councilman Savage for his willingness to serve. He warned Councilman Savage that it won't be easy and there will be times you will make people mad. Any decision they make they ask that the Lord guide them, the employees and the Town. He added that Councilwoman Richardson will be in his prayers.

Councilman McComb welcomed Councilman Savage. He wished Councilwoman Bowden well adding that he is confident she'll be back to herself in the morning. He added that Councilwoman Richardson is in his prayers.

Mayor Leonard also welcomed Councilman Savage. He wished Councilwoman Richardson the best of luck tomorrow. He reminded everyone to keep the folks in Texas in our prayers.

10. Adjourn

Councilman McComb motioned, seconded by Vice Mayor Bott to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

Michael T. Tolbert, Town Manager