

**EASTVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2020**

Council Members Present: Eleanor Gordon, John Crockett, Denise Bland, Mary Beth Briggs, Anne Sayers, Barbara Thomas and Mayor Jim Sturgis

Council Members Absent: None

Town Employees Present: David Eder: Chief/Administrator, Rob Stubbs; Lieutenant, Allen Caison: Treasurer, Catherine Poto: Deputy Clerk, and Jonny Stevenson: Town Clerk

GUESTS: Bob Berry

At 7:00 pm Mayor Jim Sturgis called meeting to order and established there was a quorum.

MINUTES: *Councilman Crockett moved to accept the minutes for January 6, 2020 as corrected. Councilwoman Bland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

TREASURER REPORT: Allen Caison, Treasurer, distributed his reports and answered all questions from Council. Caison reported he had to borrow money from the water account to cover the payroll this week. He also reported the Audit review was complete and had been signed.

POLICE REPORT: Chief Eder distributed his reports to Council and answered all questions.

OLD BUSINESS:

TOWN WATER: Chief Eder reviewed the large delinquent accounts with water leaks with Council. Eder stated both accounts had been notified of their leaks. One leak has been fixed, the other is uncertain. There was a review of town policy concerning adjustments of bills concerning a leak. One customer has requested an adjustment, however, not in writing as town ordinance requires.

Councilwoman Briggs moved to allow an \$800.00 adjustment on the Fox Monument account if it is requested in writing, as required, and paid in full by February 7, 2020. Councilwoman Sayers seconded. Councilwoman Briggs and Councilwoman Sayers voted YEA.

Councilwoman Thomas, Councilwoman Gordon & Councilman Crockett voted NAY.

Councilwoman Bland ABSTAINED. The vote did NOT pass.

Councilman Crockett moved to live by the letter of the law and deny any adjustment and charge penalty and interest and send a copy of the Ordinance to the customer. Councilwoman Thomas seconded. Voting YEA: Councilwoman Thomas, Councilman Crockett, Councilwoman Sayers, Councilwoman Bland and Councilwoman Gordon. Voting NAY: Councilwoman Briggs. The motion passed.

There was a Consensus of Council that when Chief Eder delivered past due notices for outstanding water bills the cutoff would be ten days from being served.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bob Berry advised Council that he frequently travels in his RV and always makes advance arrangements for his water bill to get paid. He reminded Council that is what responsible adults do.

DOG ORDINANCE: Chief Eder reported that the dog ordinance is almost done. The lawyer needs to make certain the proper legal language is used. The ordinance should be ready by next month. Chief Eder reported the town has had some complaints concerning loose dogs. He reported he had to put an aggressive dog down this month who had killed a cat and made aggressive moves towards a person.

DOLLAR GENERAL: Chief Eder and Mayor Sturgis have met with Susan McGhee, Director Planning and Zoning for Northampton County, concerning the discrepancies in the zoning on the property. They have asked the town attorney to look at the issue, also. Ms. McGhee has suggested the issue go before the Town BZA for a decision. Chief Eder said he would contact Par 5 Development that they should request a hearing with the town BZA. Again, the town feels it was a coloring error at the County level, however, they do not agree. Chief Eder also stated there is a ditch maintenance issue that is causing an issue. VDOT no longer maintains ditches, leaving it to the individual landowners. Runoff is an issue with the parking lot for the store that will need to be resolved. There is also an issue with their request for 96 square foot signage when our zoning only allows 32 square feet. Causing some of the problem is the 96 square foot sign request is a combination of all the signs on the lot and building. It was suggested that situation be handled by a Special Use Permit.

SIGNS: Chief Eder reported that the Dunham building has requested signage for their building to advertise the several businesses inside.

BALDWIN DEVELOPMENT: Mayor Sturgis stated he received a request from Eyre Baldwin that the Town send a letter of support to Northampton County concerning the proposed development on the NE corner of Courthouse Rd and Willow Oak Rd. As the lot is limited in size for both sewage and parking, he felt it would help if the Town showed support and allowed them to work with the County for sewage hookup for the new development. *Councilwoman Sayers moved to have Council write a letter of support for the Baldwin property with approval of the possibility of the County providing sewage for the property and for a back-up plan for a septic drain field if possible. Councilwoman Thomas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

EASTVILLE INN: Chief Eder stated that he meets often with County Administrator, Charles Kolakowski, to discuss possible improvements for the town and county with the town plans. They would love to find a use for the Eastville Inn that would add to the business community and historic preservation of the Inn. They are hoping some grants would become available to make improvements to the building and restore it to an Inn. Mayor Sturgis reported that grants had been awarded to repair the old 1907 Jail.

WEBSITE: Councilwoman Sayers asked where the town stood with the new website. Jonny Stevenson, Town Clerk, advised it was coming along, but slowly.

At 8:47 pm Mayor Sturgis recessed the meeting until Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 6:00 pm for a work session with Sandra Benson Thornton, via SKYPE.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonny Stevenson
Town Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop on the left and a long horizontal line extending to the right, ending in a small dot. The signature overlaps the text "Jonny Stevenson" and "Town Clerk".