

**Urbanna Town Council  
Water Rate-Public Hearing  
Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget-Public Hearing  
Town Council Work Session  
Council Chambers-390 Virginia St. Suite B  
June 9, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Mayor Hartley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

**Town Council**

**Present**

Mayor Barbara Hartley

Council Members

Marjorie Austin-departed at 8:18pm

Larry Chowning

Bill Goldsmith

Merri Hanson

Steve Hollberg-arrived at 7:03pm

**Absent**

Bill Smith

**Staff Present**

Garth Wheeler-Town Administrator-via Zoom

Roy Kime-Zoning Administrator

Martha Rodenburg-Town Clerk

Michele Hutton-Town Treasurer

Andrea Erard-Town Attorney

Members of the public

All present said the Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Councilmember Goldsmith moved to approve the agenda as presented**

**Councilmember Austin seconded**

**Austin, Chowning, Goldsmith, Hanson, and Hartley voted yes**

**Hollberg and Smith absent**

**Motion passed 5-0**

**PUBLIC HEARING-ORDINANCE 2022-02 WATER-REAL PROPERTY-PERSONAL PROPERTY RATES**

Roy Kime discussed background and reasoning for proposed water rate increase.

- Water rates increased January 1, 2020 for the first time in 11 years
- Rates based on Water & Wastewater Rate Report by Draper Aden Associates and USDA data
  - Draper Aden report-annual report for use by Virginia water and wastewater providers to indicate trends in rates

- At the time of the 2020 increase, Water Committee committed to reviewing rates on an annual basis
- 2020 Draper Aden report (delayed due to COVID) and the 2021 reports used to ascertain rate increase required to provide for infrastructure upgrades, new well, and maintenance of current system
- Due to increased construction costs, the 4.5% increase in 2020 and 4% increase in 2021 (per Draper Aden report), combined to give estimate to proposed increase
- Rates will be reviewed annually going forward
- Proposed rates with 8.5% increase were reviewed
- Compared rates of Middlesex County with Town of Urbanna rates, Urbanna rates are lower
- Funding needed to upgrade wells and lines

Councilmember Goldsmith commented, when funding for replacement well was being sourced, a representative of USDA noted current rates were not high enough to get us into certain funding, and we needed to show a rate that would meet their requirements

Discussion took place that last year's increase was enough to meet requirements for the USDA loan received, it was not enough for grant funding being sought after for upcoming required infrastructure upgrades

Councilmember Goldsmith discussed background and reasoning for proposed personal property rates:

- Middlesex County assessment of real property increased by 20.1%
- Town current real property tax is .23 per \$100 of assessed value
  - Council is proposing .21 per \$100 of assessed value
- Town current personal property tax is .37 per \$100
  - Council is not proposing a change

Councilmember Hollberg commented a factor in their determination was meals tax revenue may not be as much as it has been in the past.

Discussion took place that both negative and positive revenue factors taken into consideration when determining proposed rate. Lowering current rate to mitigate increase in assessments, but meeting budget needs.

Councilmember Chowning reiterated his disagreement with the proposed rate as it will still cost more for taxpayers.

**Mayor Hartley opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2022-02**

William Mayo spoke from the gallery about a past tax rate matter

**Mayor Hartley closed the public hearing**

**Councilmember Hollberg moved to adopt item [Ordinance]2022-02 as presented**

**Councilmember Goldsmith seconded**

Councilmember Chowning commented council was forced at beginning of last term to do things that were expensive regarding staffing and town attorney. He was not voting in favor of ordinance out of general principle.

Discussion took place that, while it is a decrease in the rate, it is an increase in tax payments due to raise in assessment by Middlesex County.

Councilmember Hollberg commented the prior council had been over budget on legal expenses, and this has been brought under control with the new town attorney at a reasonable rate.

Councilmember Austin and Councilmember Chowning commented they would prefer the water rate and tax rate be separate motions.

Austin, Goldsmith, Hanson, Hollberg, and Hartley voted yes  
 Chowning voted no  
 Smith absent  
 Motion passed 5-1

**ORDINANCE NO. 2022-02 - UNCODIFIED ORDINANCE**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Urbanna Town Council at its regular meeting on June 9, 2022 that the following tax rates shall be effective for tax year 2022 and shall be retroactive to January 1, 2022:

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Real Property	\$0.23/\$100 of 100% of assessed valuation	\$0.21/\$100 of 100%
Personal Property	\$0.37/\$100 of 100% of assessed valuation	\$0.37/\$100 of 100%

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Urbanna Town Council at its regular meeting on June 9, 2022 that the following tax rates shall be effective as of July 1, 2022:

Residential and Commercial Water/Sewer Rate Schedule

In-Town Water Rates:

<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Rate with Proposed increase 0-6,000</u>
	\$39.70 minimum	\$43.07 minimum
6,001 & Up	\$3.69/1,000 gal over 6,000	\$4.00/1,000 gal over 6,000

Out-of-Town Water Rates

<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Rate with Proposed increase</u>
0-6,000	\$76.57 minimum	\$83.08 minimum
6,001 & Up	\$7.37/1,000 gal over 6,000	\$8.00/1,000 gal over 6,000

**PUBLIC COMMENT & PUBLIC COMMENT RESPONSE**

William Mayo spoke to ask what were the plans for the old town hall building  
 Councilmember Hollberg commented there is a plan to sell and eventually purchase current town hall  
 Garth Wheeler stated a commercial appraiser has been contacted and plans are moving forward

**PUBLIC HEARING-BUDGET-FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023**

**Mayor Hartley opened the public hearing on the proposed budget for FY2022-2023**

There was no public comment

Councilmember Goldsmith reviewed the proposed FY2022-2023 as published

Discussion included:

- Anticipated costs based on what was spent in the past, with a goal to come up with something that makes sense and anticipate it may change
- Special events such as Second Saturdays are self-funding, but have line items to account for expenses and income generated
- DMV Select anticipated to be a net loss for year, but a net benefit over time

Councilmember Chowning commented that historically the rate approved after budget. Town Attorney Andrea Erard responded that it was legal to do so, and Council could have chosen to not vote on rate [prior to budget vote]. Councilmember Hollberg commented the Finance Committee had been through several drafts to develop the budget Councilmember Goldsmith commented the Finance Committee had run the budget through at a 19, 20, and 21 cent tax rate.

**Mayor Hartley closed the public hearing**

## **MATTERS OF TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Administrator's Report**

Garth Wheeler reported the following

- Farmer's Market
  - 19 vendors
  - July market in Taber Park with additional activities
- Second Saturdays
  - June 11 4-8pm
  - To be held in Town Green and Southside Sentinel parking lot
  - Retail side of Something Different will be open
  - Discussion took place regarding meals tax not being charged for event participants. This matter will be taken up at a future meeting
- Urbanna Creek Waterfront Committee
  - Met June 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Recommending placement of 4-6 mooring balls in creek across from town marina
  - Discussed moving fence at marina to property line
  - Next meeting scheduled for July 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am
- Audit
  - Received all audits from 2019, 2020, 2021
  - Questions regarding "unreconciled differences" being corrected
- Independence Day Celebration
  - Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 5-10pm
  - Same format as past years
- DMV Select Grand Opening
  - Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am
- Veterans Banner Dedication
  - Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm
  - 41 banners purchased

### **Planning Commission Report**

There was no report given

Councilmember Hanson announced Town Hall scheduled for July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm with Rebecca Rowe, director of Virginia Main Street. Open to the public.

### **Pool Committee**

Councilmember Goldsmith reported

- Engaged Bay Design to do site work
- Town attorney drafting contracts to establish method of funding

### **Kayak Trail**

Councilmember Chowning reported

- Sent copy of site descriptions for editing

- Collecting old photographs of each site
- Anticipate completion end of June
- Thanked Dan Snead for his assistance

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Land Boundary Adjustment**

**Councilmember Hollberg made a motion to approve staff going forward and approaching the County with regards to agenda item 10a, Land Boundary Adjustment**

**Councilmember Chowning seconded**

**Chowning, Goldsmith, Hanson, Hollberg, and Hartley voted yes**

**Austin and Smith absent**

**Motion passed 5-0**

#### **Proposed Bristow Pavilion location**

A proposed location in Taber Park for the Bristow Pavilion to be constructed was presented.

Nancy Greenwood spoke on behalf of UBI. Possible second location at marina was recommended.

**Councilmember Hollberg made a motion to allow a portion of property at Taber Park, belonging to the Town, be set aside to build a 30'x40' pavilion.**

**Councilmember Hanson seconded**

**Chowning, Goldsmith, Hanson, Hollberg, and Hartley voted yes**

**Austin and Smith absent**

**Motion passed 5-0**

### **ADJOURN**

**Councilmember Hollberg made a motion to adjourn**

**Councilmember Hanson seconded**

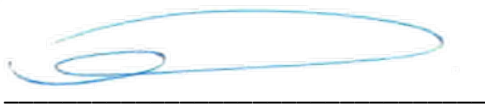
**Chowning, Goldsmith, Hanson, Hollberg, and Hartley voted yes**

**Austin and Smith absent**

**Motion passed 5-0**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm**

**Submitted by:**



**Martha J. Rodenburg**

**Town Clerk**

**Approved by Town Council 07/14/2022**