

Attendance:

Council:	Staff:	Public:
Mayor Larry LeMond	Stacey Sparrow	13
Vice Mayor Robert Lewis		
Norma Spencer		
Jackie Davis		
Matt Yancy- Absent		

Call to Order 7pm

Meeting Purpose- Council Seat Vacancy

Statement from the Mayor-

Why are we here tonight? Let me answer that.

At our last meeting, some members of the public questioned why we needed to hold a special election when our charter states that "Vacancies on the council shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by a majority vote of the members of the council". This was all well and good until 2010.

In the 2010 session of the General Assembly, two bills were passed that altered the procedure for filling vacancies within a city or town council or county board of supervisors. The effect of the changes differed depending on the size of a locality, with a greater impact on towns with a population of less than 3,500.

Towns with a population of less than 3,500 were previously exempt from a requirement to hold a special election if an elected position became vacant, so long as the remainder of council made an appointment within 45 days of the vacancy. The changes to the law remove this exemption, requiring these towns to hold a special election after appointing a replacement.

VA Code 24.2-228 states in part: "Notwithstanding any charter provisions to the contrary, the person so appointed shall hold office ONLY until the qualified voters fill the vacancy by special election pursuant to 24-2-682 and the person so elected has qualified".

Therefore, since special elections are very costly (our May election cost \$1900) we have petitioned Judge Lewis to hold our Special Election to be held as part of the 2019 general election on November 5, 2019 whereby the Town's cost will be only \$200 to \$300.

But, before Judge Lewis will consider our request he wants the Town to meet the 45 day requirement and appoint someone to replace the vacancy on our Council.

The 45<sup>th</sup> day is November 10<sup>th</sup> so that is the reason for this Special Called Meeting to fill the vacancy. The person appointed by the Council shall serve until the Special Election which hopefully will be held on November 5, 2019. The person elected on November 5, 2019 shall serve until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to fill the remainder for the unexpired term of Mr. Travis.

Mayor LeMond Asked all parties interested in the position to speak, Jason Van Marter and Bruce Nutter were present, Scott Berger and Greg Hardesty were not present but sent statements for Clerk Stacey Sparrow to read into the record.

**Jason Van Marter**- I am still new to Cheriton but have been connected to Cheriton for 13 years. My wife was raised in Cheriton and stories of her childhood prompted us to move here to raise our children in this town. I have started a business in Cheriton and love Cheriton. I feel I can offer fresh new ideas to Cheriton. I will continue to support Cheriton even if I am not appointed to this position and plan to have my name on the ballot for the next election.

**Scott Berger**- Letter read by Clerk Stacey Sparrow

*Mr. Mayor, Town Council members, thank you for the opportunity to express my interest and desire to be considered for the vacant council seat. I regret I cannot be there with you tonight, as I am in Richmond for the state's annual architectural conference. My interest and desire stem from the two primary driving forces in my life - to solve problems and to help others. It's what I do and who I am.*

*As some of you may know, I am an architect, have been for over 25 years for those very reasons. I've solved problems by designing some of the most complex buildings for our military. By nature, and experience, I know problem solving calls for listening. I have listened at many a town council meeting over the past year. Through listening, I've gained an understanding about Cheriton. I see the challenges our town faces, and I have ideas on overcoming those challenges.*

*I genuinely believe I can help. I always try to help. Whether it's donating bone marrow to a sick boy, being part of an animal rescue group, or helping on Town Cleanup Day, helping is what I do, who I am. In fact, as you hear these words, I hope to have completed a course at this conference in Richmond to become a trained building evaluator as part of the AIA's Disaster Assistance Program, assessing structures after disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes. If I can help, it's my first instinct.*

*My wife Rita and I have lived all over the U.S. and Canada, so we are "come here's". But that means we had a choice, and we chose Cheriton. And now, I hope I am your choice for the vacant seat on the Cheriton Town Council. Thank you for your time.*

*Yours in Cheriton,  
Scott Berger*

**Bruce Nutter:** I would like to respectfully bow out of the running at this time. I can do many things for Cheriton without being on the council. I also feel the council needs to bring in younger people to the council. It feels like the younger people are not being represented. Council needs to think about diversity.

**Gregory Hardesty-** Letter read by Clerk Stacey Sparrow

*First of all, thank you for considering me regarding the vacant council seat. As some of you know, I have extensive roots in the Town of Cheriton. I moved here in 1977 at the age of fourteen, both my parents having been raised either in town or very close by. I graduated Northampton High School in 1980, then graduated Virginia Tech in 1984.*

*In regards to my work history, I served in the US Navy as an officer on board the USS Peterson as Main Propulsion Assistant, earned two Navy achievement medals, rounded out my Naval Service with six years in the reserves, leaving the military as a Lieutenant Commander.*

*Following my Naval service, I joined the Chesapeake Police Department where I worked uniform patrol in the South Norfolk Borough of the city for four years. Other than commendations for star performance and Narcotics arrests, I stressed the importance of unity and harmony in the community while on the job.*

*Following my stint in the police department I was employed by H.B. Hunter Co. in Norfolk, A food processing company. There, I was employed as Operations Director, responsible for the daily scheduling, personnel, shipping and operational duties of approximately 75-100 employees over two packing plants.*

*From this position, I moved on for four years to the Global Fortune 500 Company Kraft Foods in Richmond, Virginia, working as a Manufacturing Manager. I eventually left this position due to personal reasons.*

*I left Kraft Foods to return to the Eastern Shore to join my step-fathers business, and be closer to my parents.*

*I made this move 12 years ago, moving back to Cheriton, working with my Pop, Vernon Lewis, raising clams for Cherrystone Aqua Farms as a member of their co-op.*

*Since returning home, the majority of my time is made up of helping to run the family business and assist my parents in whatever they may need. Throughout this time period, I've also served 2 terms on the Cheriton Town Council, one as a member on the Public Service Authority, and also help work Bingo for CVFD as time permits.*

*On a personal note, over the last previous year, I experienced a minor health issue which affected many facets of my life, which partly explains my relative absence of public service. I'm pleased to say that I'm again at full by the grace of god. Presently ready to be of any service I can assist with.*

*If chosen to fill the vacant seat on council I will do the best of my abilities to serve the town and its best interests. If no I will still support the town, and town council in their future endeavors.*

*Thank You*

*G.S. Hardesty*

*After all spoke Mayor LeMond opened the floor for nominations:*

*Barry Downing- I think that all members are very qualified. I think we should follow the election results. We have invited all to join committees to give input and feelings. Anyone will well qualify that has put their name in. I do what I can for anybody in this town. Comments on Facebook or the Cape Charles Mirror are degrading the town. I will base my decision on the election results and nominate Greg Hardesty.*

*Nomination- Greg Hardesty*

*1<sup>st</sup>- Barry Downing*

*2<sup>nd</sup>- Norma Spencer*

*Nomination #2 Jason VanMarter*

*1<sup>st</sup>- Jackie Davis*

*2<sup>nd</sup>- Barry Downing*

*Being no further nominations Robert Lewis made the motion to close nominations. It was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barry Downing and unanimous.*

*Mayor LeMond took a poll for the nominations.*

*Greg Hardesty- Robert Lewis, Norma Spencer, Barry Downing*

*Jason VanMarter- Jackie Davis*

*By a majority vote Greg Hardesty was appointed to the Cheriton Town Council until November of 2019.*

*Being no further items of council A motion to adjourn was made by Norma Spencer, was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robert Lewis and was unanimous.*