

HURT TOWN COUNCIL 2026

MEETING MINUTES

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Date: April 7, 2026

Location: TOWN HALL 533 POCKET RD. HURT, VA

Time:

6PM

Meeting called to order by: MAYOR GARY HODNETT

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE ESTABLISHING A QUORUM

Steve Worley

Paul Johnson

Jimmy Harding

Alice Bond

Vice Mayor Bob Majure

Gary Poindexter

TOWN STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Marissa Padilla, Treasurer

Shannon Race, Clerk

Joe Smith, Public Works Director

Paul Watlington, Public Works Assistant

Michael Lovelace, Chief of Police

John Eller, Town Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hodnett called meeting to order at 6:05 pm and presided.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Hodnett requests a motion to move into closed session.

- Council Member Poindexter moves that the council convene a closed session in accordance with Virginia Freedom of Information Act as amended. Siting Authorization: § 2.2-3711 A (1) Personnel, (3) Real Estate, (5) Prospective Business, (8) Legal Counsel (as applicable).
- Vice Mayor Majure seconds the motion for the closed session.
- Clerk calls for individual votes on the motion with Hurt Town Council voting 6-0 in favor of the closed session.
- The motion is passed, and the Hurt Town Council moves into a closed session at 6:10 PM.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

- Mayor Hodnett calls for motions to return and certify a closed session.
- Vice Mayor Majure makes a motion for the certification of the closed meeting, citing the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (**Requirement: VA FOIA § 2.2-3712 (D)**)
- Mayor Hodnett calls for a second, which is given by Councilman Harding, council voted 6-0 in favor and approves the certification of the closed session.
- Councilman Worley leads the invocation.

CONSENT AGENDA

- March Expenditures
 - a. Vice Mayor requests to be given current balances for LGIP and bank accounts each month along with the budget vs. actual reports and check listings.
 - b. Councilman Poindexter questioned how the PP Tax revenue was so high to which the clerk pointed out that taxes were being collected from 2020 on and not to expect it to be this high with the next budget.
 - c. Councilman Poindexter questioned communications tax, asking is allocation from the state higher. Treasurer explained there were smaller random amounts being given from the state that have been placed in that line. Research is still being done to figure out exactly what the amounts are for.
 - d. Litter Control Grant was invoicing the town incorrectly. Treasurer stated she could help them get a better number for the upcoming budget.
 - e. Refuse contract was underbilled and we had to do a catch up. This accounts for the high percentage on the budget. Mayor stated the town will be getting a price increase.
 - f. Technical Services was high due to getting the new computer systems up and running.
 - g. Councilman Poindexter pointed out we were at 80% of budget at ¾ of the year and it was not bad.
- 3/3, 3/17, 3/18 Meeting & Work session Minutes.
 - a. Councilman Poindexter requests, for the future, that Work Sessions be called such instead of Workshop because it sounds better.
 - b. 3/17 minutes change "convening until March 18" to "continuing to March 18, 2026, at 6pm."
 - c. Councilman Johnson pointed out he had to leave early on the 17th so the vote to continue in this section was 5-0 and not 6-0.
 - d. Councilman Poindexter requested to change "poplar" to "popular" on page 2 for 3/18 continued meeting.
- Additions to the Agenda - none

Council Member Poindexter made a motion to accept the consent agenda as present with the referenced changes made to the minutes, second by Council Member Bond, and the Hurt Town Council voted in favor 6-0, and approved the **April 7, 2026**, Consent Agenda as presented with changes to the minutes.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Town of Hurt Conveyance of approximately 106.204 acres to AVIO public hearing was opened.

John Eller described the terms and arrangements of the conditions for selling the Key Industrial Park to AVIO USA Inc.

- The land was surveyed March 23, 2026, at 106.204 acres.
- Selling price is \$15,000 per acre. The sale closes tomorrow April 8, 2026. Total the town will receive is \$1,593,010.
- Councilman Johnson stated the funds will be wired to the town account.

AVIO will turn this into an industrial plant that will be making rocket motors and various equipment

- Vice Mayor Majure said Avio is required to produce 1,000 jobs but they are anticipating 1,500. Investing \$536 million.
- We are hoping to capture meals tax money with this project. Hoping to have revenue generated through jobs being created in this town. Altavista and the rest of the county should get benefits from this as well.
- Town needs to invest in the plaza so there will be places for people to spend money in the town. Meals taxes are where the most money is coming from at the moment and not from citizens directly per Vice Mayor Majure.

Mayor told people once the plaza is fixed up, every penny made there is a penny they don't have to pay in taxes.

Councilman Poindexter explained the AVIO land area to the citizens attending the hearing.

Vice Mayor Majure explained water will be billed to AVIO and hopefully more houses will be added in the town to help alleviate some of the high cost of water in the Town of Hurt.

COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN

Resolution to sell Key Industrial Park to Avio USA Inc.

Councilman Poindexter read the Resolution to sell the Key Industrial Park to Avio USA Inc. out loud during the hearing. He made the motion to approve the Resolution as read seconded by Vice Mayor Majure with council voting in favor 6-0 and approved the Resolution to sell to AVIO.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kim Johnson 609 Lynn St.

1. Asked for expansion on the transfer of ownership from Staunton River Plastics to Rage Plastics. How will it possibly affect the town?
 - Technimark LLC of Asheboro, NC recently announced its acquisition of Rage Plastics, including its subsidiary, Staunton River Plastics, in Hurt. While Technimark has not yet announced specific plans for Hurt and Altavista

facilities, we are confident that over the next several years, this change will enlarge the industry's footprint in the Staunton River region. So, they own everything about them. Anything that Staunton River Plastics had, such as agreements and such, will remain the same. The tax deal will remain the same because it is a SRIFA project.

- County owns the building Staunton River Plastics is in, but Technimark may end up buying the building from the county.
- Technimark will generate more business which would generate more tax revenue.
- There was a link for the new company put in the town newsletter that went out with the current water billing

<https://www.technimark.com/technimark-acquires-raqe-custom-plastics-to-expand-growing-healthcare-operations/>

2. Question 2 what Mayor meant at the last meeting when he said the water had tested good for the last year and it may take us out from under the state mandate and alleviate some of the water hikes.
 - The water mandate is still being discussed with the state. We can't give any specific details yet.

New Business

1. State Mandate Construction Update – This was covered with Kim. We are hoping to have a resolution to this over the next couple of weeks.
2. Plaza Update – Getting ready to start construction, sell of land gave us the money to get this going. RRMM group will be doing the architecture drawings, and the contractor has not been selected yet.
3. IT Policy and Security Package – This is a state mandate that must be followed to participate in DMV Stop Program. The town has been working towards getting DMV Stops in place for 7-8 years.
 - a. There will be a \$25 fee to put a stop on the DMV record which is placed on the vehicle owner.

IT and Cyber Security must be met on the state level to participate in the DMV program. If we don't have this policy and procedures in place, we would be in breach of contract for not having the DMV Information Security & Risk Management Policy (ISRM) Policy in place.

<https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/documents/DMV%20Security%20%26amp%3B%20Risk%20Management%20Policy%202.1.pdf>
 - b. Commonwealth of Virginia IT security policies, standards, and guidelines are available at **<https://www.vita.virginia.gov/it-governance/itrm-policies-standards/>**
 - c. Travis drew up his proposal off the state and DMV requirements that I sent to him from the above links.
 - d. John Eller wants a contract from Travis to read over.
 - e. This Policy is over and above our general cyber security practices. We must meet state standards to interact with DMV.
 - f. Vice Mayor Majure stated the price of \$1,900 is a reasonable rate to have our policy updated.
 - g. We are at a standstill and can't move forward with DMV Stops.
 - h. John asked how many stops could be placed, clerk said at best guess was 75. There have been a lot of back taxes being paid.

TOWN STAFF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- Treasurer – Marissa Padilla
 - Working on invoices
 - VRS snapshot contributions
 - Submitting time Sheets to Evelyn for payroll
 - Voya Deductions – January 25th to current payments have been made, waiting for our case to be reviewed and for Voya to let us know how much on catch up payments and interest need to be paid.
 - Had a meeting with Evelyn this week to discuss various topics
 - Treasurer needs to be bonded per Evelyn
- Clerk- Shannon Race
 - Discussed DMV Stops and IT & Cyber Security with Council
- Public Works- Joe Smith & Paul Watlington
 - Billing & Town letters
 - CCR Report information was put on the current utility bills.
 - Cutting grass
 - Attending zoning meetings for Sugar Hill Estate
 - VDOT started street sweeping
 - Discussed water not cycling in the holding tank
 - We are staying connected to Altavista water for a time
 - Explained that during September our THM test levels go high during the high heat.
 - June – August Joe must flush the water systems more often
- Police Department- Chief Lovelace
 - 3 suspicious person calls
 - 2 public service calls
 - 1 noise complaint
 - 2 mutual aid calls
 - 3 traffic stops
 - 2 disabled vehicle calls
 - 2 animal complaints
 - 1 disorderly conduct
 - Miles driven 2731
 - 0 use of force
 - 0 department complaints
 - LOLE grant was awarded in the amount of \$1,009.00 and the equipment has been ordered.
 - HES Student will be awarded Graduate of Merit this year by PD
 - PD Scholarship applications are still being taken till April 15, 2026, 3 applicants so far

- Automatic License Plate Reader companies were contacted to locate a possible service
 - Leonard did not return contact
 - Thomson Reuters / Clear LPR – did not provide the services that we were looking for
 - Rekar Systems did not return contact
 - Motorola - corporate headquarters - returned contact but no contact from sales department. (Councilman Worley stated the county uses Motorola)
 - Axon reached out with a quote of \$45,000 to buy cameras, \$33,000 to keep 3 cameras running for 5 years.
 - Flock reached back to aid with information on the security and information concerns of the town council.
 - Camera on the police cars were discussed, Jason doesn't feel they will be beneficial enough to justify the cost because the town is so small. We don't have enough manpower out and about. They also discussed new cars with cameras already in them. The cost will come when the cameras are turned on. We will have to use systems that match what the local counties are using.
 - The counties are currently looking into upgrades for their systems at the moment and the town should wait till they finish deciding what they want to go with.
 - Vice Mayor Majure found 4 grants that may help the town with police equipment.
 - Jason explained the benefit of allowing retirees to keep their health insurance at the retiree's expense. This will bridge the gap between retirement and eligibility for Medicare for our town retirees.
- Legal - John Eller
 - Closing on the industrial park
 - Working with Bond Counsel on mandate and financing issues
 - Reviewing Sugar Hill plans incorporating 9 lots that will have nice houses put on them
 - Sugar Hill subdivision is pending approval

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Hodnett adjourned this meeting at 8:25 pm.