

# TOWN OF HURT 2026

## MEETING MINUTES

### JOINT PUBLIC HEARING WITH PLANNING COMMISSION

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Date: July 21, 2026

Location: TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER  
533 POCKET RD. HURT, VA

Time: 6 pm

Adjournment: 8:35 pm

Meeting called to order by: MAYOR GARY HODNETT

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#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE ESTABLISHING A QUORUM**

Vice Mayor Bob Majure  
Alice Bond  
Gary Poindexter  
Paul Johnson  
Steve Worley

#### **Council Members Absent:**

Jimmy Harding

#### **TOWN STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Shannon Race, town clerk  
John Eller, town attorney

#### **Planning Commission:** Members present for joint public hearing

Paul Johnson in dual role  
Jeff Blaesing  
Courtney Moore  
Glen Mitchell

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#### **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.

- **Councilman Poindexter** moves that the Hurt Town Council convene a closed session in accordance with Virginia Freedom of Information Act as amended. Siting Authorization: § 2.2-3711 A (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 5-0 in favor of the closed session. The motion is passed, and the Hurt Town Council moves into a closed session at 6:07 pm.
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## **CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

- **Mayor Hodnett** calls for motions to return and certify a closed session.
- **Councilman Poindexter** makes a motion for the certification of the closed meeting, citing the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (**Requirement: VA FOIA § 2.2-3712 (D)**) seconded by **Councilmember Bond**, council voted 5-0 in favor and approves the certification of the closed session.

Councilman Worley leads the invocation.

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## **Joint Public Hearing – Mobile Restaurant (Food Truck) Ordinance**

### **Opening of Public Hearing**

**Mayor Hodnett** opened the joint public hearing with the Planning Commission on an ordinance to regulate mobile restaurants/food trucks.

Dixie reported no public sign-ups; hearing left open briefly for walk-ins.

### **Presentation of Ordinance – John Eller**

Key points of the ordinance as explained:

- **Purpose:**

Regulate and allow mobile restaurants (food trucks, trailers, carts, ice cream trucks, Meals on Wheels, home delivery) within town limits.

- **Zoning & Use:**

Adds mobile restaurants as permitted uses in R-1, R-2, C-1, and I-1 districts by reference to new section § 28-454.

In R-1 & R-2, allowed only when sponsored by churches or nonprofits and pre-approved with a temporary permit.

- **Permits & Taxes:**

Required:

Virginia Health Department permit

Town mobile restaurant permit

Town business license

Collection and remittance of meals tax equal to brick-and-mortar restaurants.

- **Operating Rules (high level):**

**Location:**

On private property with written owner permission and prior notice to town.

**Products:**

Only food and non-alcoholic beverages incidental to food.

**Noise:**

Sound not audible more than 100 feet away; complaints can lead to revocation or relocation.

**Parking/Safety:**

Cannot block drives, fire lanes, emergency access; must remain  $\geq 15$  ft from intersections, driveways, hydrants, accessible spaces.

**Hours & Duration:**

7:00 AM–9:00 PM operation; must cease by 9:00 PM.

Unit must be removed daily by 9:30 PM, except for town-approved multi-day events.

May not remain in place more than one week.

**Distance from Others:**

At least 100 ft from any business that sells food.

At least 50 ft from any single- or multi-family residence.

- **Other:**

Operator must be on site at all times.

No outdoor seating (beyond a small condiment table).

One A-frame/T-frame sign allowed only while open (max 8 sq ft); other signs must be permanently affixed to vehicle; no streamers.

Must provide trash receptacles; no liquid waste discharge.

May locate on public property only for town-sanctioned events.

Permits may be revoked for non-compliance.

**Questions & Discussion**

- **License Duration Question:**

Q: Does a food truck operating for one day still need a business license?

A (Eller): Yes, if operating as a mobile restaurant.

**Peddler's License vs Food Truck:**

Food trucks cannot operate under peddler statutes; different legal category.

Peddlers obtain license via county (including fee and fingerprinting) and must also obtain town business license.

- **Comparable Ordinances:**

Ordinance modeled on other Virginia localities that host food trucks.

- **Future Food Truck "Park" / Plaza Use:**

Discussion of whether the forthcoming shopping center/plaza could host a semi-permanent food truck area.

Current draft requires weekly movement and minimum distances; it would not allow fully permanent trucks.

Council generally open to future amendments if interest arises; would require new public hearing.

### **Planning Commission Deliberation**

Planning Commission recessed to another area to consider the ordinance.

During their deliberation, council remained in session for other informational items.

### **Decision – Mobile Restaurant (Food Truck) Ordinance**

No formal public comments were received. The Planning Commission recessed to deliberate and returned with a unanimous recommendation **to move forward with the mobile restaurant ordinance as written**. Council then considered the recommendation, and on **motion by Councilmember Bond, seconded by Councilman Poindexter**, council voted unanimously to **approve the Mobile Restaurant Ordinance as presented**.

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### **Kids' Electric Car Racing Event**

- **Mayor Hodnett** revisited a prior request to hold kids' electric car drag racing in the former Winn-Dixie parking area.
- **Discussion points:**
  - Need for defined course, safety boundaries, and crowd control.
  - Insurance coverage, liability waivers, and comparison to other towns' events (e.g., Alta Vista / Booker Building).
- General support in concept, with direction that the organizer contact **John Eller** to review insurance, waivers, and liability protections before any approval.

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### **Information Item – CivicPlus Website Migration Proposal**

Clerk reported that the Town has received a formal proposal for the CivicPlus website migration. The proposal lists a total initial investment of \$5,300 for the initial term and an annual recurring service cost of \$5,300 thereafter. Shannon noted that this item was presented for information only and did not require action or a decision at this meeting. Council acknowledged receipt of the proposal and agreed it can be considered further at a later date.

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### **Internet, Phones, and Starlink Discussion**

- **Mayor Hodnett, Shannon Race, Vice Mayor Majure, and Chief Lovelace** discussed:
  - Ongoing issues with Net2Phone VOIP calls and Comcast internet.
  - Poor AT&T cell signal at Town Hall.
  - Potential use of Starlink internet for Town Hall and water treatment plant.
- Key points:
  - Starlink would not fix cell service; AT&T booster needed for that.
  - Need for static public IP for public safety/records systems if staying with Comcast.

- Starlink considered viable as a future Xfinity replacement, especially for the water plant, if unlimited data and reliability needs are satisfied.

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## **Council Chambers Audio/Video Upgrade Proposal**

### **Presentation of Revised Proposal**

- **Vice Mayor Majure** presented a scaled-down Point Source Audio proposal (approx. \$9,978.92) including:
  - Single pan-tilt-zoom camera.
  - Ceiling-mounted ambient mic and integration of existing gooseneck mics.
  - In-ceiling JBL speakers (audience and board), wired podium mic, audio processor, wall controls.
  - Two days of installation and training (excluding any new electrical work).

### **Council Discussion and Public Input**

- **Topics:**
  - Transparency and accessibility benefits vs. low live viewership.
  - Current average of ~3 live viewers, ~50 post-meeting views.
  - Concerns about public perception of spending ~\$10K for A/V while other needs exist (water, plaza, etc.).
  - Suggestions to use Facebook, Town website, and text alerts to better advertise meetings and agendas.

### **Direction – A/V Upgrade**

- **Consensus not to proceed with the Point Source A/V upgrade at this time.**
- **Direction:**
  - Continue with the current setup, with **Vice Mayor Majure** focusing on audio-only recording to simplify operations.
  - **Majure** to notify vendor that the Town will not move forward with the proposal.

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## **Drought Ordinance**

### **Overview and Need**

- Town Attorney **John Eller** explained the proposed **drought ordinance**:
  - Aligns Hurt with Altavista restrictions due to shared water system.
  - Needed to enforce mandatory restrictions if conditions worsen.
  - Applies only to water supplied by the Town system, not private wells.

### **Council Discussion**

- Noted ongoing precipitation deficit and lack of near-term relief.
- Importance of mirroring Altavista's stages and notices.

### **Council Action – Drought Ordinance**

- Motion by **Councilman Poindexter** to **approve the drought ordinance as presented.**
- Second **Councilmember Bond.**
- Roll-call vote: All present members voting **yes.**

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### **Tadler Fellowship – Plaza Master Plan**

- **Vice Mayor Majure** introduced **Nancy Jones** (Tadler Fellow) proposal to work with the Town on a Plaza Master Plan, including:
  - Site visit and walkthrough (August 11).
  - Community engagement and feedback.
  - Conceptual plan, timelines, funding ideas, and public-facing materials.
- Fellowship funded by private donations; no cost to Town.
- Consensus to proceed and have Vice Mayor Majure coordinate the project and site visit.

### **Tadler Fellowship – Industrial Water Treatment Plant Project**

- **Vice Mayor Majure** reported second Tadler Fellow, **Win Philpot**, expressed interest in:
  - A master plan / policy analysis for the industrial water treatment plant, including rate comparisons, funding strategies, and communication materials.
- Council expressed interest and authorized further discussion/coordination, with expectation that the fellow will coordinate with engineers and not delay current engineering work.

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### **Comprehensive Plan Update**

- Status: Existing Comprehensive Plan is expired; state requires update every 5 years.
- **Vice Mayor Majure:**
  - Has begun drafting a new plan, using examples from other localities and trimming non-essential historical narrative.
  - Will share a working draft (SharePoint/Word) with council and Planning Commission.
- **Councilman Poindexter** emphasized:
  - Need for a fresh, professional plan that reflects upcoming changes (plaza, water plant, etc.).
  - Targeting completion by year end; Planning Commission will take lead role.

### **Public Comment (General)**

- Citizens provided feedback on:
  - A/V money vs. other priorities and public perception.
  - Meeting attendance patterns and role of confidence in council.
  - Ideas to increase awareness (texts, social media, agenda notices).
  - Importance of planning plaza space for events, walking paths, and community uses.

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### **Consent Order & Reserve Account – Update**

- **Consent order reserve account setup**

- **Mayor Hodnett** reported that the reserve account required under the state consent order is in the process of being established.
- The Town set the account up last week and is now waiting on the state to activate it.
- Once the state activates the account and sends confirmation by email, the Town will make the required deposit into the reserve account.
- **Project/closing timing**
  - **Mayor Hodnett** indicated that, functionally, “everything’s kind of waiting” on that reserve account being activated and funded.
  - **John Eller** added that they are scheduled to close on Friday related to the project, and that closing is expected to proceed even if the reserve account deposit has not yet been fully processed, if the account setup is moving forward.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Hodnett adjourned this meeting at 8:35 pm.