HURT TOWN COUNCIL 2026
MEETING MINUTES
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Date: October 6, 2026	Location: TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS 533 POCKET RD. HURT, VA
Time: 6 PM	Adjournment: 9:34 pm
Meeting called to order by:	MAYOR GARY HODNETT

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE ESTABLISHING A QUORUM

Vice Mayor Bob Majure
Alice Bond
Gary Poindexter
Jimmy Harding
Steve Worley

Council Members Absent:

Paul Johnson – work related absence

TOWN STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Shannon Race, town clerk
John Eller, town attorney
Brian Sisk, town treasurer
Joe Smith, Public Works Director
Paul Watlington, public works assistant
Bob Williamson, Water Plant Operator
Jason Lovelace, Chief of Police
Tristan Markins, town officer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hodnett called meeting to order at 6:02 pm and presided.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Hodnett requests a motion to move into closed session.

- Councilman 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 & (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 6:05 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 5-0 in favor and approves the certification of the closed session.

Councilman Worley leads the invocation.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. September Expenditures
2. September 1 & 15 Minutes.
3. Additions to the Agenda – East Spencer Rd. per Councilman Worley

Motion:

Vice Mayor Majure made a motion, second by Councilman Worley, and the Hurt Town Council voted in favor 5-0, and approved the October 6, 2026, Consent Agenda as presented.

Fire Department Grant

Councilman Worley stated the Hurt Volunteer Fire Department stated the town is behind on giving them the grant money from the state. $10,000.00

Research must be completed to make sure the funds have been received by the town.

East Spencer Rd.

Councilmember Bond moved to discuss the East Spencer Road issues.

- Councilman Worley discussed dust on East Spencer Road and a proposal to spread **20 tons of washed granite stone**. The quoted cost was **$775**, including delivery and spreading.
- Council also discussed a **10 mph speed-limit sign**.

Motion:

Councilman Harding made a motion to purchase the rocks and look into getting a speed limit sign on the road. Vice Mayor Majure second the motion, with council voting 5-0 in favor. The motion was passed.

Further discussion took place over the speed limit sign. VDOT will be contacted about putting up a speed limit sign for the town.

Motion:
Vice Mayor Majure made a motion to get the speed limit sign installed, up to $100 in cost otherwise, revisit the matter at the October 20 work session. Motion was second by Councilman Harding. Council voted in favor 5-0 to get a speed limit sign installed on East Spencer Road.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Community emergency notifications:

Sandy Short (Prospect Rd. resident) asked the Town to improve notification options for people who do not use computers or social media. Staff described existing county emergency alerts and the Town's phone and email notifications and discussed publicizing sign-up information in a future newsletter or water bill.

Property and ordinance enforcement:

Kim Johnson (Lynn St. resident) raised concerns about neglected properties, overgrown vegetation, trash, and potentially unregistered or inoperable vehicles, and asked how the Town enforces its ordinances. The police chief later reported that letters had been sent to several properties and that follow-up would continue.

New Business

State Mandate Construction Update

- Work began on the water tank September 1, 2026
- Pre-Construction meeting will take place the end of this month.

TOWN STAFF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Treasurer – Brian Sisk Bank balances are being reconciled daily. Fiscal Year 2025 closeout is awaiting final review; Fiscal Year 2026 appears on track.

Council requested monthly account balances and account/budget information on check listings.

Clerk- Shannon Race Reports included tax processing, utility billing, training toward certification, completion of a new Town seal, and expected the new website to launch soon.

Council requested electronic copies of meeting materials in addition to required paper copies.

Public Works- Joe Smith & Paul Watlington

Staff reported progress on the tank project, including piping, control equipment, and conduit work. A crane installation and further water-line work were anticipated.

Staff also described a water-main break caused by pipe resting on rock, the repair and testing process, and the required state and health-department notifications. The reported water samples tested negative for coliform and E. coli.

Water Plant Operator – Bob Williamson

Reported electrical issues and aging wiring at the plant, with repairs made to restore operation. Staff also described a meeting with the state regarding grant paperwork and deadlines for the water-treatment-plant project taking 3 ½ hrs.

Police Department- Chief Lovelace

The chief reported on community programs, vehicle recalls, a patrol-radio repair or replacement, completed reporting requirements, ordinance-enforcement follow-up, and public-safety support during the water-main repair. The chief also reminded attendees of the October 31 fire-department car show and trunk-or-treat.

Legal - John Eller

Ordinances and other business

Door-to-door vendor ordinance: Counsel is preparing a revised draft that may include government-issued identification, permitted solicitation hours, bonding requirements, criminal-history certification, and fingerprinting. Council discussed whether a further public hearing may be needed.

Accessory-building provision: Counsel reported that a previously adopted restriction on accessory buildings in the R-1 district was inadvertently omitted from the Municode submission. The provision was reported as having been duly adopted in 2022 and will be corrected in the code.

RECOGNITIONS

Joe and Paul were recognized for the outstanding job they did during the main line water break on October 2, 2026.

Police department clerk position

Council members spoke in support, citing the candidate's experience and the potential benefits to police-department operations, community presence, and accreditation. The stated funding approach was to use interest earned on reserves for the remainder of the current fiscal year, without drawing on principal, and revisit ongoing funding during the next budget cycle.

Motion: Councilman Poindexter made a motion to Extend an offer of employment to **Kathy Bennett** for police department clerk, at an annual salary of **$30,000**, effective immediately and contingent on acceptance. Councilmember Bond second the motion with council voting in favor to hire her 5-0.

MAYOR REPORT

The Town had accepted the water-treatment-plant grant and was "under the gun": it had **12 months to complete the engineering work** and **24 months to complete the project**. He emphasized that the clock was already running and the work was keeping staff busy.

Christmas Tree Lighting

The annual Christmas tree-lighting event will be on **Sunday, December 6, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**, with activities similar to the prior year.

A planning session was discussed for October 20; 5:30 p.m.

Councilman Harding has offered to work the hot chocolate stand.

Council handouts

Vice Mayor Majure will circulate a water-system maintenance and capital implementation plan and an employee handbook for council review.

ALPR/Flock system:

Vice Mayor Majure wants to have an open session with a representative from Flock Camera.

- Asked Jason to schedule a meeting if possible for October 20th at 7pm.

Council discussed public transparency, posting the Town's policy, a possible public information session, and uncertainty about the contract's renewal date and notice deadline. The chief was asked to contact the company about representative availability and clarify contract timing.

Second Closed Session

Councilman Poindexter moves that the council convene a second closed session in accordance with Virginia Freedom of Information Act as amended. Siting Authorization: § 2.2-3711 A (1) Personnel. Second by Vice Mayor Majure with council voting 5-0 in favor. Council moved into closed session at 8:26 pm.

Certification of 2nd closed session

Mayor Hodnett calls for motions to return and certify a closed session.

- Councilman Poindexter makes a motion to certify the second 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 Vice Mayor Majure, council voted 5-0 in favor and approves the certification of the 2nd closed session.

Council moves back into open session at 9:34 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Hodnett adjourned this meeting at 9:34 pm.

Main follow-up items:

- Arrange East Spencer Road stone delivery and check the speed-sign cost.
- Check the fire-grant status and share emergency-alert sign-up information.
- Provide account balances and budget details with future financial reports.
- Revise the vendor ordinance and correct the Municode omission.
- Plan the December 6 Christmas event and circulate the water-system plan and employee handbook.
- Clarify Flock's contract deadline and arrange an ALPR information session.