

Town of Hurt, Virginia  
Council Meeting Minutes  
April 4, 2023

Hurt Town Council held its monthly business meeting Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at town hall. The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Gary Hodnett with a quorum present.

Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Gary Poindexter, Mrs. Christian Tyree, Mr. Bob Majure, Mr. Jeremiah Knowles, Mr. Glenn Mitchell, and Mrs. Kathy Keesee via phone call

Closed Session

A motion was made to enter closed session to discuss personnel and prospective business as authorized by VA FOIA § 2.2-3711 A (1, 3, 5,).

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mr. Majure

Passage: Unanimous

Council entered closed session at 6:00 p.m. and exited closed session at approximately 7:19 p.m.

A motion was made to return to open session and to certify that only personnel and prospective business matters were discussed during closed session, as required by VA FOIA § 2.2-3712 (D).

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mr. Knowles

Passage: Unanimous

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Poindexter

by Mayor Hodnett

Invocation:

Pledge of Allegiance: led

Welcome/Opening Remarks

Mayor Hodnett welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. He also stated anyone that would like to speak during the public comment period can sign up on the sheet and will have three minutes to speak.

Additions to the Agenda

Mayor Hodnett stated the only thing I want to add to the agenda is discussing moving from six to four council members to decide if we want to move that to a public hearing at the May meeting. When we get to new business we will briefly chat about that and see what the council decides.

Opening of Public Comments

Brian Nichols with Blair Construction stated he is the Blair Construction Project Manager for the First Southern Baptist Church. They are at 700 Prospect Rd Hurt Va. We are currently doing an addition to that property. Part of that project, we are increasing the waterline size. Currently it has been a three quarter size meter and we are increasing that to a two inch and we would like to install with our contractors that connection on tap. We're using the same contractors that I think perform the work currently for the Town of Hurt, Tony Construction. Also, Select Air is overseeing the scope of the work. We are asking for a waiver to allow us to oversee and have that work performed directly with a utility contractor. We have other work that is related and will be on site. Mayor Hodnett asked Joe what the Town's policy was on that. Joe replied the policy states that we provide the tap, the line, the meter box, and the meter. They would provide the pressure regulator and the backflow preventer that has to be serviced annually. It

would be up to the contractor, which is Tony Construction, to apply for the VDOT permit for the underground work. That is what the policy says. Mayor Hodnett asked why would you want us to give you a waiver, what is the advantage to you doing it as opposed to us? Brian replied it is a cost savings for the church. Joe replied I don't know if there is any type of liability for that. If they do the work and something happens, then we have to pay for the repairs. Attorney Eller stated that's why we would do it ourselves, why we have a contractor. Mayor Hodnett stated any questions or discussion? Mr. Majure stated if we're going to take any liability on with this, I prefer we did it, just so we don't have any potential for much larger bills going into the Town. That is what the policy is for, I think we should stick to it. Mr. Poindexter stated I would be concerned for an increase of liability for the Town. Mayor Hodnett asked council members to raise their right hand in favor of sticking with the town policy. All council members raised their hands. Mayor Hodnett stated I am sorry but we are going to stick with our Town policy. Brian replied understood, thank you and for your time.

Mr. Scott Torres with Monte Vista Baptist Church stated I am here tonight just to say thank you for giving me a few moments to address you. On behalf of Monte Vista Baptist Church and by Council to our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. 75 years by God's grace we've had the privilege of serving this community. We'd like for you guys to come and we would also like to not necessarily recognize you by name because we don't want to intrude in that way, but we would like to just recognize you as our guest. It starts at 10am and will be done by 11:45am and we will have a covered dish. We are expecting about 200 people. We've been planning for this and we just thought it would be fitting because of your influence in our community to invite. We really would love for y'all to come, it would mean a lot to us. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you for the invite.

#### Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the February 21, 2023, work session minutes, March 7, 2023, minutes, and the March Expenditures as presented.

Motion: Mrs. Keesee

Second: Mr. Majure

Passage: Unanimous

#### New Business

Mayor Hodnett asked do we want to move the changing of six members to four to a public hearing at the May meeting? Mr. Majure stated I think we should at least hear the public on this.

A motion was made to have a public hearing at our May meeting to hear from the public from six to four council members.

Motion: Mr. Majure

Second: Mr. Knowles

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett stated another thing we have to decide with Glenn coming back on board now and Bob both representing us on the Planning Commission. I think we can only have one member. Mr. Mitchell stated Mr. Majure can have it. Mr. Poindexter stated while we are going over business, our Board of Zoning appeals that we just got restored finally last year, Brooke Gibson's term expired on December 31, 2022. There needs to be an appointment made in the near future to that seat so that way we have all three members on the PC in the event they are needed. Mayor Hodnett stated we will work on it, it was hard getting those. Mr. Poindexter asked are we up to date on P.C. membership now? Mayor Hodnett replied, no, that is part of the meeting that they are going to have on the 12th. They've got to do that restructuring so Gary wants to go ahead and get that out of the way. Mr. Knowles asked would Brooke be willing? Mayor Hodnett replied I will make a phone call in the next couple of days and see if we can talk her into it. They never had a meeting, so it's not like it is really hard to be on it.

It is budget season, we would certainly enjoy the public coming to our meetings on budget, and see what goes on and see why some of the things are being done. That will be going on in the work sessions and in May for sure and probably June. Mr. Poindexter stated probably some this month but more so in May. While we're talking about and just for matters of record, the line items that have to be filled in for the forecasting tax revenue which is based on evaluation data from the county. We can't really do anything and finalize the budget until we have the data from the county. We currently have no reason to think that we're going to have that before the second half of this month based on feedback. We can estimate based on last year's numbers but that's all we can do because that is subject to change. As soon as we can get that information from the county, then I'll go ahead and put those into the spreadsheet of what that will populate, but until then, we have plenty of other line items to work on. I felt that you were aware that that's one of the delays we have run into. Mayor Hodnett asked were there any more comments on the budget, Bob you are working with Gary on the budget correct? Mr. Poindexter stated he had time to work on a few line items this morning. Mr. Majure replied yes, without that valuation it makes it really hard to understand what the revenues will look like. Mr. Poindexter stated I know for some of the critical lines those are the biggest line items, real estate and personal property tax, so you've got that information from the commissioner's office. Mr. Majure asked, it looks like before May 1st, correct? Mayor Hodnett replied I was told they were shooting for April 15<sup>th</sup>, but they wouldn't guarantee me that date and that they certainly hoped to have it by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Probably plan on the April work session meeting to have at least some work done on it because it's a lot that can still be done. Even though we don't have those valuations, we can go to work on water, for example. Mr. Poindexter stated like every year we are going to have to look at it line for line and see how we performed last year. There are going to be hard decisions, some of this stuff is not going to be easy.

Mayor Hodnett stated part of the things that we've got to consider, this is medium to long term, but we need to be prepared for it. The fire hydrants that have to be replaced and I talked about that, that's going to be coming. The gate valves that go on the hydrants, we had one replaced on Dogwood. A single gate valve on a hydrant is \$13,000 and we have 70 fire hydrants in town. They have to be on a cycle and the state is doing a mandated business plan and this has to be part of that plan. It has to be in there, we have to have a structured policy of when we're going to move on these things and when we are going to get them repaired and replaced, because they do have a life expectancy.

Mr. Poindexter stated while we are talking about that, do you mind elaborating a little bit on how that fire hydrant project is separate from other water system capital projects that we are or we'll be working on, how that has to be kept as a discrete feature from everything else. Mayor Hodnett replied it's a replacement policy that they're going to give us. A fire hydrant is going to show up as part of our infrastructure, part of our capital because it carries a value. We're going to have to replace probably ten to 15% of them a year and that's expenditure that we're looking at. It's going to be on once we get through all of them and Joe, correct me if I'm wrong, with their life expectancies coming up, we want to start on them and stagger them five to 10 years before that, because once we take them out of the box, and we start on them the time starts running on the new CRP system. Mr. Poindexter stated that's not a small project, you're talking about half a million dollars. Mayor Hodnett replied that don't count the gate valves, you're talking about another \$385,000, so another million dollar project. Mr. Poindexter stated it's one of those things you plan for, it's not all at one time, it takes several years. Mayor Hodnett replied the point is, if you know it's coming down the pipe you don't want to wait until two years before you have to start on this stuff to get your plan in place. We want to start planning on it now. Mr. Majure

asked if we will get a list and the life expectancy? Mayor Hodnett replied that is what we are working on now.

#### Reports from Legal Counsel

Attorney Eller stated the charter amendment resolution ready and we will get that in the paper. The variance is going to be discussed on the 12<sup>th</sup> at the planning commission. We will put the ads on it starting tomorrow for the public hearing which will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> at the work session meeting. It will be a joint public hearing for the Council and the Planning Commission. The writ of election to get the appointee's seats filled officially is going to be going to the judge this week or next week, so anybody that wants to run you don't have to sign up to run.

#### Reports from Staff

Treasurer-Ellen Brumfield reported in the general fund we have \$604,802.86, APRA Recovery Fund is \$526,606 if we subtract that from our general fund, we have an operating budget \$78,196.86. Of course we're starting to work with our auditors. The next schedule for them to meet here with us is going to be on the ninth of May. We're starting into the audit season as well as we are beginning to work on the budget for the year 23 and 24. I'll be reporting the project and expenditure report to the US Department of treasurer for the COVID Relief Fund. Town Council you received an email regarding the check register to approve. I will pass that around for everybody's signature.

Clerk-Kelsie Anderson- absent from meeting, no report.

Public Works- Joseph Smith reported he has been working on billing, and that is getting ready to go out on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Been working for 3-4 weeks on the asset management list for the whole Town's distribution water. I am currently working on the CCR that has to go out with the water billing. I had a complaint over here on West Spencer, the rain washed one of the pipes down, so I had to contact VDOT and they came out the next day. Also been working with several residents on water leaks and repaired a few meters that have been damaged by lawn mowers, which we are getting reimbursed by the residents.

#### Police Department-Chief Lovelace

##### March 2023 Police Report

Calls for Service

Civil Complaints- 0

Suspicious Person- 0

Public Service- 3

Vandalism/Destruction of Property- 0

Disorderly Subject- 2

Theft from a vehicle- 1

Family Offenses- 1

All other offenses- 1

Automobile Accident- 0

Fraud- 1

Traffic Stops- 0

Other

Miles Driven-580

Assist Other Town Departments- 0

Use of Force- 0

Department/Officer Complaints- 0

Department Updates-

Continue to upgrade and remodel the evidence room.

Warnings are being issued for speeding violations in the school zone.

LOLE grant has been applied for and we have been awarded for \$1,106.00 for overtime

ARPA Law Enforcement Equipment Grant has been applied for and we are waiting approval, the amount is \$10,000.00

Sam.gov has been renewed.

Public Safety-Mike Jones- no report

Report from Mayor-no report

Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm

Kelsie Anderson

Kelsie Anderson-Clerk

Gary Hodnett

Gary Hodnett-Mayor