

Town of Hurt Meeting Minutes
April 6th, 2021
Hurt, Virginia

The Town of Hurt Council members held a meeting on Tuesday, April 6th, 2021 at Hurt Town Hall. The meeting opened at 6:01 PM by Mayor Gary Hodnett with a quorum present.

Roll Call

Member's present were Mr. Collin Adams, Mrs. Shirley Barksdale-Hill, Mrs. Kathy Keesee, Mr. Steve Watson, and Mr. Donney Johnson.

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

Motion: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill Second: Mr. Adams Passage: Unanimous

Council entered closed session at 6:05 PM.

Council exited closed session approximately 6:15 PM.

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

Motion: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill Second: Mr. Watson Passage: Unanimous

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Mr. Watson

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Hodnett.

Open Remarks

Mrs. Keesee suggested that we pick one grade to create a drawing/ picture for the Town sign.

Mr. Adams suggested we ask each school to pick the top drawings, Gary stated we will ask the schools to pick their top 5 drawings.

Consent Agenda

Gary asked was there any corrections that needed to be made to the March 24th minutes? Mrs. Keesee stated a few spelling errors needed to be corrected. Mayor Hodnett stated please look over minutes prior to meeting. All council members voted to approve minutes. No Motion was made.

Hearing of Citizens/Public Comment Period

Tim Dudley wanted to make a comment to the council and express “thank you” to everyone who came out and helped with the trash pick-up. He also expressed a big thank you to Regina Adams and wanted to recognize her for getting the word out. Last trash pick-up we had it was about 10 people who showed up, and this past time the Town had over 60 people show up and 82 bags of trash picked up.

Mayor Hodnett stated we had a lot of positive responses from the public regarding the pick-up.

Mrs. Keesee stated we should look into getting certificates of appreciation and acknowledging people like Regina.

Mayor Hodnett stated that there is an anonymous tab on the Town Website where individuals can report litter issues. If there are any reports that come in, we turn it over to the police.

Mike Jones stated we can have a voluntary conversation a lot of the times people will admit to littering, and we can give them a warning. We can start putting a game camera in that area and start identifying a little hot spot which can give us a license number and or a driver's identification.

Report from Legal Counsel-Attorney Eller

Attorney Eller stated first thing we need to do is send folks a copy of our solar ordinance that way they know what is required.

Gary stated they are aware, they have pulled it from our website, minutes, and our meetings, but he will follow up with them tomorrow.

Attorney Eller also reported that the special election will be held on November 2nd to fill out the term of Jeff Bowling, Bowling's term is done in 2022.

Reports from Staff

Administrative: Ellen Brumfield, Treasurer reported the Town of Hurt's balance in the general account. Brumfield reported that \$200,000.00 was moved into the new account (LGIP) for infrastructure development and repair. The VRSA 4th quarter payment we had a credit \$1865.00 from the 2019 workers compensation subrogation toward our April invoice which is \$3,332.66. The federal tax refund is \$2,080.92 over payment from 2020. The concerns with the payroll VRS deductions have been rectified.

Administrative: Kelsie Sligh, Clerk reported that all accounts payables were up to date and getting paid on time. Sligh reported that she had been uploading draft minutes, approved minutes, and all agendas on time. Facebook was being posted on several times a week. Lastly Sligh reported that she was getting ready to work on the DMV Stop in hopes to get information on delinquent personal property taxes.

Public Works

Public Works: Colleen McGrath reported that 131 radio meters were installed as of today, and the young gentleman installing them were very professional, accurate, and detailed. They make it easy to work with.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked if we flip a switch when they are all in, are they activating them as they are putting them in? Colleen stated that they have a app that takes pictures and readings that loads them into Southern, and that there is still some training that she will need on that.

Mrs. Keesee asked how many meters does the Town have? McGrath stated we have 360.

McGrath has also reached out to Brandon King since the Town approved him; he is with the cable protective services. They are requesting a letter from us to confirm the service agreement. McGrath reported that we are running low on the Town trash cans, we only have 3 left, so she reached out to our salesperson to get more. The Town only needs a small number of new trashcans but the company we buy from has a 25 trash can limit due to the custom artwork. The 25 trash can limit has a price of \$1,751.00. McGrath stated that she is also working on only having 1 can per home, and that after each trash pickup cans must be moved back to the house and off the road.

Mr. Watson stated that a few trash cans had been getting stolen, McGrath stated that a few trash cans had been getting stolen and she has been replacing them. McGrath states she is working on getting the trash can serial numbers as she replaces them to help prevent stolen trash cans.

McGrath states that our goal is to have one trash can per home, or additional charges will be made. She states that she understands if larger families need 2 trash cans, she will certainly work with them, but the end goal is one, or additional charges.

Gary states it is one trash can per house, for additional trash take it to Motley or Grit.

Mr. Adams made a motion to buy 25 more trash cans for the Town of Hurt as cost.

Motion: Mr. Adams

Second: Mrs. Keese

Passage: Unanimous

Police Department Report

Chief Jason Lovelace reported that the call for service:

Civil Complaints-1, Suspicious Person-1, Public Service-0, Vandalism/Destruction of Property-0, Larceny-1, Suspicious Vehicle-0, Arrest-1, Alarms-0, Assist other Agencies-2, Mutual Aid (LE)-0, Traffic Stops-0, Sex Offences-1, Motor Vehicle Accidents-1, Animal Complaints-1, Trespassing-2, Fraud-1, All other Offenses-1.

Other: Miles Driven-1012, Training-40 hours of New Chief training, 40 hours of General Instructor, Assist other Town Departments-2

Use of Force-0

Department/Officer Complaints-0

Department Updates: Chief Lovelace states he continues working on background checks on the applicants that have applied for the Police Officer position. Lovelace states he is also working with Treasurer, Ellen on advertising on the VEC site.

Mr. Adams suggest that we move forward with the interviews that have gotten back to us and with the completed background checks. Chief Lovelace states that he will send an email out stating what he has so far.

Mr. Jones states that we should look into interviewing 2 applicants that we do have, and when we finish

the other applications and background checks we will send them to the council as well. Based on the availability at the time we will make an offer if we have a opening and if not we will put them on a waiting list.

Public Safety/ Assistant Town Manager- Mike Jones

Mike Jones reports that the safety zone project is well on its way, we are still waiting on VDOT. The Town of Hurt is the first one in the state to be putting the school safety zones in, everything is moving well. Opt traffic is excited to be participating in this with us and they are looking at the regulations. We are hoping to have this done within the next 2 months. Once the equipment is installed and we test run it for about a month we will let everyone know how it is used and why we installed it. Mayor Hodnett and Chief Jason will be on the TV and social media to explaining what this is and how it works. Jones says this is the easiest way not to get a ticket, when you enter in a school zone, do not speed when the lights are flashing. This is exciting project for the Town.

Jones reports that we are also working with all local authorities on Marcus Alert Program. This program is if a person is experiencing a mental health crisis, police will be involved but not necessarily the initial responder. This program will allow all mental authorities to show up rather than just our Chief. Jones reports that we have some new cares money coming from Congress, so he is watching that closely. The CDC has issued new guidance for the folks who have gotten their first vaccination, and he highly recommends they get the second one.

Jones is updating the Towns Emergency plan which has not been updated in a while, he is also working on updating the Appalachian plan in case of an emergency at either lake.

Mike states we are also working on Chief Lovelace to have permission to carry a shotgun. Also, I want to put out on the website a safety hazard reporting link so that the citizens can report anything they see within the town, like a broken tree limb in the road, a dead animal, or a power line. I just want the citizens to have another way of reporting so that things can get resolved really quick.

Reports from Membership, Boards, and Commissions

Administrative: Kathy Keesee reported that she will be meeting with Kelsie and Colleen. She wants to meet with Colleen on the Town Hurt signs and the ideas that they have come up with. She wants to meet with Kelsie on some updates on the Town Website and new photography.

Community Development- Due to Mrs. Clay being absence, Mayor Gary Hodnett reports for her. Mayor states for the Memorial Saturday, Mrs. Clay asked for Mrs. Keesee's help with that. Mrs. Clay has reached out to a couple bands and plans to have them come in. She is getting all the hotdogs and working on getting everything lined up. Chief Merricks in Altavista will be doing our BBQ for us for this event. He will cook it the night before and have it on site the next day for us. We plan to have BBQ, hotdogs, and 2 or 3 bands play, the time of this event that we are thinking is 11-2, or 11-3. Mayor Hodnett states we need to discuss a budget for this event.

We would like to get certificates to recognize each Veteran at this event and get plaques to recognize our former Mayors.

Mr. Watson makes a motion that we budget approximately \$2500.00 for this event.

Motion: Mr. Watson

Second: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill

Passage: Unanimous

Finance: Mr. Watson states he has nothing to report. He did state though he wanted to meet with the Finance committee and go over the budget. He also states that he wants the report for the cost of a new police officer.

Public Works & Planning/Zoning Commission: Collin Adams states he has nothing to report. Collin stated to Chief Lovelace asking if we had a school zone flashing sign. Chief Lovelace stated no. Collin stated that we need to get that sign, and he states we will call VDOT. Collin reported that we needed to get litter signs. Gary states that we are working with the county to get cameras to catch anyone that litters, and we will contact VDOT about litter signs. Attorney Eller states having the signs up will help when reporting litter. Mike Jones will reach out to Keep Virginia Beautiful and see if they can give us some signs.

Report from Mayor Hodnett

Mayor Hodnett expresses that we have a project going on, and that he wants the Public Works Committee to get involved and engaged. Mayor Hodnett reports that he has had a lot of complaints about cats, he states that the county does not pick them up, our advice would be to catch them and take them to Yellow Branch, they will take them and put them up for adoption. Mayor Hodnett states that there has been a lot of complaints of violating ordinances on houses, example grass to high, weeds on meters, etc. If council or anyone else see's violations, then they need to file a complaint and report it to Colleen. Hodnett states that we need to do a letter addressing the violations and he will sign it and we can send it out.

Mayor Hodnett also reports that he spoke with Attorney Eller about switching rental properties back over to the owners, this way if the renter moves out and does not address the water, then we can bill the owner and that way the bill will be the responsibility of the owner. Attorney Eller is researching more about that and how we can move forward with that.

The tree on Roark Street will be cut down. The owner told Mayor Hodnett that we can do what we need to do with it, so we are taking bids to cut it down. This will be resolved in the next 2 weeks.

Ms. McGrath also announces she along with other staff are working on collecting phone numbers to update the system in case we need to get in touch with them.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:36

Kelsie Sligh
Clerk

Gary Hodnett
Mayor

