

Town of Hurt, Virginia  
Council Meeting Minutes  
August 2, 2022

Hurt Town Council held its monthly business meeting on Tuesday, August 2nd, 2022, at Town Hall. The meeting opened at 7:00 PM by Mayor Gary Hodnett with a quorum present.

**Roll Call**

Members present: Mr. Luke Perdieu, Mr. Gary Poindexter, Mr. Donney Johnson, and Mrs. Shirley Barksdale-Hill; Members absent: Mrs. Kathy Keesee and Mr. Collin Adams

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation: Mr. Poindexter

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mayor Hodnett

**Opening Remarks**

Mayor Hodnett stated, I want to thank everyone for coming. Council, we have a lot of stuff we are going to pack in tonight, so we are going to move fast. Also, something has come up today, so at the end of our meeting I am going to ask for a closed session.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Hodnett asked, has everyone had a chance to look at the minutes? Do I hear a motion to approve as they are?

A motion was made to approve July 25<sup>th</sup> minutes as presented.

Motion: Mr. Perdieu

Second: Mr. Johnson

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett asked, are there any questions on the July budget expenditures? Mr. Poindexter stated, I would like to make a few comments, and ask a few things about that, but it may be more suitable to do that in the finance report as opposed to now, whichever suits you. Mayor stated whatever you want to do. Mr. Poindexter stated let's just do it then while we're talking about finance. Mayor Hodnett stated, additions to the agenda – as I mentioned earlier there will be a closed session after our open session.

**Public Comments**

Mayor Hodnett stated, Mr. Tribble you signed up to speak and for the people that came in late, would anyone else like to speak? No comment. Mayor Hodnett stated Mr. Tribble the floor is yours and you have three minutes.

“My name is Ernest Tribble, been a property owner in this town and my family since 1958. We’ve had several incidences here lately in our community and we’ve needed police protection; we need police presence and I just ask the police officer, ride through, be seen, let people know that you are there for them. It's a lot of people complaining, I'm not the only one. We’ve had several markings on buildings and houses. I had our back basement window kicked in and everything in there I had stacked up was destroyed. It was wiped out, and there is no saving any of it. This water bill thing I’ve read, if people are late or haven’t paid their water bill, you are going to shut it off and charge them \$50 more dollars to turn it back on. We are in recession; a lot of people without jobs, you got sickly people, older people

that can't pay the bill right on time; maybe they can make monthly payments but maybe they just hadn't had a chance to contact the town to try to work it out, but if they can't pay the water bill and \$50 more to it, it don't make sense to me. It's just going to make it harder for them to turn it back on. Putting it back in the system. We need to work with the people, not against them. There's a lot of taxpayers in this town that are paying a lot of money. We don't need to keep adding to that. We need to start saving money. Last time we were up, Hurt had four police cars and two police officers. Why, I don't understand why, why are we paying taxes and tags, and insurance on these vehicles that are just sitting there, but it keeps on going back to the taxpayers, pay more, pay more, pay more. I am just asking, let's work with the people and save them money." Mayor Hodnett responded, I think we all agree on that, thank you.

### **New Business (Water Cutoff Policy)**

Mayor Hodnett stated, this is right off Mr. Eller's computer, so he has been through it – if we can get a motion. Mr. Perdieu asked if the current reconnect fee was \$50? Mayor Hodnett responded, correct. Mr. Perdieu stated, it is my understanding that if people are having a hard time paying their bill, they can come into the Town Hall and make payment arrangements and their water will not get shut off. Mayor Hodnett stated absolutely. Mr. Perdieu stated, so we're not just shutting the water off, just because they're not paying the full amount. Mr. Tribble's concern is about people who make no effort. Mayor Hodnett stated, they make no effort; they tell us they are going to come down here and then they don't show up or tell us an amount that they want to pay every month on past due balances. They start to pay for one month and then discontinue payments. Attorney Eller stated, well, I think it would be a good idea to kind of go with a billing policy. Of course, you get a bill every quarter, but your bill would be considered delinquent if it's not paid in 30 days. At that point, the town would send you a notice and say it's delinquent and potentially could be cut off, but it's not cut off for another 30 days, and 10 days before that happens, you get another notice. The customer is going to get a bill, they would not pay for 30 days, and then they would get a notice that they haven't paid it, and in 30 more days, they might be cut off if they don't come in like you say, Mr. Perdieu, and make arrangements. Even then, they will get a 10-day notice that it's going to be cut off, so that gives them another chance to come in and make arrangements. That is the way this could work because you'd have plenty of chances to come in and work things out. Mr. Poindexter stated, I like the fact that it has the three-tier option. We did not have that in the past; we had a disclaimer on the original bill that said no subsequent notice or reminder would be sent. This eliminates excuses. There are three opportunities here for a person to be aware that there is a balance – two of which one allows them to be late, and then the last one lets them know that termination of services is at hand. It does not preclude someone from making a payment arrangement if they have a hardship. If it's just negligence and they break the terms of the arrangement they agreed to, then that's not the town's responsibility. We've done our diligence. Mr. Johnson stated, that is three opportunities to negotiate with the town. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, it's pretty well laid out to give them every chance to communicate with us if there's a hardship, if there's something that we can do to help make it easy for them. I stand for the reconnect fee because you can communicate with us and we're working with you. If you have a big problem, we will know about that, but if you're just being negligent and let it drop, and there's some with that mentality, not everyone is so diligent about trying to work out paying their bills. There are some people who will wait until it's cut off before they decide, well, they're going to cut it off, so I'm going to pay it now. This is hopefully, some incentive – don't wait that long. The bills don't stop for this town having to pay for water. We still have to pay for the water even if other people can't pay their bills. Mr. Perdieu stated the 10-day notice, the last notice someone gets,

says, in the absence of payment of all charges/penalties, so for any payments on your account, your water will be disconnected. It does say in the absence of payment, so if you do make a payment it wouldn't happen. I think that's the only thing that I would change, but I don't think it's absolutely necessary. It's just to say, on the 30-day notice (a second notice they get), it says if you're experiencing hardship, please contact Town Hall. We had the bottom line say that or something like that, because I mean, you might be embarrassed that you can't make the payment, you know, you might not want to come down to Town Hall. A town resident asked, is the communication all via like mail? Mr. Perdieu stated it is all via mail. The resident replied, so to then they're kind of maybe unaware of what you're discussing now; hey, listen, we're willing to work with you like, how do you guys communicate that? Mr. Perdieu stated that's what we are working on now. The resident replied, maybe put it in a different color where it stands out. Mayor Hodnett replied, they know. Mr. Perdieu stated, I agree. Mayor Hodnett stated, it's in the newsletter, it's on the bill, we will put it on the website. Mr. Poindexter stated we are getting ready to do the next newsletter and there will be information in that about the new policies that we will pass for this and also for disorderly conduct in the building. Mayor Hodnett stated here's what you've got to realize... a lot of people, when we cut it off, beat us to Town Hall and pay their bill in full, in cash, so if it's a hardship, how does that happen? Mr. Poindexter stated two other things to go with that are: one, the fact that we have to pay Altavista every month. That is one thing, and the other thing, sadly, this is a tiny minority, as most people around here are reasonable people, but we've actually been taunted about things like this and told well, you know, I spent the money on something else. You know, it's basically saying, well, I just didn't want to pay it and I wanted something else that day. That's not hardship; that's gross irresponsibility. Mr. Perdieu stated plus that is not going to happen with your power; if you don't pay your power, they are going to cut it off. Mayor Hodnett stated, Dominion is going to cut it off in a snap of a finger with no notice. Mr. Poindexter stated, it's not an attack, it's just business. Mayor Hodnett asked, do I hear a motion?

A motion was made to accept the water billing policy as drafted.

Motion: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill

Second: Mr. Johnson

Passage: Unanimous

### **Old Business**

Mayor Hodnett stated, the blocks at the pump station – Collin has got those; they are sitting down there now. I think Joe, Collin had mentioned to you about maybe using Luke and your tractor to move them. I don't think it's going to be big enough to do it, do you? Mr. Perdieu stated, not my little tractor; I've got a bigger one – do you know what they weigh? If so, then I can tell you. Mayor Hodnett stated, I think about 2,000 pounds. Mr. Perdieu stated, my backhoe will do it. Mayor Hodnett stated, if you, Joe, and Luke can, get it worked out.

Mayor Hodnett stated, ordinances – Shirley, I understand you and John have got an ordinance for water cutoffs to kind of work with the policy? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, yes; we updated the full water ordinance while we were trying to make sure that the water billing policy was in compliance with state regulations, so it has been totally updated. There were some areas in it that had prices and we removed those because the prices need to be put on the master list, not within the policy. Some adjustments were made that comply with the state guidelines. We also went over misdemeanors that related to water and people taking water without asking or paying, that kind of thing. Mayor Hodnett asked if they had those ready for approval tonight? Attorney Eller stated we got the whole thing, but some of it you

need to advertise because anytime you set a new rate or a change of charge, you have to have a public hearing. I'll go over some of the things that are in here that we have changed or could be changed. In section 11-A, which is a general section about water service deposits and all the details that go with it, we had an application fee of \$50 for owners of property, and \$150 for tenants. We have changed that deposit to \$50 for everyone, but according to the state code you are able to charge between three months and five months of water service for a deposit. That would be a decision the council would need to make. In the code there is a breakdown between how customers that own their property are treated vs. customers that are tenants. For an owner customer, the deposit would be one quarter's estimated use or average use for residences in the town. That would be for owners and also for industrial and commercial. As to the tenants, we've had problems in the past with tenants not paying their bills and moving out. I think before we had said we wanted to have landlords to sign to be responsible for the water, but we can't do that. If a landlord wants the tenant to be the one that signs up for the water, they can sign an authorization form and we have to deal with the tenant. The law allows us to charge for up to five months' water service, so it could be three to five months. That would go with an application and the tenant would be the customer under that circumstance, so the council would need to look at those deposits – whether it be three months' or five months' deposit to get water service turned on. After you go through the process and the tenant's deposit has been used to defray the bill, then if there's an outstanding bill, a lien can be placed on the landlord's property or on the customer's property if they don't pay their bill. That's all allowed by the statute. The decision needs to be made as to what size deposit is going to be required – in the case of others and in the case of tenants. Also, we talked about reconnection; what will be the charge when somebody's water is cut off? What will be the charge to reconnect it? Right now, we have a \$50 fee to reconnect, and I know that there are localities that charge \$100. I think \$50 would be at the low end for reconnection fees. You also have situations I understand where once you cut the water off, the person comes out and turns the meter back on, so in order to keep them from getting the service free, we are forced to go out and take the meter out of the box. In a case like that, when they pay and are eligible to get reinstated, we have to put the meter back in and turn on the service. Would it be advisable to charge people that do that a higher reconnection? These are all decisions that we need to have made to finish up these ordinances. Mayor Hodnett asked, "I thought we had something in the ordinances about tampering with a meter, a \$500 fine? Attorney Eller responded, it's also a crime. If all you want to do is charge them with a crime, that's harder to do. You have to have proof beyond reasonable doubt that they did and that they're the one. That's why it's better, more effective to just take the meter out and charge to put it back. Once we get these figures in, we can put them in an ad and have a public hearing on it next month and pass all these. Mayor Hodnett asked wouldn't the council tonight decide whether they want to do the three or five months? Attorney Eller responded yeah, because we have to have something to advertise. This would be a proposal at this point. They wouldn't be passed. They would just be what we're going to put out for ads and the public hearing just like the budget. Mayor Hodnett asked any suggestions three or five? Mr. Poindexter asked, currently it is based on average quarterly billing for everything except rental property? Attorney Eller stated, no, it is not right now; what we have is \$50 for owner customers as an application fee and no deposit. Then \$150 for tenants' application fees, no deposit. We don't have a deposit. Mr. Poindexter stated, I remember the \$150 because we increased that a few years ago. We're talking about the initial deposit? Attorney Eller stated well, we have a \$50 application fee now. I mean, what we're talking about is eliminating \$150 for tenants and having \$50 application fee for everyone; then you have the deposit.



Deposit is the question; how much will the deposit be? Mr. Perdieu asked, so everyone is going to be charged a deposit, owners, and tenants? Attorney Eller responded right. Now, there's a provision in here that if you have a good payment record for 12 months, you can apply and get your deposit back. Mr. Perdieu asked, so like with your previous locality? Attorney Eller replied, no, it has got to be with the town; you'd have to make 12 monthly payments or 4 quarter payments on time to be eligible to get the deposit back. Mayor Hodnett asked, so we're going to charge the owner of the property; he's going to ask us to put it in the tenant's name, and then we're going to charge the tenant as well? Attorney Eller replied, we're going to charge the tenant the deposit. Mayor Hodnett replied right, not the owner. Attorney Eller stated, right, because we have to deal with the tenant. If the owner doesn't give permission for the tenant to deal with us, then the owner has to sign up for water. Mr. Perdieu asked, and the owner would have a lien on the property if it's not paid? Attorney Eller replied, eventually yeah, but the way that the statute is set up, the deposit is intended to protect the town and give enough money to cushion and time to cut when you cut them off. They haven't run up a bill more than the deposit and the reason that they say that the town was to deal with the tenant if the landlord gives us permission is to protect the landlord from getting liens on it. Mr. Perdieu asked, so under the water connection policy, if a tenant goes past 60 days without paying the bill, are we going to cut them off? Mr. Poindexter stated, that's disconnection. Mr. Perdieu stated if they are not paying their bill, we are going to shut them off after 60 days? Mayor Hodnett replied no, 90 days. Tom Fore stated, your bill has already been in your hand for 30 days. Attorney Eller stated, it's 60 days after its due. Mr. Perdieu stated so it has been a whole cycle by the time you cut them off. Attorney Eller stated they could get 90 days of service and then take off. Mr. Johnson stated, with that being said, the deposit needs to be for at least a quarter. Mr. Poindexter stated, I like the idea of the deposit being the quarter, if you go into 5 months you're getting into a fraction. Mr. Perdieu stated that's a hardship. Mr. Poindexter stated, it's a much larger amount to some people. Attorney Eller stated, another angle to the deposit for tenants is that if a landlord submits with an authorization to deal with a tenant, evidence that the person is on need-based housing assistance, then they don't have to pay the deposits, but the landlord would be required to pay. That would take the onus off of a low-income person to have to pay a deposit. Mr. Poindexter stated, this is going to preclude the bigger deposit even being applicable to a welfare recipient currently anyway. Attorney Eller stated, not welfare, but public housing assistance, which I would take is Section Eight. Mr. Poindexter stated, okay, I missed a word there, because when we talked about this last week, I thought that it was basically all public assistance, not just housing assistance. I took it meaning welfare and food stamps as well. Mayor Hodnett stated, I think it says public assistance – what the state code says. Mr. Poindexter stated, well if the word housing is in there, that's different. Mayor Hodnett replied, it's not in there. Mr. Perdieu stated, it makes sense to me, assistance period. Attorney Eller stated, well that's not what it says. The authorization is going to contain documentation showing that the lessee received need-based local, state, or federal rental assistance. Mr. Poindexter stated, that is specific. I didn't pick up on the detail last week. Mr. Perdieu asked, and the deposit is based on the town-wide average water bill? Attorney Eller replied, that's what we've said. It could be an estimated bill, but how are you going to estimate it? Better to try and come up with an average. Mayor Hodnett stated we can get an average, not a problem. Mr. Perdieu asked, just curious, do you know what that is? Mayor Hodnett stated he doesn't know right off the top of his head. Mr. Perdieu stated, we should advertise in the master list of rates and fees that this is the current deposit. Attorney Eller stated, you can update that annually. Mr. Perdieu responded, I think 3 months makes sense. Mayor Hodnett asked, so you all are talking about the deposit being 3 months, not 5? I like 5. Mr. Perdieu stated, I just think that makes

it more expensive. Mayor Hodnett stated, that's the reason; it encourages them to pay their bill. I'll tell you all what I would do; let's just put it off like we do so many other things for another month and you can come down here and spend a week with staff dealing with it. Mr. Perdieu stated, that's not what I want to do. Mayor Hodnett stated, then I recommend five. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated I thought quarterly would cover us from losing anything. My train of thought is that we lose as little as possible. In 3 months of time, they should have by then made their minds up if they are going to pay us or not. Mayor Hodnett asked, well define what an acceptable loss is? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill responded, well in order to pay us this deposit, at least we've got this in our possession for three months. If they go for three months, and they haven't paid, we have a deposit to cover those three months. At the end of those three months, they are going to either pay or not. Mr. Perdieu stated, the caveat to that is we have enough to cover the three months as long as they're using average water. If they leave the water hose outside running, washing the driveway, that's going to be above average. Mr. Johnson states that's where you lose. Tom Fore stated, just to understand the mayor's reasoning and rationale, and I may have been the reason that he's thinking that way, is because when you're into it 90 days, again, that bill is past due and they are eating another three months. While you're waiting to cut it off, you're out one month; if they've gone through and not paid you by the time you cut that meter off. Now, you're at six months with no revenue received for that customer and you're going to be out one month instead of 3. Mayor Hodnett stated, I want to quote what came from one of our council members... "you don't reward bad behavior." Shirley, does that sound familiar? That came directly from you. Mr. Perdieu stated, I think five makes sense because Joe may be backed up and something crazy may be going on with the water system and he may not have time to go turn them off, or they might be using above average use; five makes sense. Mr. Poindexter stated, I like that and I'm on board now because of Tom's point. You're already so far into the next subsequent cycle and you're getting ready to bill again, so you're doubling up and you need at least some kind of cushion against that. Mayor Hodnett stated, anything else on this, John? Attorney Eller replied well, let's be clear; in the case of the property owner, you're going to do three months, in the case of the tenant, you're going to do five. I mean that's what the statute allows. Mayor Hodnett stated if that's all it allows, then that's all we will do.

A motion was made to advertise for public hearing the setting of a deposit rate for new water service at three months' average for property owner accounts, five months' average for tenants, and three months' average for commercial and industrial.

Motion: Mr. Perdieu

Second: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett asked, do we want the reconnect fee to be different than a pull-the-meter-out fee? Attorney Eller replied, well, that's one of them. One of them is purposeful. One of them is you go out there and reverse what the town did, requiring the meter to be pulled out. Mr. Perdieu stated, if you got to pull the meter out, that's ridiculous, so I'm fine with charging a fee on that. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked, how high can we go on that, \$200? Attorney Eller replied, there is no limit; right now, we have \$50 for a reconnection. Mr. Poindexter stated, a hybrid solution there would be instead of going to \$100 for all of them would be to do a \$75 for normal conditions and then to double it to \$150 if Joe has to make two trips out there, once to take a meter out and once to put it back in, as that's a lot of time, work, risk, and everything else. That ought to be quite a disincentive for people tampering with meters. Mr. Perdieu stated, well if he is going out there to turn the meter off, then going back and pulling the meter, and then putting the meter back in, that's three trips. How much of his time is he losing? Mayor Hodnett

Responded, a whole lot, because when he goes out there that is taking away from other things he needs to be doing. Tom Fore stated, at a calculated rate, the \$50 comes from \$25 for the vehicle and demand for going out to the meter and then turning around and going back to what he was doing. Again, that's just the normal rate for that. When somebody tampers with a meter, the meter is pulled at \$150 fee to have it reset. Again, if it's a tenant that's doing it and not the owner, the owner needs to be made aware of these tampering with the public water system. Anyways, to try to keep it as simple as possible, \$50 is still in that area for towns the size of Hurt, because of the size of the town. In the city of Lynchburg, you may have to drive 20 miles to get to a meter, whereas anywhere in the Town of Hurt is within a five-mile radius and so he can cover that cost. Mr. Perdieu stated, just turning the valve off, reconnection fee, at \$50 and then we have to go out there and pull the meter and then later put it back in – I say \$250, to cover our time and we shouldn't have to do that anyway. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, sounds good to me. Mayor Hodnett asked, John, if we have to go pull a meter and find out someone is messing with the meter and they actually damage it, can we charge the homeowner for that meter? Attorney Eller responded, you have to prove that they did it. Mr. Poindexter stated, we passed that a few years ago and I had it on the old website at one time about anyone tampering with meters without authorization being financially responsible for any damages.

A motion was made to advertise setting the reconnect fee at \$50 and to pull/replace a meter at \$250.

Motion: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill

Second: Mr. Perdieu

Passage: Unanimous

Attorney Eller reminded, now we are actually proposing these actions for a public hearing.

Mayor Hodnett stated, Luke, on Municode you might want to consult John on that. Mr. Perdieu stated John has sent off a bunch of stuff; I don't know if they have everything, but as soon as they do there will be a lull and then they will get us a quote. I haven't heard anything back from them other than the fact that she got the file.

#### **Report from Legal Counsel – Attorney Eller**

Attorney Eller stated, I'm exhausted; that's all I've got for now.

#### **Report from Treasurer (Ellen Brumfield)**

Mrs. Brumfield was absent from the meeting.

#### **Report from Clerk/Social Media Admin. (Kelsie Sligh)**

Ms. Sligh stated she has updated the website with a new photo/slideshow; if any of you haven't had the chance to look at them, please do. Sligh stated, our auditors were here yesterday and today onsite, so we have been working closely with them to make sure that they had everything they needed. All of the reports for Real Estate and Personal Property taxes have been sent over to Southern for them to start mapping them into our database. We should have those back by August 16th to start preparing for our tax season. Lastly, Joe and I will start preparing for water bills to go out within the next week and a half. That is all I have.

#### **Report from Public Works Coordinator (Joseph Smith)**

Smith reported that the generator faulted twice at the pump station; it just blinks, which means no power. Once the system blinks, the pumps automatically shut off until it drops to a level that they kick back on again. We have to reset the computer every time the power fails. Then we worked on fire

hydrants. We finished mapping those. We finally got the correct numbers; in that list we gave you before to the right fire hydrants. We also found a lot of valves. Now, only two are missing. We know about where they're at, but we have to figure out how to locate them. The rest we have located and opened up. Then we painted a few fire hydrants. We're working on sampling. We're doing a lot of communication and emails between us and Staunton River Plastics with their meter installation, vault, and things like that. I have also been working a lot with a DBP project in Altavista – a lot of emails, a lot of work with the contractor for the punch list, and things that the VDH wants fixed. We also completed some sampling over there along with working on my sampling; getting ready to do my second round tomorrow. Mayor Hodnett stated he has been really busy. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated he also found a water leak at my house, and we got it fixed.

### **June 2022 Police Report (Chief Jason Lovelace)**

#### Calls for Service

Civil Complaints - 0

Suspicious Person - 1

Public Service - 2

Vandalism/Destruction of Property - 1

Sex offenses - 0

Assist Other Agencies (Emergency Services) - 0

Mutual Aid (LE) - 1

All other offenses - 1

Fraud – 1

Drug Offense - 1

Animal case - 2

Breaking & Entering - 1

Check for Wanted – 0

Traffic Stops – 8

Larceny - 1

#### Other

Miles Driven – 1,161

Use of Force - 0

Department/Officer Complaints - 1

#### Department Updates

We have had complaints about ATVs on public roadways; we have been sitting and patrolling in the areas to try to locate them. We continue to update our evidence room. Officer Sawyer and I attended legal updates for 2022 new laws in VA. Sawyer attended a DUID training with the Commonwealth Attorney's office on how to successfully prosecute a DUID. Hurt Police Department held a multi-jurisdiction luncheon hosted by Faith Christian Academy for child-based facilities in our area. Officer Sawyer and I attended a school safety conference in Hampton, VA. This training was at no cost and a scholarship for lodging was provided by DCJS. The Commonwealth Attorney's office came to TOH and it was Officer Sawyer who gave them a tour of our town. Sawyer was awarded a grant to attend Gang Busters.

### **Public Safety Director/Deputy Town Manager (Mike Jones)**

#### Activities and Initiatives of Note:

- 1) Working with residents on Spring Street who are experiencing neighborhood quality of life issues with issues of harassment, trespass, and vandalism.
- 2) Working with Pittsylvania County Zoning and Community Development in regard to a stop work order on a demolition contractor who did not stop work. Additional investigation discovered undocumented workers and the demolition company has been contacted to provide proof of legal presence in the US. Undocumented workers will not be allowed to work in the Town of Hurt.
- 3) Working with residents who continue to fail to clean up their property after receiving notices to do so. Final warning notices will be going out to all property owners/tenants who have not complied fully by August 15, 2022.
- 4) Banishment Ordinance developed to protect town staff from abusive persons who enter town hall and are abusive to town staff. Protection of town staff is a priority.
- 5) Reviewed latest grant fund availability for town/police services. At this time, not much is available .
- 6) Met with Deputy Secretary Brian Swann of the Office of Homeland Security regarding potential Homeland Security grants from the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- 7) Met with VA Dept of Criminal Justice Services regarding the feasibility of creating public safety aides to provide support services to the Town and our police.
- 8) Inspected street signage throughout town and have found multiple signs that need to be replaced by VDOT due to fading.
- 9) Request council to approve the proposed ordinance regarding accumulation of trash and indoor furniture on outdoor porches.
- 10) Controversy over the school safety lights in Altavista; the “bugs” have been worked out so that should not be a problem here in Hurt.
- 11) Weldon Cooper Center Training for Council Members, Mayor, and staff.
- 12) [https://www.vrsa.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/VRSA\\_OnlineUniversity.pdf](https://www.vrsa.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/VRSA_OnlineUniversity.pdf)  
VRSA Upcoming Training

### **Reports from Membership, Boards, and Commissions**

#### **Administrative (Kathy Keesee) – absent/no report**

#### **Community Development & Public Relations (Donney Johnson)**

Mr. Johnson stated, the power plant should be complete in November.

#### **Finance (Gary Poindexter)**

Mr. Poindexter stated, before I get into finances, I’d just like to take a brief moment and thank Kelsie for the new summer slideshow on our website/homepage. It looks fantastic. Regarding finances this month, I’ve reviewed the first month’s report for the new fiscal year; it looks good overall, though there were a few expenditures (e.g., payroll, office supplies, etc.) that don’t appear to be coded under the proper line item/account numbers and thus need adjusting before we get farther into the new fiscal year. Mayor Hodnett stated, we have corrected some and plan look at the others tomorrow .

A motion was made to approve the July Revenues & Expenditures report.

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mr. Perdieu

Passage : Unanimous

## **Public Works (Collin Adams) – absent/no report**

### **Report from Mayor (Gary Hodnett)**

Mayor Hodnett reported, tonight I would like to read off the duties that our clerk is performing. She manages all payments via phone call and in person, answers all phone calls, is the first person residents see when they come to Town Hall (so naturally the conversations/questions/complaints start with her), handles all tax agreements, and water agreements when Joe is not available, does all tax billing, works with Joe on all water billing, handles all tax delinquencies, works with Joe on all water delinquencies, pay all accounts payables on time, closes out all money batches and prepares them for bank deposit, answers all emails, works with the county on all abatements/ supplements, does daily sweeps (posting money from Payment Service Network to accounts), handles all RediVA payments (COVA), handles all ACI payments, tracks bank balances along with treasurer, types all meeting minutes before next meeting and coordinates with Councilman Poindexter for proofreading and when received back, coordinates with mayor to confirm and sign, manages the town website, sets up all new service water accounts in Southern along with their deposits, notarizes any documents for public (free of charge), works with Ellen to make sure all money in the drawer balances, works with Ellen gathering all information for Scott Wickham on audit reports, assists Mr. Wickham when on site, works with Joe on all revised water leak bills, works with Joe in BadgerMeter, handles all business license forms and payments, helps Joe with water service on/off when needed, handles all cigarette and meals taxes and forms, works closely in general ledger for cash receipts and cash disbursements, accounts payable – ensures all new vendors get added in, works with Ellen to make sure all vendors get checked for 1099's, makes sure all office supplies get ordered, ensures all important documents are filed away correctly, makes copies of all checks before being deposited, coordinates with Southern on mapping taxes into software, works with banks and escrow companies during tax season, delivers meeting packets when needed, assists mayor as needed – such as materials for meetings, agendas, and quarterly newsletters, keeps up with and manages our filing system, manages and keeps up with forms that individuals may need, acts as Clerk of Council and attends meetings, along with Treasurer Brumfield, proofs policies, resolutions and other material the mayor deems necessary, fold/stuff envelopes during quarterly billings, ensures all ARPA money or any refunds get into Southern the day they hit the bank, and makes sure all invoice coding is correct. Mayor Hodnett stated, this is more than her job description included when she was hired.

Mayor Hodnett stated, "I also received a letter from Elton Collin Adams Jr. today that read... to Mayor Gary Hodnett and the Hurt Town Council, the purpose of this letter is to inform you of my decision to resign from the Hurt Town Council effective immediately. This is a decision that I have not made lightly and have taken the time in giving thoughtful consideration. When I ran for and was elected to the Hurt Town Council, my goal was to use my specific voice, perspective, and experience to represent Hurt residents in the hopes of making a positive impact and contributing to making Hurt an excellent place to live, work, raise a family and visit. I truly believe that it takes a team to do this. I have been honored to have been elected and entrusted by the citizens of Hurt to be their voice and serve on their behalf. Although my term has not yet come to an end, I feel that I have reached the limit on the scope of the influence and my ability to fully represent. It is time to pass the torch to another. I have learned a great deal from my time on council and can only hope that my service has impacted in a positive way through kindness and respect, fair, thought-out representation, and a desire to "be the good" in all decisions. Respectfully Elton Collin Adams Jr.

Mayor Hodnett stated as I mentioned earlier, we need to have a closed session.

**Closed Session**

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, 7)

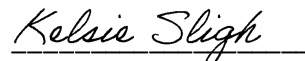
Motion: Mr. Poindexter                      Second: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill                      Passage: Unanimous

Council entered closed session at 8:20 PM and exited closed session at approximately 8:50 PM.

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: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill                      Second: Mr. Poindexter                      Passage: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

  
Kelsie Sligh, Clerk

  
Gary Hodnett, Mayor