

Town of Hurt Meeting Minutes
August 3rd, 2021
Hurt, Virginia

The Town of Hurt Council members held its monthly business meeting on Tuesday, August 3rd, 2021, at Hurt Town Hall. The meeting opened at 6:00 PM by Mayor Gary Hodnett with a quorum present.

Roll Call

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

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: Mr. Adams Second: Mr. Johnson Passage: Unanimous

Council entered closed session at 6:02PM.

Council exited closed session approximately 6:45PM.

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. Adams Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett stated that the only thing coming out of closed session was the solar farm lease agreement. A motion was made to approve the solar farm lease agreement.

Motion: Mr. Poindexter Second: Mr. Johnson Passage: Unanimous

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Mr. Poindexter

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Hodnett.

Consent Agenda

Mayor asked are we able to approve July 14th Planning Commission and July 15th minutes as is as well as the Budget vs Actual?

A motion was made to approve July 14th Planning Commission minutes, the town council meeting minutes from July 15th and the budget vs actual.

Motion: Mrs. Keesee Second: Mr. Adams Passage: Unanimous

Hearing of Citizens/Public Comment Period

No comment

Planning Commission:

Gary Boggs stated that everyone is in an agreement to approve this new comprehensive plan. It was prepared on July 14th and now being voted on August 3rd. Gary Boggs and the Planning commission voted on the Comprehensive Plan.

A motion was made that council accepts and approves the Comprehensive plan as is except for the date changes on it.

Motion: Mr. Adams

Second: Mr. Johnson

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett stated thank you, this plan is approved.

Report from Legal Counsel-Attorney Eller

Attorney Eller states that he has been working on the solar ordinance. Mayor Hodnett asked had Attorney Eller worked on the Economic Development Authority, Attorney Eller stated that Mayor Hodnett suggested that we form our own EDA, Attorney Eller stated that is not in his normal monthly pay, and that he has not figured out how much it would be yet.

Reports from Staff

Administrative: Ellen Brumfield, Treasurer reported that Monday and Tuesday we worked with the Auditors. Also, Donney and I have a meeting set up on Wednesday 08/03/21 to revise and work on the Employee handbook.

Administrative: Kelsie Sligh was stated that she did not have much to report on social media. Sligh reported still collecting delinquent tax bills, waiting on another big payment to come in the mail for back taxes from GPM Apple market. Sligh states she has been busy handling water and trying to prepare for water billing.

Mayor Hodnett states that Sligh and him have been out all week reading water meters.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked if we were able to use the radio-read meters? Mayor stated absolutely. Mayor Hodnett stated that the guy from Beacon came in last Tuesday to answer questions about the system and show us many benefits the system as in responding issues.

Public Works

Public Works: No comment

Police Department Report

Chief Jason Lovelace reported that the call for service:

Civil Complaints-1, Suspicious Person-2, Public Service-4, Vandalism/Destruction of Property-1, Suspicious vehicle-1, Disabled Vehicle-1, Alarms-1, Assist other Agencies-0, Mutual Aid (LE)-1, , Nosie Complaint-0, Animal case-2, Noise complaint-0, Simple Assault-1, Trespassing-1.

Other: Miles Driven-486, Training-801 completed FBI-LEEDA trilogy

Assist other Town Departments-1

Use of Force-0

Department/Officer Complaints-0

Department Updates: The Hurt Police Department has partnered with the YMCA to improve officer well-being. All members of the Police Department will receive a basic membership at no charge. On 07/21/2021, 801 attended a meeting with VDOT regarding the intersection of Ricky Van Shelton and East Hurt Road. We discussed installation of chevrons in both left and right directions, installing a bigger stop sign. I also requested to change the speed limit all the way to the Town limits to help reduce speeding towards the Grit community. Mike had already suggested a speed change in both directions, but I felt it would be in our best interest to change it completely to the line. Mr. Craddock stated that if it was not in the right way, it was up to us on what we would like to install.

Public Safety/ Assistant Town Manager- Mike Jones

Michael A. Jones – Deputy Town Manager/Director of Public Safety

1. Special Session – General Assembly Update
 - a. Good Budget News: state budget as proposed includes state money to support Unemployment Insurance so that localities do NOT have to increase our payments.
 - b. New Money: New Line Extension Customer Assistance Program LECAP to help extend broadband to customer homes from the Transmission boxes
 - c. Rebuild VA grant funding to help localities fund all eligible applications for business assistance to businesses that suffered due to the pandemic
 - d. VDH is targeting new health outreach to small communities like Hurt
 - e. VDH increasing funding to small and disadvantaged community waterworks
 - f. DBHDS will be creating a community crisis system that includes the county and Hurt, setting up the Marcus Alert System and developing a mobile crisis system along with a regional crisis receiving facility
 - g. State to survey towns and cities to ascertain customer arrearages to ascertain if additional funds to the town maybe needed
 - h. General Assembly to seek additional funding for the 2022 session for utility assistance
 - i. Comp time for public employees will be no longer – all overtime will be pay
 - j. Utilities will be banned from disconnecting utilities until 7-1-2022
2. New police officer arriving will cause an increase in the number of police reports. This is normal as there will be more eyes on the town at more times and more activities will be generated from the officer's activities.
3. Law Fit program now is required by DCJS. This is a program designed to increase officer wellness and reduce illnesses common to police personnel.
4. Several types of scams are becoming prevalent in our area. They are telephone calls, e mails and social media scams that are very sophisticated and seem to have your personal information. Please be very careful if you have any unsolicited requests. Please contact Chief Lovelace, Officer Sawyer or me if you have any questions and do so BEFORE you take ANY ACTION to comply with the scammers demands.

5. When you are working alone in the office, please keep the front door locked. This is for the safety of you in the workplace. This is also a requirement for OSHA and the Lone Worker Protocol.

6. Hurt Town Office Emergency Code Phrase PROTOCOL. If you are working with a customer and things become threatening or uncomfortable, use our NEW EMERGENCY CODE Phrase Protocol. This is how it works – If you feel that you need assistance or just want someone to come near to your office BUT you do not want to cause alarms or upset to the person you are dealing with, call, email or speak out with this phrase – SAMPLE – Gary, did you water the plants today? When ANY employee or Council member hears that phrase, they are to respond to the location of the staff member and stand by and observe for trouble. No one needs to feel unsafe in the office.

END OF REPORT

Attorney Eller asked the question if anything was listed that would pay the localities back for the loss water revenue? Mike stated that it still must get through to the Senate. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked if Mike has had time to review and prepare information for guidelines regarding Community Police Aid? Mike stated he has some of it drawn up, he is waiting to see the impact of the new bills that have come out for the new policing and waiting for them to be voted on. Mike states he is waiting for everything to be finalized. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill states she knows a guy that just retired who is interested too.

Reports from Membership, Boards, and Commissions

Administrative: Kathy Keesee stated that she reported last meeting about getting new photos to Ms. Sligh for the website, but with Ms. Sligh doing multiple things right now, I am holding off. Mrs. Keesee is still taking the photos, but I am holding off on sending them to her. Mrs. Keesee states that the new Hurt sign, is going to have landscaping around it. She states that she has been able to acquire someone who is going to volunteer and help do the land scaping. Keesee stated that this person has a license and can get all the materials at cost. We are looking at about \$1,000.00 in materials.

Community Development- Mrs. Clay was absent from this meeting. Mr. Poindexter reported that we are trying to improve communication to our residents. People who don't use the social media or subscribe to the paper, we are going to give the Newsletter another try and send that out with the water billing. Mr. Poindexter states that him and Dixie can work on getting a Newsletter done at home.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill states that this is an excellent idea, that several people have asked her what is going on new with the Town. This will be a great idea to spread the news to our residents.

Mike Jones brought up that this seems to be the month of scams. Scams are very convincing, they come through email and phone calls. He states that scams are asking for social security and driver licenses, and even gift cards. He states please be careful, if they ask for social security or any personal information to just hang up, if it is important enough, they will call back. The newsletter will be a good way to inform our elderly as well as others. Mr. Poindexter states we can post on Facebook or the website.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated that she received a scam email that looked like it came from Mayor Hodnett asking to get him gift cards and send him a picture of the back of the gift cards. Jones stated a popular

scam is a phone call stating they know your family, and someone is in danger of going to jail. He states it is a scam and to hang up.

Finance: Mr. Poindexter asked what is the status of getting the DMV stop going? Mayor Hodnett stated that Ms. Sligh has reached out to the DMV several times and gets nowhere. No one will respond, pick up the phone or anything. Mr. Johnson asked Attorney Eller if he could get involved and reach out to them. Attorney Eller states he will write them a letter. Ever since Covid hit, the state has been backed up stated Mr. Poindexter

Public Works & Planning/Zoning Commission: Mr. Johnson reported that Mr. Adams reached out someone at VDOT about the guardrails down at the Pump Station, he is supposed to get back in touch with Mr. Adams sometime this week. VDOT wouldn't be the ones installing the guardrails, they would subcontract it out to someone. Mr. Johnson states you can get a guardrail anywhere, but you must have someone install it. Mr. Johnson also states he is working on the handbook and that he will be meeting with Ellen tomorrow to go over it.

Report from Mayor Hodnett

Mayor Hodnett reported that right now we are looking at the possibility of adding \$50,000.00 of more work at the Altavista plant and rearranging the clear well. Mayor Hodnett was asked the question if we do that will it be a loan or an outwrite grant, he states they are trying to figure that out, he will prefer it be a grant. Hodnett was told that he has a letter coming from the County about the vehicles down at the river, that the county was going to be involved with it. Mayor Hodnett stated that this was all he had for the evening and thanked everyone for coming.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM.

Kelsie Sligh
Clerk

Gary Hodnett
Mayor