

Town of Hurt, Virginia
Council Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2023

Hurt Town Council held its monthly business meeting Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at the Hurt Town Hall. The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. by Vice Mayor Bob Majure with a quorum present.

Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Gary Poindexter, Mr. Bob Majure, Mr. Steve Worley, Mr. Paul Johnson, Mr. Michael Blackstock, and Mrs. Kathy Keesee via phone call.

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,).

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mr. Blackstock

Passage: Unanimous

Council entered closed session at 6:02 p.m. and exited the closed session at approximately 7:06p.m.

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

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mr. Johnson

Passage: Unanimous

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Mr. Poindexter

Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Mayor Bob Majure

Welcome/Opening Remarks Mr. Majure stated thank you all for coming today. I am sure you all are curious, for those of you who know I am the vice mayor, our mayor is sick and is undergoing an emergency surgery. We do hope that he is healthy by the end of this week and will be able to join us for our work session in two weeks.

What I would like to do next is bring up our Police Chief Jason Lovelace and Tristian Markins and we will perform a swearing in ceremony. Chief Lovelace stated this is Mr. Markins, he has been with us since about September. We anticipated to have him in the police academy in September but unfortunately it did not happen, so he will start January. Tonight we are going to be swearing him in. In the last 40 years I don't know that we have ever done a swearing in at a council meeting. It is normally a private service, I am trying to do something a little bit different for the PD and this is something in his career that he needs to have done in front of the public and that is what we are going to do tonight. At this time we will have the vice mayor come up. Before we start I am going to read to you a couple words. I look forward to working with you. If I can give you some advice, always remember to treat everyone with respect, professionalism, and treat them like you would treat their family. Just remember you don't have to be the best, just have to do your best, but always strive for excellence. I look forward to working with you. Mr. Majure stated please place your hand on the Bible and please repeat after me. "I, Tristian

Mrs. Kim Johnson stated 609 Lynn Street. Good evening, I'd like to address three topics. First, I commend you all on the tree lighting community event that was held on Sunday. It was well organized and well attended. I look forward to being more involved in future. Second, I'd like to request a more detailed agenda. Last month, the agenda named personnel as a topic on the agenda, not knowing what was going to be discussed in regards to personnel didn't allow for citizen input before a vote was taken. Third, I'd like to address the 8% raises given to employees of the town, raises were discussed in early spring and citizens present clearly expressed their opposition. The opposition was based on 8% raise last year, if I'm not mistaken, and then another 8% this year. The comments from citizens include costs rising for everyone, not just those employed in Hurt and raises were awarded were done so without considering their entire employment package, which includes paid health insurance for the employed and a partial paid insurance for family again, if I'm not mistaken, plus a payment into their VSRS

retirement. When the entire package is taken into consideration our employees are well compensated and are paid and commensurate with towns our size. I do not agree with awarding such a substantial raise two consecutive years and feel a 3% would have been more appropriate. We struggle as a town and maintain a miniscule budget leaving little room for needs, which are much less catastrophic failures, which are not an impossibility. We must pay our valued employees accordingly. However, we must be mindful of where our monies are coming from and how to best protect our town. Having said all of this, I am very appreciative of the job everyone does and having worked a public job and served on this council, I'm aware of how thankless public service can be. Thank you all for your dedication to our community.

Mrs. Emily Mayhew 209 School Road Hurt Virginia. My comments are going to be a little bit different, I know y'all are used to people coming up here with problems, but I am not coming with a problem, I am coming with a praise report, and Kim stole my thunder right off the bat, but anyway I wanted to comment the town employees, the town council, the mayor and everybody involved with the Hurt Christmas celebration here last Sunday. It was well attended everybody seemed to have a really good time. I know it was a whole lot of hard work and I just want to let y'all know how much we appreciate it. Everybody I heard out in the community said they really enjoyed it so kudos to everybody, thank you.

General Business

Solar Farm Lease Agreement Update- Attorney Eller stated I can report that we have been working on that for quite a few months with people at Pivot. They have two projects and two different leases. One is going to be 15 acres and one for 20 acres. I went through the leases a couple of months ago and marked them up with the changes that we would like to see and sent them to the Pivot folks, he had to go to out to Illinois on a project, so it was a little bit later until they got back to us. When they did, we had a good discussion on the 14th with the Mayor and Mr. Majure on the phone with the folks from Pivot. They pretty much made all the changes that we asked and we have a final version ready tonight, council discussed in closed session and we had some changes, small changes that need to be taken up with the Pivot folks before it's ready to be signed. I'll bring the changes that council wanted to their attention and hopefully we'll get it ready to be signed and turn up loose at the next meeting.

Council Christmas Dinner Dec. 20th , 6:00pm @ Hurt United Methodist Church

Mrs. Keesee stated each council member will be responsible for their fee of \$35 per person, and additional \$35 per spouse that comes. We would also like to ask our former mayor and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Payne, and Mrs. Gillespie to all attend and as an offer of appreciation to them for their past service, we would like to ask each council member and Mayor to pay an additional \$15 toward their dinner, so they do not have to pay for it. The dinners for all of our staff members and their spouses will be paid for. We've asked for everybody, hopefully by the middle of maybe next week, to bring your money to Town Hall to get it recorded. We need at least 30 people to attend this event to make it worthwhile. I really hope everybody joins in. It'll be a good time for us to get together and reflect. Mr. Poindexter stated that's essentially the same arrangement we've had the last couple of years and it's worked well, no issues. I see were having a new venue this year, Kathy thank you for doing the legwork on that.

Altavista Trash Pick up Contract

Mr. Majure stated we have been informed that the Altavista trash pickup contract is not going to be renewed this coming year and will end June 30, so this is something that we're going to need to decide how we're going to proceed on here in the future. Is there any discussion that we'd like to have in open

session about this? Mr. Poindexter stated well, I'll just start by saying that this comes as a surprise and not the kind of surprise that most of us was hoping to get tonight, but they're a part of public life. This is not going to be an easy problem to solve. There is no ideal answer or panacea to all problems with this. We were up against a similar situation approximately four or five years ago, when our previous company decided that they no longer wanted to service our time, we had the options of contracting with another town, or acquiring our own garbage truck, an operator, or contracted with a company that would cost substantially more as a private enterprise, or discontinuing the service. Those were really the only options that existed then and to my knowledge they're about the only options that exist now. You're talking about a service that is on the scale of \$50,000 a year, so this is not a small item. We're going to have a very interesting budget development process in the spring. This news is aimed and adds another layer to that, another order of magnitude. Nothing that we can do about it right now, but we all need to be aware of it. This is not going to be anything small or simple, but we're going to initiate a process of looking into possibilities. We've got to explore all of these possibilities now of what we can obtain the service for from other municipalities and or private enterprise, and that's where we are at this point.

Mrs. Worley asked if they gave a reason why? Mr. Majure replied I will answer that, but if there's any questions back, let's please save it for our next public comment session. The reason that we have been given this message is because of lack of resources from Altavista, based on the letter they've given us, so they're stating they don't have enough personnel to continue the coverage of our town. Council members, any other discussion that we'd like to have? Mr. Worley stated like you two just said, you and Gary, the Town of Altavista sees fit to terminate our contract in April, we don't have any say so over that. They don't want to pick our trash up, they don't have too. Our next option is get another town to pick our trash up, or like you said get a private firm, or get our own truck, or we start taking our own trash to the dump. Here we are, its nothing new that we can do, we just deal with the issue and it is not going to be cheap. Unless you want to put your trash in your own vehicle and take it to Motley or Grit then town council has to address this and with whatever figure we come with, I'm sure everybody will think that it will be too high, but its just a fact of life. We got to deal with it. We got several avenues that we got to look at as council and hopefully within a couple of weeks or the next monthly business meeting we will have some answers as to where to go to. Right now we are just kind of hit broadside with it. They are going to pick our trash up until April right? Mr. Majure replied June 30th. Mr. Poindexter stated it coincides with the fiscal year, so we're good through the end of June. Mr. Worley stated but they wanted to stop in April right? Mr. Majure replied yeah, but they are giving us the option to continue until June 30th. Mr. Worley stated so we have until June and if anybody has got any good ideas I am all ears, give me a call. This is just something we are going to have to work through as a town and I don't see a real cheap way to do it. That's what we have to deal with. Mr. Poindexter stated just for a sense of scale our current budget for that service is approximately \$37,000 a year. I think it is safe to say that it's extremely unlikely that we will be able to replace that service for a similar dollar amount. I will be surprised if it is anything south of \$50,000, I hope I am wrong. Mr. Majure replied I agree, so to the public, if you do come up with ideas, please feel free to email or call council members or bring it up during our next public comment section and our work session in two weeks. We appreciate any and all ideas. Mr. Worley stated if we could find a truck, but then you have the cost of the truck, maintenance on the truck, and somebody with a CDL to drive it. Getting somebody to come down here once a week to drive the truck with a CDL licenses is very unlikely. Any ideas would be appreciated.

Surveying the Durham Property

Mr. Majure stated the Durham property we've entered into a contract purchase. We have three companies that we have done surveys with in the past that is Nixon Land Surveying, Acres Incorporated, and South East Surveying. Councilmembers, are there any other surveying corporations that we would like to get a quote from? Mr. Johnson replied no, that would be three quotes right there. Mr. Majure asked any others that you want to include in that? Mr. Poindexter replied I know we have used Acres of Virginia before and you mentioned them. I'm not familiar with the other two but if we have all three qualifying firms that are doing business in our area of good reputes then I'd say we need to see who can give us the best price. Mr. Johnson stated we can feel free to let them know they are bidding. Mr. Majure replied oh yes, definitely, we will.

Basement Project

Mr. Majure stated we have also discussed the Mike Jones agenda item already, so we will go to the basement project. Mr. Blackstock asked do you know where we stand on the basement project, first of all, how much money do we have allocated for that project through the ARPA funds, how much is left? Have we talked to a contractor about proceeding with the project other than Glenda West? Mr. Majure replied, treasurer do you know those numbers for the ARPA money? Mrs. Brumfield asked are you referring to Glenda Jones? Mr. Blackstock replied yes. Mrs. Brumfield replied as far as her estimates, I am going to refer that over to Chief of Police because he worked close with Glenda regarding that, but before I do that I will address the balance, which I'll give in my report again as well in a few minutes. We have \$139,217.19 that we will be claiming in ARPA funds, March 31, 2024. Mr. Blackstock asked if that has to be allocated by March 21 2024? Mrs. Brumfield replied yes, well actually the end of the year is what the deadline is whether they extend it or not, that is up to the federal reserve. We should be able to claim that remaining balance of \$6,000 and some odd total that we were recipients of. Mr. Poindexter stated this brought up an important distinction, is that a deadline for committing the funds for allocating it, or is that a deadline for expenditure? Mrs. Brumfield replied for claiming those funds, retrieving it. Mr. Poindexter replied the amount you're talking about is the last of what we've been approved for in federal ARPA funds and we have to complete the process to get it by the end of March and then we have until when to actually spend it? Mrs. Brumfield replied that is up to us, it is ours after that, but we have to have that much in order for me to claim it and I am pretty certain I will have it. Mr. Johnson asked if that was the \$526,606? Mrs. Brumfield replied \$139,000. Mr. Poindexter replied we have already gone through the rest of it. Mr. Blackstock asked under the guidelines the \$139,217.19 does it have to be spent here on Town Hall? Mrs. Brumfield replied it can be various. Mr. Blackstock stated so it doesn't have to be spent on this building? Mrs. Brumfield replied no. Mr. Majure asked if all of Mr. Blackstock's questions were answered? Mr. Blackstock replied for that part of it. I talked with Glenda Jones and she stated we have had some sewer issues backing up in the basement, I guess Jason can fill us in on that. Chief Lovelace replied what we have is we have a drain line in the basement. The drain line feeds out to the sewage line and in the past, we've had that line stop up. In order to do anything in the basement, we need to address that problem before we start anything down there. I have reached out to different plumbers, who are licensed plumbers to give us a price on that right off the get go to see where we're at on that. I have not received any quotes yet for that. Joe replied you will have to jack hammer that, soak up the concrete floor, install a new pipe and eliminate two floor drains and put in a drain for the toilet and shower in the basement. Mr. Poindexter replied that is obviously a sizable plumbing job, but that is going to need to be done before the rest of the renovation project downstairs. Chief Lovelace stated even if we do not do a renovation in the basement, we still need to do that

because we have had problems with that multiple times and its not pleasant. Mr. Poindexter replied that has been a issue for years. Chief Lovelace replied yes, it has been a issue for years. Joe replied the only thing I can figure is there are separations in the joints. When they put the pipe together, its separations and causes it to back up. Mr. Blackstock stated Glenda was the general contractor for the upstairs modifications, and she's done extensive talks with a plumber and other contractors that she has talked with about doing some framing downstairs. I think we need to bring her in maybe for the next meeting and let her talk to us about the price and what she's found out as far as plumbing and taking care of the downstairs.

A motion was made to ask Glenda Jones to come to our next scheduled meeting (January) to discuss the basement project.

Motion: Mr. Blackstock

Second: Mr. Johnson

Passage: Unanimous

Mr. Majure stated to Mr. Worley that he wanted to discuss the locking of the front door? Mr. Worley replied it is not just the front door, the front door is opened during business hours right? Mrs. Anderson replied yes. Mr. Worley stated one of the councilman's wives wanted to sit in here during closed session and she was told she couldn't do it, why is that? Mr. Majure replied as far as I'm aware, having people sit in there, it could be potentially exposed to things that are related to other citizens income, tax information and protecting documents. Mr. Worley asked if those documents you are talking about are locked right? Mrs. Anderson replied when my office is locked yes. Joe stated the other thing you can hear everything everybody says in here during closed session right there in my office. Mr. Majure replied we wouldn't be able to do a closed session. Mr. Poindexter stated well that was issue years ago, I'll just leave it at that. I don't know what the answer is, but there needs to be if we're going to continue to meet in this building, there needs to be some type of provision for people who are awaiting a closed session to end and not have to be in the weather or in their car. Given the size of this building, the options are limited. We've seen tonight what the fire marshal has told us, the guidelines we've got to operate in. I don't see an easy answer to this here. I think we need to broaden this conversation to the idea of holding most of our meetings, especially monthly business meetings, where we have a larger turnout, or any event where we have a larger turnout, we need to look at holding those at a larger venue. One, where people have more personal space to reduce the spread of viruses. Two, where people have somewhere comfortable that they can wait inside for closed session and there's not an issue with confidentiality of documents or sound escaping through the walls or whatever the issue may be. Parking, lighting acoustics, I'm glad we're doing the Facebook live now but there's been multiple complaints about people not being able to hear all the proceedings of the meeting, which is defeating the purpose of covering it. I think we need to really evaluate how we're handling this whole thing and get some more refinement to it. Mr. Johnson stated I agree because you can't just limit it to the first 15 people that get here because everybody in this town deserves a right to be in here to hear what is being discussed. They have a right to know everything that's going on in person and not just be a first come first serve. We do we need to get this figured out. Mr. Majure asked if there was any locations that came to mind? Mr. Poindexter replied just for information It's an observation of mine from a few years ago, when I was looking around at things. I think the Chatham Council almost always has their meetings at the fire department. Now, we met at the fire department while we were doing renovation and honestly, that was not much of an improvement that room was not large enough. The acoustics are bad. There's no way that the entire council and support staff and attorney, it needs to be wherever one is facing the audience and the camera, just proper decorum for a meeting, and in addition to that is not comfortable. Two thoughts come to mind. One would be the gym at the elementary school, but we would have to

have an appropriate PA system in place for that and we have one. I'm not sure whether it's up to caliber we would need there or not, but there needs to be something there that everything that is said in open session appears audible to those watching us online and to those attending in person. Mr. Majure asked if it had a room that would be appropriate for closed session? Mr. Poindexter replied the elementary school gym would be an option as far as space is concerned, but now we would have to look at what room would be accessible as a waiting area that would be separated far enough to ensure there's no audibility through the walls for example. The other thing is and the Mayor is not here tonight, he's more familiar with the Plaza than all the rest of us but at some point in time it may be that there is a room over there that we could do some cleanup and modification and get that into a condition that we can use it for that purpose until someone leases it for business. We need to explore all options. There has to be a better way than what we're doing in here, that's my thoughts. Mr. Majure asked Mr. Blackstock if he had any ideas? Mr. Blackstock replied no, I mentioned to Gary earlier about the Plaza. Mrs. Brown stated I am thinking about a local church, the fellowship hall. New Prospect would have everything you need, the sound system, they would have to approve to do it. Mr. Poindexter replied I have some mixed feelings about that. I know they use it as a polling place and it's a matter of personal opinion. This is a free country, I'm not looking to legislate morality. I personally will have some questions about the propriety of using a church facility for anything substantially different than what it was built for. Sometimes it happens. Mr. Worley stated I wonder if Faith Christian would have anything. Mr. Poindexter replied it wouldn't hurt to look into that. Mr. Majure asked if Mr. Worley had any contacts there? Mr. Worley replied not really, but I know some of the folks over there. I can just go over there and suggest it. I know they got a small auditorium. It's much larger than this and the acoustic would be much better than the gym at Hurt Elementary. I think the seating you would have a problem then, I don't know about projecting the sound out, would just have to see what they offer there or even if they would be interested in entertaining the idea. I can go over and just ask. Mr. Majure replied I would appreciate it. Mr. Johnson any discussion? Mr. Johnson replied Faith Christian is a good one, it would be Dale Moore's wife. Mr. Majure asked Mrs. Keesee if she had any discussion? Mrs. Keesee replied no I don't I thought about the other suggestions that were already made. I don't have a clear choice on any of them yet, but I agree we need to have some place that's larger and safer and as far as confidentiality goes. Mr. Worley stated not enough room is a good thing, that means people are coming out, people are voicing their opinions and that is what we need. If this one is full then we got to find somewhere larger, and I hope if we get somewhere larger we will fill that one up. I thank everybody for coming out, we will try and find somewhere to seat you so bare with us on that one. Mr. Majure stated how about this, before our work session would you mind talking to Faith Christian folks, Gary would you mind talking to Hurt Elementary folks, and Michael would you mind talking to folks at New Prospect? All three members agreed to reach out to them. Mr. Majure stated we can talk about that at the work session and we can decide on how we want to move forward. Mr. Worley asked if that would just be for the monthly meeting and not so much to work shop? Mr. Majure replied that is fine with me. Mr. Poindexter replied we could do that on a case by case basis. Occasionally, there's a work session where there's a lot going on, or maybe something controversial and you have a big turnout, such as a budget session, but a lot of times you don't because the work session is more of an informal time for us to work through the details of things that are not typically done on a monthly business meeting. A lot of times we would be sufficient in this room for a work session, unless there's a reason otherwise but monthly business meetings or anytime you know that you are having guest speakers or a spike in attendance for any reason you need a bigger venue and one with all the amenities that we've discussed, access to

restrooms, a place for people to sit and wait outside of closed session, security, parking, and lighting. The front of this building is a trip hazard due to a lack of lighting. Right in front of this building it is dark. Mr. Majure replied I appreciate you all putting in the effort and we will discuss that at the work session in two weeks.

Report from Legal Counsel – Attorney Eller reported on the least and that was all he had.

Reports from Staff

Treasurer –Ellen Brumfield reported that our general account at First National Bank, we have a balance as of today \$375,226.87 as I briefly mentioned earlier, \$139,217.19 is ARPA funds that leaves us a balance of \$236,009.68. Town Council members do y'all want me to mention the LGIP account again, they are the same, we haven't received our statements for the month of December, again the numbers are the same. Council agreed they were ok. Mrs. Brumfield stated town council members you have received the bank reconciliation for the month of October, I will pass this around and need everybody to sign and date it so that we can have it on file. Town council members you received the November check register, I will pass this around I need your signature and today's date as well so we can have that on file and record. Lastly I would like to as Emily and Kim said earlier, thank you is probably not a big enough word for the staff, support, volunteers, the community that came out to our Christmas tree lighting. It was a lot of work but it was a lot of fun. I think it's a wonderful opportunity for everybody to get together in town and see the little children get excited and perform here on the stage as well. It is a good time of fellowship as you get ready to celebrate the holiday season, so thank you all so much. We look forward to next year's.

Administrative - Kelsie Anderson reported that November was a busy meeting month, so I have spent a lot of time typing minutes. Water bills were also due, so I was busy with collecting payments and now taxes are due so they are steadily coming in. All of the tax escrow payments have come in and that was over 250 residents, they have all been posted.

Public Works – Joe Smith reported I have been working on leaks at the trailer park. We had a issue where somebody moved out of the trailer park last week and rented it right out to another tenant, I contacted them when they moved in to connect the water, they had seven leaks. I told them this was going to cost them about \$3,000. I got with the owner of the trailer park and we are working out a way when people move out of the trailer they contact me and I let them know if they got a leak or not and they will fix the leaks before they rent it out. We are also waiting on the new employee to start, waiting on his drug test, and I think it was mentioned looking into doing a back ground check. Mr. Majure replied I think we should look into that. Joe stated I have been doing a lot of setting up for the Christmas and working on the fire hydrant, the one that was hit. I have been working with core and main and want them to come out and look at it because I think I can repair this one. I am also working on the procurement with Tom Fore for the lead and copper, we have about 4 people who are interested in bidding for the process. We do have about two or three WBE/NBE prospective. They sent their paper work in for all of that. Plus I have been working on some lead and copper notifications that are coming down for next year but we have to start doing the schools. There is a whole process that they sent out for me, like a packet and I have to get ahold of the principals and sit down with their maintenance staff and figure out how and when they are going to do this process.

Police Department – Chief Lovelace

November 2023 Police Report

Calls for Service-

Civil Complaints- 1

Suspicious Person- 1

Public Service- 4

Vandalism/Destruction of Property- 0

All other offenses- 3

Suspicious Vehicle- 0

Arrest- 0

Alarms- 0

Assist Other Agencies (Emergency Services)- 1

Mutual Aid (LE)- 2

Trespass of Real Property- 1

Traffic Stops- 1

Non-reportable- 2

Motor Vehicle Accident-0

Mental subject- 1

Animal case- 1

Paper Served- 25

Other

Miles Driven- 382

Training- none

Assist Other Town Departments- 0

Use of Force- 0

Department/Officer Complaints- 0

Department Updates-

I was invited to be on the CVCJA planning commission and was able to attend their meeting.

I assisted the Town of Bedford with panel interviews for a Sergeant position they had available.

Through stew fundraising as well as the community support approx. \$3,900.00 was raised for children in need at Christmas.

The Christmas 4 Kids Committee has already met for the distribution of funds for the children.

The funds raised will be divided between the children and gifts will be purchased.

Shopping for Christmas items has already begun.

This report does not reflect all the calls that have occurred in the Town of Hurt.

I had someone from Claire Parker Foundation contact me, she said the tree lighting was really nice and wanted me to ask the council if they could use the string lights for the Claire Parker race. I told them I had no idea I would be happy to pass this along. Mr. Majure asked when the race was? Chief Lovelace replied this coming Saturday. I did tell them if we did allow them to use them someone had to come take them down. Mr. Majure stated I will add that to our next agenda item

Mr. Johnson stated he had a few things. We got some school teachers in here, some retired school teachers are here and I was reading an article about Uvalde school shooting today and it said what was the difference, well all the children in the classroom did exactly what they were taught to do in regards of an active shooter in a school. They hid and they were quiet, they were doing what they were trained to do. What has been developing was that the law enforcement entities hadn't been keeping up with

training to match what the kids were doing in school. When some of the police departments were going there, they didn't hear the kids, so they said there weren't no kids there. The kids were doing exactly what they were supposed to when they were inside calling 911. What happened was they had several organizations that had showed up, Border Patrol, local, state, and no one set up a command center, no one was in charge. It went extremely long duration of time, those children were begging 911 dispatchers to get to them. Being that we got a new officer coming along, I just wanted to see what we do in regards to the Town of Hurt with Hurt Elementary, along with Faith Christian, and how we intermingle with state and Sheriff's Department so God forbid if something happens like that, we react quickly, fast, and definitive. Chief Lovelace replied the Hurt Police Department does participate with Faith Christian Academy, as well as Hurt Elementary School, he wasn't here but I participated with Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office, they did the active shooter training there. I'm not going to go in and tell everybody what we actually do, but we do participate, yes sir. Mr. Johnson a lot of those had training once in the last 12 years. It wasn't a requirement. It was sad to just find out that the children were more in touch with what they were to do. I don't have children but God knows I don't want to see no child sit there for two hours and try to figure out when someone is going to come get them. That was just a piece of information. Chief Lovelace replied thank you, I appreciate it.

Items Arising Subsequent to Notice

Mr. Majure stated the Claire Parker light request, council members any discussion on this? Mr. Worley asked when did they need the lights? Chief Lovelace replied their race will be this Saturday. Mr. Worley stated so we need to move on this tonight then. Chief Lovelace replied yes sir, if y'all move on it, you would need to move on it tonight. Mr. Worley asked if it was just lights that y'all hang up? Chief Lovelace replied what they are talking about is the lights that are strung on the black poles to light up the grounds. Its not lights on the building or the Christmas tree. I advised them if y'all granted them permission to actually borrow those lights or those lights they would have to take them down. They said they would be happy to take them down and put them back up. Mr. Worley asked if we needed to put them back up at this time? Mrs. Brumfield replied we take them down. Mr. Poindexter stated I wouldn't think so, this late in the season, that's not going to detract substantially from the appearance because we still have our main lights and decorations in front of the building, the tree out in the yard. I don't see where this should be an issue. This was more directed to our event.

A motion was made to let Claire Parker use the string lights.

Motion: Mr. Johnson

Second: Mr. Worley

Passage: Unanimous

Chief Lovelace stated I suggest that if they use the lights, we turn them on and show them that they work and they are supposed to return to us in the same working condition. Mr. Majure stated can we have a simple contract written up so that they sign it saying that they will. Chief Lovelace asked Attorney Eller if he wanted him to type of something saying they are using our lights? Mr. Blackstock stated they are an organization a word of mouth should mean a lot in this town. Mr. Poindexter stated I think that is sufficient for this.

Report from Mayor – Vice Mayor Bob Majure reported that one thing I'd like to say is thank you all to those that came out to the Christmas celebration. That was a fantastic time. We had quite a turnout this year. Thank you to the volunteers that helped out as well. That was extremely helpful. Especially considering the amount of folks that we had. I really look forward to our next year's celebration. Hopefully we can make it bigger and appreciate everything we're doing here in the town. If there's nothing left I will close the meeting. Thank you all have a good day.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm

Kelsie Anderson

Kelsie Anderson-Clerk

Gary Hodnett

Gary Hodnett-Mayor