

Town of Hurt, Virginia  
Council Work Session Minutes  
January 17, 2022

Hurt Town Council held a work session Tuesday, January 17, 2022, at Town Hall. The meeting opened at 6:00 PM by Mayor Gary Hodnett with a quorum present.

**Roll Call**

Members present: Mr. Gary Poindexter, Mr. Bob Majure, Mr. Luke Perdieu, and (via phone call) Mrs. Kathy Keesee

**Closed Session**

A motion was made to enter closed session to discuss personnel and prospective business as authorized by VA FOIA § 2.2-3711 A (1, 3, 5, 8).

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

Council entered closed session at 6:03 PM and exited closed session at approximately 7:00 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: Mr. Poindexter                      Second: Mr. Perdieu                      Passage: Unanimous

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation: Mr. Poindexter

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mayor Hodnett

**Additions to Agenda**

Mayor Hodnett stated I need to add a Dominion easement; Barry Farmer has a request that he would like to state to Council, and we are going to remove Mr. Perdieu from SRRIFA and ask if anyone would like to serve as an alternate. Bob Majure stated he would be happy to be an alternate.

**Public Comments**

None Received

**Work Session**

Mayor Hodnett stated tomorrow we will contact each interim councilmember applicant and ask them to be at our February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting for interviews. The Hurt Jr Beta Club – Shirley had mentioned helping them with debt, and maybe donating. I received a letter from Mrs. Lowry (HES Principal) and the convention dates are February 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>. There are 14 kids, and one of the ways I thought we could help was maybe purchasing their lunch, and being kids, pizza would probably be less expensive and easy. If we donate \$600, that should take care of a couple of meals. Attorney Eller stated think about the future, too, and what precedent that might set. Mayor Hodnett stated that is a good point; once you do it for one you have to do it for everyone. Council discussed possible solutions to help donate to these clubs. Maybe donate to one club per year, or donate a certain amount and let the schools divide it as they see fit. Attorney Eller stated that is better. It was discussed to give \$500 to each school in Hurt and the principal decide how it is used at their discretion. Council all agreed upon that. A motion was made to approve expenditure or allocation of \$1,000 from public relations and town promotion funds to sponsor clubs and student activities at both schools in the Town of Hurt, at the

discretion of their respective principals, with each school receiving \$500.

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mr. Majure

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett briefly discussed the advertising rates and prepaids on those, should someone want a zoning appeal or change. They pay their advertising fee up front so we don't have to worry about tracking them down and collecting it later. This also includes SUP's or anything zoning related. Council agreed it looked good. A motion was made to approve the zoning request advertising fees as presented, with grammatical corrections.

Motion: Mr. Perdieu

Second: Mr. Majure

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett stated the Dominion Easement on East Spencer – we tried to hold out to get a better deal with Dominion, and were unable to get them to flex any at all. We were looking for an easement to get under the railroad tracks on phase 2 of our current water system project. Anytime we can get underground lines in the town, we want to do that. I would like a motion to approve the contract that they have, which is their standard contract, and if they do any damage to anything owned by the town, then they pay for and take care of it. A motion was made to approve the Dominion easement on East Spencer Road as presented.

Motion: Mr. Perdieu

Second: Mr. Poindexter

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett discussed the council chamber television, how it does not work properly. We have had a couple of Zoom meetings that we were unable to get into; the screen just goes blank. We can get a very good Roku from Walmart for \$500-\$600. Council briefly discussed a new TV set and a folding machine. A good folding machine will cost around \$1,000. It would be very problematic to send our bills out to a third party. A motion was made to appropriate up to \$600 to replace the TV along with any necessary peripheral equipment, and give the mayor discretion as to which account number to pay it from.

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mrs. Keese

Passage: Unanimous

A motion was made to appoint Bob Majure as the alternate on the SRIFFA board for 2023.

Motion: Mr. Perdieu

Second: Mr. Majure

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett stated we need to work through scheduling a public hearing in March for the proposed reduction from 6 to 4 councilmembers due to the constant vacancies that we have. It's not very efficient for Council to run and work when you constantly have members who are only spending a short time on Council. Since I've been here, I've counted 10 vacancies that we've had.

A motion was made to hold a public hearing on March 7<sup>th</sup> to amend the Town Charter from 6 council members and a mayor to 4 council members and a mayor.

Motion: Mr. Majure

Second: Mr. Poindexter

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett stated he was approached last week by Barry Farmer wanting to go on town property (Key Industrial Complex) where the solar farm is going. He stated he is working with one of the television channels that look at buried treasure, like gold and silver. Barry feels like he may know something about our local area and where some of this stuff could possibly be. He would like to take a television crew up to the site and shoot a segment RE our town and treasure. Mr. Majure asked, he's not actually digging, is he? Mayor Hodnett replied no he is not; he just wants to show them some stuff based on his findings. Mr. Poindexter asked is it the History Channel? Mayor Hodnett replied yes, the History Channel. If we let him on the property, he is going to have to sign a waiver. He has talked to the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors about it; you can probably find his presentation where he got in front of them and talked about it. Council and Mayor briefly discussed how they don't want others being involved and entering

the property and digging for gold, but they don't have a problem with someone wanting to shoot a film. Mayor Hodnett stated he is working on the Beale treasure, Clement Hill treasure, and Oak Island. Discussion centered on attention being drawn to the town. This could turn into something we can't control. If we did allow them to go up there and they signed the waivers, they still could get hurt or even fall in the fish pond. Based on legal advice, since we don't have any information or written request from Mr. Farmer, it should be denied.

Mayor Hodnett stated for food truck updates, we have not heard anything as to whether SRP is going to allow food trucks on their property. We will make a decision on that as soon as we hear from them.

Mayor Hodnett stated the chapter 1 administrative ordinance, we will still postpone that to a later date, until I can get through the 60 pages.

Mayor Hodnett stated one last thing I would like to say... Mike (Jones), I want to thank you for the help that you have given the town. I just want to bring it to everybody's attention that he not only serves as the public safety director, but serves as assistant town manager to me. He wears multiple hats for our town. He's been involved with us for going on three years now. Every project that we've had in town, he has worked on with me and he has brought in experts. To this day, not a single expert that he brought in to render advice to our town has ever charged us a fee for that. He has used his leverage and knowledge with these people to help the town at no charge. I really want to tell you how much I appreciate you Mike, and a lot of things couldn't have happened without you. Mike responded it is a pleasure. When you have a job you love, you truly never work a day in your life. I have never worked a day in my life for Hurt. I've really and truly enjoyed seeing a town that I grew up in come back to life. Mayor Hodnett stated he has truly single-handedly handled all of our nuisance violations, and I need to remind you of something that John reminded me of today – I think you need to get them a nuisance letter. Mike responded it is in your mailbox. The first letter went out to the lady for the dogs – she was supposed to be here tonight and she did not show up, so we will move forward on that.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM; thank you all for coming.

*Kelsie Anderson*

Kelsie Anderson, Clerk

*Gary Hodnett*

Gary Hodnett, Mayor