

Town of Hurt Meeting Minutes
January 18th, 2022
Hurt, Virginia

The Town of Hurt Council members held a call meeting on Tuesday January 18th, 2022, 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, Mr. Gary Poindexter, Mr. Donney Johnson, Mrs. Shirley Barksdale-Hill, and Mrs. Kathy Keesee via phone call.

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) (8).

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

Council entered closed session at 6:06 PM.

Council exited closed session approximately 6:50 PM.

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

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

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Mr. Poindexter

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Hodnett.

A motion was made to approve the policy from closed session in reference to council applicants, with one addition, one modification that all references to special election be edited to reflect to interim council appointments.

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

Interviewing for Interim Council Seat

Mayor Hodnett states we will move forward with the interviews, and he states to the applicants that the council will interview each one of you tonight based on the order of which the applications were returned to town hall which is a little deviation from what we just passed, since the dating and number of appointments were not in place, we are going to go with the time they were cleared here at town hall. The order will be Luke, Courtney, and then Brooke. What we are going to do is, the ones not being interviewed at the time will sit beside officer Sawyer by the door and we will bring you in one at a time. Mayor Hodnett stated Luke you have 10 minutes if you would like to state something for the open statement and then each council member will have the chance to ask you 4 questions. These 4 questions will be asked to each applicant, at the end of the process council will be asked to vote, and if it

comes back those 2 individuals are tired, then the process will follow as the lowest votes will be out, and then the two that tied it will be revoted on, and with 5 council members we will have a winner at that point. Mayor Hodnett stated to Luke if he would like to proceed with an opening statement the floor is his.

Luke states hello everyone my name is Christopher Luke Perdieu, I go by Luke. Some background information about him, is that he was born and raised here in Hurt for the first part of his life and then they moved across the river to Campbell County and resided there until he graduated college. He then purchased his first home back in Hurt on Prospect Rd. He states he is very fond of the Town; he states his dad worked at the Burlington Industry and it was a very sad day when that came to an end. He is very excited to see the progress being made and the concrete being poured last week and all the progress that is going into that. He states I know you guys have done a lot of work leading up to this point and going forward. Luke states the solar farm, and some things going on over here at the Staunton Plaza, he is tracking it as much as he can, reading the agendas as much as he can. He states this is just a little bit of his background and he is very invested in the community, he states he knows it has been a lot of turn over at Town Hall lately, he states he would run for the special election in November. The reason I did not run this past November is because it was two fine gentlemen already running and already in place, and it was no point knocking two good people or even attempt to. Therefore, I did not run in the November election. He states he would also like to get the younger generation involved more in the town, even in this procedure here, if you look around there is not enough people attending the town hall council meetings, including myself I have not attended many of them, but I think with more job potential here in the town, it is a lot of potential here for the town to progress and that is the key for the next generation. Mayor Hodnett states thank you, lets try something different tonight and start with ladies first, we will start Shirley and we are going to limit each council member to 10 minutes. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill states first question council meetings are every first Tuesday at 6:00PM of each month, how would you prepare for a meeting after a long hard day at work? Luke responds with his job is very flexible, he has the luxury of being able to retreat to his truck as kind of like his office. He states that he believes that is not just a right before a council meeting, I believe it is an ongoing thing is the biggest answer to that question, I do have luxury retreating away from the job site I don't have, he doesn't have to stay at work all the time for say. He states the biggest answer to that question is not what you do right before the meeting but what you do in the time between the meeting. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill states I spend my time with my grandsons and my bees, she states I love that kind of stuff, how do you spend your time? Luke states he does a lot of different things outside the different parts of his job, he enjoys buying and selling cars, spending time with my wife, very involved with the church, other than we have 2 dogs and 2 cats that we like to take to the park, go out of town, go visit family, we have a lot of family out of the country, so we love to travel. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated tell me about a time that you had to go against the grain and how you handled it or presented your differences to other opinions? Luke responded the most recent thing and the most applicable thing for what is going on in the world right now, is my church was contemplating with only allowing people to come to church if they were vaccinated, I know that seemed to bring up a lot of issues and strong feelings on both sides of the topic and I am not trying to start a political discussion here, but I strongly felt like that was unfair to people who could not be vaccinated or did want to because of certain religious or moral values or whatever the

reason could be, I think it is your personal choice. I brought that to the mission of the church and made it known and ultimately the church held a board to decide. I brought up my opinion and then I stepped back and let them make the decision. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated my last question when the passion of this role runs out and our progress has slowed down, and there is a lot more hard work to do, what will keep you here? Luke states find something new, find something new to do, find something new to add to the group or new for the town, there is always something else to do.

Mrs. Keesee states okay Luke one word that comes to mind when you hear the Town of Hurt? Luke states I like the word honest, throughout the town you see a lot of honest hard-working people, living in modest homes and just trying to live an honest life. I think this is the best description of Hurt I can give. Mrs. Keesee states tell me how your closest friends would describe you? Luke states stubborn, overly opinionated, and hardworking, those 3 are the most general. Mrs. Keesee asked would you consider yourself informed with town and county political events? Luke states more of the town then the county, I'm trying to read the meeting agendas and minutes if I can't make it to the meeting most of the time I didn't even know, but more of the town than anything. Mrs. Keesee asked what is the top priority of being elected as our town council? Luke states to continue the upward train we are having; it is a lot of potential, and we are on upward tick right now and I don't want to see that taper off.

Mr. Johnson asked what do you think you can bring to the town that no one else has done or just missed and is needed for our town? Luke states a different perspective from someone who is younger, I don't have much life experience and there is no way to get other than to live your life, but I also think that brings a different view point, you guys have seen your life one way, I haven't experienced all the decades, and I am not calling you all old, but I haven't experienced all the major different life things, so I do have a different perspective to bring in that way. Mr. Johnson asked well what generated your interest in a council seat? Luke states similar, it was a need, and I felt like I could meet the need. Mr. Johnson stated this position requires confidently when we are in closed session, no exceptions, is that or will that be a problem? Luke responded no sir. Mr. Johnson stated explain a time that you had a conflict or a disagreement with a fellow worker, and how you work through it to recognize the issue to work for both? Luke replied my family runs a small pool construction company, and I had an older gentleman that worked with me, and we were working one day and it was hot, hot, hot and we were down in a 8 foot deep hole with a shovel, and my phone would not quit ringing, two phones and they were constantly ringing, so I spent most of my day doing laps around my truck, and down the driveway just talking to customers, talking to suppliers, and in my opinion doing my job, but neglecting the part of my job that involved helping those guys do what they need to do. When I came back nobody really said anything, but I could tell this one gentleman was frustrated, they are hot, tired, and frustrated, now I don't know if that was the case but most likely it was. My reaction was to just climb back up in the backhoe and just get the dirt out while they are shoveling the dirt out, and I thought to myself no that isn't a good idea, so we all took a break and got some water, after the break instead of getting in the machine and doing what I think I can do, because they can't run the machine to help the situation, I got out and grabbed a shovel and shoveled with them for 20 minutes. It would probably have been more efficient had I been on the machine, but that guy needed to see me pick up a shovel and shovel for 20 minutes with him, right beside him sweating just as much as he did, and that is part of my job, he was fine after that.

Mr. Adams stated I only have 2 questions, how long have you lived in Hurt? Luke responded almost 2 years, April, or May of 2020. Mr. Adams stated do you think being a member on council that you can make every citizen happy? Luke responded and said ill do my best and try, but no sir.

Mr. Poindexter stated I tend to dig a little deeper, let's just say that Hurt is a Town in transition, we are working to revitalize and rebrand ourselves and that process is going to continue and accelerate, and that is going to mean stepping out of our comfort zone and thinking outside of the box, pushing the envelope and other expressions like that. If you are appointed, how do you picture yourself handling change and at the same time fostering a positive public perspective of that change? Luke stated I like to go with the flow as much as possible, I only stop the flow when there is an issue or if I have a problem of the way the flow is going, I don't have a problem with change. I do as good of a job as possible to have a pleasant expression no matter how you have had an interaction with somebody or what your feelings about them are, treat them politely and treat them how you would want to be treated and go about your business. Mr. Poindexter I am going to give you a what if scenario and I hope this never happens, but it could, let's say that you're sitting here, and our town finds itself suddenly having to choose between a high-quality economic development project and a major capital improvement project for the water and wastewater system, both of those have huge implementation for the future, the difference in their values is arguably to close to call, but the resources to do both projects at the same time is just not found, despite every effort to find, if you're sitting here how are you going to handle that difficult decision? Luke states he would look to see if you could do a step program, look to do a little bit of the infrastructure and a little bit of the improvement program if that is not possible then I think the wastewater and the water supply issue is first and foremost because that impacts the citizens that live here in town. If there is an issue that needs to be addressed with the way people get their water or their waste handled that needs to be addressed first and foremost. Mr. Poindexter stated our council consist of four steadily committees with each member serving on 2, aside of the mayor, those committees are administration, finance, public works, and community development/ public relations, which committee would least prefer serving on and how would you make the best of it if you ended up with an assignment that is not your preference? Luke states probably finance, if I had to choose, but that doesn't mean I would be bad at it, it's just the one I least prefer to do. I would make the best of what I had to do and do my best. Mr. Poindexter stated the last one I have, and Donney has already touched on it about confidentiality, we are engaged in multiple economic development and infrastructure projects, some of them real and some hypothetical, most of them involve very sensitive information, strict nondisclosure is required because any kind of breach of confidentiality can not only jeopardize the project but subject you and the Town to liability, if you are appointed how would you go about ensuring the security of that information and dealing with the various rumors and speculations that circulate in the community? Luke responds by stating he would not comment on rumors, as a rule, he doesn't do that anyways, as far as handling sensitive information, I am sure the Town Council and Town Hall has a protocol in place for how that is handled and I will follow that as well as do anything he can to protect the information as far as not taking notes on, leaving my phone of, and not sharing that information.

Mayor Hodnett stated he has one question for Luke, do you believe in stricted inheritance to laws ordinances and regulations, or do you feel these are malleable that can be slightly changed depending

on the circumstances in front of you at any given time? Luke stated he doesn't think they are malleable, I think if you let one person do it, then the next person is going to come on and expecting you to allow them to do the same thing but a little bit more, because you bent some rules for the first guy, also I believe that is easy to let your buddy do something or someone you are friendly with do something and not let someone that you don't like do something. I think it is just best, general rule, to follow the rules as they are written and if there is a situation then you adopt a way to handle that and handle both situations, and all situations in the same manner.

Mayor Hodnett states thank you, Shirley if you would escort Luke out, Luke you are welcome to stay or go, we will let you know something tomorrow.

Mayor Hodnett states Courtney thank you for your patience, council has a couple questions for you, starting with the ladies, so Shirley you are up. Mayor Hodnett states to Courtney that she has the floor for 10 minutes if she has anything she would like to say. Courtney states honestly, she doesn't have much idea of any intel of what this is about, she states I am not into politics or never been into any politics, I am 32 years old, and I just got married 3 years ago, I've lived in hurt for 3 years. I've been in Altavista my entire life. I don't know what to really say, I'm not good with words sometimes, but I really want to be apart of our town and try to make it better, I really don't have any huge ideas now, but I am very creative, I have a good personality, most of the time people like me. I am my own business owner; I have owned my business for almost 7 years now. I don't know what to really say, I'm not good with on the spot. I don't have any children; I have a very flexible schedule.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked first question council meetings are every first Tuesday at 6:00PM of each month, how would you prepare for a meeting after a long hard day at work? Courtney responds I absolutely love my job, it is not a very stressful job necessarily, so my work life is not a stressful part in anything I do, so I would never really have to worry about that. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill states I spend my time with my grandsons and my bees, how do you spend your time? Courtney states I have two dogs, I love my dogs they are my best friends, during the summertime I spend a lot of time on the river, being outside, I play volleyball during the winter, I love sports, I have niece she is 5, she just moved diagonally from my house, so she is there for me to play with and my sister she is my best friend also, I hang out with my family a lot. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated tell me about a time that you had to go against the grain and how you handled it or present your different opinion? Courtney states it would go back to when she worked at the hospital and she seen some things that she didn't think were the most appropriate, and I knew that I was the only person who seen those things happening, and I went forward with it that everyone would know that I was the one that went forward with it, but knowing that I was doing the right thing by going forward and telling, and being sort of a tattletale with it, just to make sure our patients were being taken care of the safest way and that things were not being done inappropriately, it was something I was good in my heart with and was okay with everyone knowing that I was the one who came forward with some issues. . Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated when the passion of this role runs out with all our progress and productivity, what will keep you here? Courtney states it shouldn't run out, the world constantly changes, everything is constantly changing, something is always new, and if it is a time when you can't do anything new there is always things to find and do, and bringing new and things into

the light that people never thought of before can keep you going, you can come up with ideas at any time and just go with it.

Mrs. Keesee states ok Courtney, tell me one word that comes to mind when you hear the Town of Hurt? Courtney states small. Mrs. Keesee states tell me how your closest friends would describe you? Courtney states bubbly, very dependable, and a little hyper, but reliable, my friends know that if they every need anything they can call me for any reason, and even my sisters' friends have said that they would call me before they called her. I am a very reliable person. Mrs. Keesee states would you consider yourself informed with town and county political events? Courtney states not at all, I have stayed outside of a lot events and things that go on, I don't really get on Facebook that often, I stay to myself for the most part so I really haven't been updated or keep in touch with a lot of stuff, that is kind of why I'm getting into this because I do want to be involved, and I do want to know what's going on, I don't want to hear it just word of mouth constantly. I want to be a part of it. Mrs. Keesee asked what is the top priority if selected for town council? Courtney stated honestly this was a random thing, I didn't really know that y'all were getting or needing a new person until I talked with Gary, and he told me y'all were looking for someone else, but I don't really have anything off the top of my head, but I have really been thinking about it the past week once I learned that there was an interview, and I was really thinking about bikes, and getting bike lanes, because I think our community would do really good with more areas to ride bikes because we have so many parks, just making it easier access to get to those.

Mr. Johnson stated thank you for applying, what do you think you can bring to the table that no one else has done to your knowledge and is needed for our Town? Courtney states one thing that she brings and no offense to any of the council, a younger side to what is going on and to what we want to see with our Town, her generation is the ones who are having children right now and she has talked to tons of people all the time and she feels like a lot of people are comfortable with her and I am able to get the communities input for people in my generation. Mr. Johnson states what generated your interest to apply for the seat? Courtney states it was actually Gary who asked me about a seat on the board of zoning, and I told Gary I was interested in the Town Council, and my sister who just moved on my street, we had talked about it, it would be awesome to be apart of the Town and know what is going, then when he approached with the that, I had told him I was interested in the Town Council and that there was an opening, I just felt like it was faith. Mr. Johnson states this position requires confidently when we are in closed session, no exceptions, is that or will that be a problem? Courtney states no sir, not at all. Mr. Johnson stated explain a time that you had a conflict or a disagreement with a fellow worker, and how you work through it to recognize the issue that is workable for both sides? Courtney states she has to go back to her working at the hospital days because those are really when I worked with other people, because I worked for myself and by myself for the most part in the past 6 years, but one time she has a nurse that needed help with a patient and I went into the room to help with the patient and the nurse just walked out the room, I said something about helping and consisting of us working together and not leaving, and she got an attitude and grabbed me by my wrist and pulled me out in the hallway to discuss the issue and I calmly you need to let go of me, I need to go back and finish the job for the safety of the patient and after that we decided to sit down and have a talk and work it out together, instead of pulling other people into because kind of just didn't understand why we both had

gotten irritated with each other, but we were able to talk it over and give each other a hug and be happy in the end. Mr. Johnson stated good thank you.

Mr. Adams stated if you were on council, do you think that you can make every citizen happy? Courtney responded no, never, but I can try.

Mr. Poindexter stated our town is in a time of transition, we are working to revitalize and rebrand ourselves and that process is going to continue and accelerate, and that is going to mean stepping out of our comfort zone and thinking outside of the box, pushing the envelope and other expressions like that. If you are appointed, how do you picture yourself handling change and at the same time fostering a positive public perspective of that change? Courtney states she thinks she is really good with change, life is constantly changing all around us, and I am very adoptable to anything that goes my way, I can flip switches really quickly, and figure out solutions to most problems, I'm pretty logical in some aspects when figuring out things to do, when things are changing and motions are getting involved I actually believe that I am pretty good at keeping a steady close ground, again I bring that all back to being in the hospital and being in situations where you have to have a completely blank face, you can't show emotion, and you can't cry and break down in front of people, you have to be that strong willed person that everybody expects you to be and I think I am pretty good at staying in that direct mind. Mr. Poindexter states this will probably be the most weighted question that I ask you, I am going to give you a what if scenario and I hope this never happens, but it could, let's say that you're sitting here, and our town finds itself suddenly having to choose between a high-quality economic development project and a major capital improvement project for the water and wastewater system, both of those have huge implementation for the future, the difference in their values is arguably to close to call, but the resources to do both projects at the same time is just not found, despite every effort to find, if you're sitting here how are you going to handle that difficult decision? Courtney responds by saying I honestly don't know and that's why she has all the council members who will help her figure it out, but her brother in law works for the wastewater plant in Campbell county, so I kind of feel like I could reach out to him and be like hey what do we do here, but I also feel like water is the main important thing and if is something people need at all times then that would be the most important aspect of anything, just making sure that we have healthy and clean water for our residents. If you don't have water, you don't have anything. Mr. Poindexter stated our council consist of four steadily committees with each member serving on 2, aside of the mayor, those committees are administration, finance, public works, and community development/ public relations, which committee would least prefer serving on and how would you make the best of it if you ended up with an assignment that is not your preference? Courtney stated I would least like the finance part, because honestly, I am not a computers person, that wants to sit at a computer and figure out numbers all day long, in that aspect of it, but I am also good with numbers, I really swing with anything and figure out things as I go. Mr. Poindexter we are engaged in multiple economic development and infrastructure projects, some of them real and some hypothetical, most of them involve very sensitive information, strict nondisclosure is required because any kind of breach of confidentiality can not only jeopardize the project but subject you and the Town to liability, if you are appointed how would you go about ensuring the security of that information and dealing with the various rumors and speculations that circulate in the community? Courtney states I feel like I am

really good with holding confidential information, I am a massage therapist now and I work with tons of people weekly, daily, and I hold a lot of information that people let me know when they open their lives to me and their home lives, and things that are going on between them and their husband and their children and school and Dr. appointments, and I have to keep all that to myself, or I would lose all of my clients. I would lose the respect of people, I would lose everything if I couldn't keep those things to myself, and I feel that I am able to do that, as for when rumors going around, I love a good rumor, and being able to chuckle about it and say I know the real deal, but no one else needs to know that I know that, so I am pretty good at keeping things to myself.

Mayor Hodnett states Courtney I just have one question, do you believe in stricted inheritance to laws ordinances and regulations, or do you feel these are malleable that can be slightly changed depending on the circumstances in front of you at any given time? Courtney states I am a very good law-abiding citizen, I believe in the law.

Mayor Hodnett states let me explain the process, council will finish the interviews, they will take a vote, you are welcome to stay but we will call you tomorrow. Thank you for coming.

Mayor Hodnett states welcome Brooke, the council will ask you 4 questions, but you have 10 minutes to state who you are and any opening remarks, the floor is yours.

Brooke states my name is Brooke Gibson, and I would like to become more of an active member of our community. I have been a stay-at-home mom for over 11 years now and I would really like to be more involved in and help the community grow and succeed.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill states hello, my first question is, council meetings are every first Tuesday at 6:00PM of each month, after you have had a long busy mom week, how would you prepare for the meeting?

Brooke states usually my family accompts everything that I do, it helps me put things in perspective of things outside the home, so I basically leave that there and focus on how to put up the community for not just us but our children as well. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill states I spend my time with my grandsons and my bees, how do you spend your time, sounds like family? Brooke states yes, family is a big part of my life, I have 3 children and 2 are still at home, both of my girls are autistic, we do a lot of everyday role playing with trying to get into good habits and teach manners and how to interact with other people, she is becoming quite the introvert like I am, so I think this is a good way to get out the house and set a good example. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated tell me about a time that you had to go against the grain and how you handled it or present your different opinion? Brooke states we do that every day, trying to think of a good example, a lot of times with my husband who has a certain way he wants to do things with the kids and sometimes it's a little too harsh, so I'm just straight forward and honest, try to be as tactical as why I don't agree with him, then we discuss alternatives and how we can get the same job done and work together. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated when the passion of this role runs out with all our progress slows, and we have nothing but hard work left, what will keep you here? Brooke states wanting to make a better community for all of us

Mrs. Keesee states how are you? Brooke states good. Mrs. Keesee states what is one word that comes to mind when you hear the Town of Hurt? Brooke responds home. Mrs. Keesee states great answer,

how would your friends describe you? Brooke states probably quiet and kept to myself until I get to know people, they would probably say overly honest at times, and I'm very compassionate about things, and does what is best for us. Mrs. Keesee asked would you consider yourself informed with town and county political events? Brooke states not as much as I would like to be. Mrs. Keesee asked what is the top priority if selected for town council? Brooke states working together to create the more of the town activities with the council so that it can be a little more transparent, we did receive the letter about being more transparent, but I think a good way and something to add onto that is doing more community events 2 or 3 times a year. Mrs. Keesee states that all she has, thank you.

Mr. Johnson stated what do you think you what do you think you can bring to the table that no one else has done to your knowledge and is needed for our Town? Brooke responded a fresh set of eyes, I never really tried to get on any type of council meeting or councils, or anything in that nature, so I think a fresh set of eyes will help. Mr. Johnson states what generated your interest to apply for the seat? Brooke stated I saw a chance for an opening and thought this is something I can do and help me personally and help the town with. Mr. Johnson states this position requires confidently when we are in closed session, no exceptions, is that or will that be a problem? Brooke responded, no not at all. Mr. Johnson stated explain a time that you had a conflict or a disagreement with a fellow worker, and how you work through it to recognize the issue that is workable for both sides? Brooke states it wasn't a work-related experience, I was voluntary, to help my daughter with something, and one of the other adults had an opinion that all the girls should be treated one specific way and with his redirection, instead of him being firm and compassionate, he was yelling and screaming. I stated lets all take a break, and we went outside, and stated to him you really don't need to yell at the kids, they don't have the same comprehension and understanding that you do, and treating them like that now is going to be very destructive for them later, because that's how they are expected to be treated by others, we are here to set a good example and you are not doing so. Brooke stated to the other adult if we need to take breaks so you can compose yourself and then talk to these girls about doing this a certain way then we need to do that.

Mr. Adams stated hey Brooke, two of my questions have already been asked, but how long have you lived in Hurt? Brooke states since 2009. Mr. Adams stated my other question is if you are on council do you think you can make every citizen happy? Brooke responded and stated I would try my best, not everyone is going to be happy all the time, no, I realize that and that is just human nature, but I think if we listen and try to understand where everyone is coming from that will to appease most people, communication and explaining our actions will help them understand even if they don't like it.

Mr. Poindexter good evening, Brooke thank you for coming. Mr. Poindexter stated a little background, our town is in a time of transition, we are working to revitalize and rebrand ourselves and that process is going to continue and accelerate, and that is going to mean stepping out of our comfort zone and thinking outside of the box, pushing the envelope and other expressions like that. If you are appointed, how do you picture yourself handling change and at the same time fostering a positive public perspective of that change? Brooke stated as far as fostering change, I think I would need a little more guidance, and what needed to be changed, of course I want to have full understanding of what is going on now so we can grow on it and spread the word, and help everyone to understand what is going on,

and have the citizens of the community come out and voice as well and hopefully grow together and take all point of view into count. Mr. Poindexter stated Mr. Poindexter states this will probably be the most challenging question that I ask you, I am going to give you a what if scenario and I hope this never happens, probably won't but it theoretically could, let's say that you're sitting here, and our town finds itself suddenly having to choose between a high-quality economic development project and a major capital improvement project for the water and wastewater system, both of those have huge implementation for the future, the difference in their values is arguably to close to call, but the resources to do both projects at the same time is just not found, despite every effort to find, if you're sitting here how are you going to handle that difficult decision? Brooke states I would try to layer the pros and cons for each and not just how it would affect me personally but how it would affect an entire community and what would be the outcome as far as generating the economy on both sides. I would make up my mind and choose what's best and that will continue in the long run and that would be the best for everything else involved. Mr. Poindexter stated our council consist of four steadily committees with each member serving on 2, aside of the mayor, those committees are administration, finance, public works, and community development/ public relations, which committee would least prefer serving on and how would you make the best of it if you ended up with an assignment that is not your preference? Brooke stated I would probably not want to do administration, if I had an assignment that I was not comfortable with I would just try to power through it, I would turn to some of the fellow council members and get their opinions on how to proceed so that I could make the best decision possible. Mr. Poindexter we are engaged in multiple economic development and infrastructure projects, some of them real and some hypothetical, most of them involve very sensitive information, strict nondisclosure is required because any kind of breach of confidentiality can not only jeopardize the project but subject you and the Town to liability, if you are appointed how would you go about ensuring the security of that information and dealing with the various rumors and speculations that tend to circulate in the community? Brooke stated if I had questions about things that were going on, I would of course keep it in the council room, I wouldn't bring it home, I wouldn't bring any of the information, or if heard things, stuff like that home, I would leave it here. As far as rumors, I would just say I don't know what is going on specifically with this, I have no comment.

Mayor Hodnett states Brooke I just have one question, do you believe in strict inheritance to laws ordinances and regulations, or do you feel these are malleable that can be slightly changed depending on the circumstances in front of you at any given time? Brooke states I believe inheritance is the best policy, because if we are going to be a part of a community and be on the council then we need to set by and lead by example. Mayor Hodnett states thank you very much, Council will take a vote here shortly and we will let everybody know tomorrow the outcome, so I will be giving you a call, I do appreciate it and I look forward to talking to you guys' tomorrow. Thank you

Mayor Hodnett stated okay so everyone asked their questions had them answered, it is now time to take a vote. Each card has all 3 names on it, if you would please circle the candidate of your choice and pass them back to me, and in a couple minutes we will vote. We will not have to do a revote. The candidate chosen is Luke Perdieu. Attorney Eller states we need to have a motion to appoint Luke as the interim position.

A motion as made to appoint Christopher Luke Perdieu to the interim position.

Motion: Mr. Johnson

Second: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill

Passage: Unanimous

Attorney Eller states he will get the order for the special election set up, and he will have to get sworn in, Mayor Hodnett states we are going to have the lady come here at the February meeting.

Ordinances

Attorney Eller states Shirley and I have been working on these and we got the Chapter 1, which is the administrative part, there was a lot of little things in there that we don't do, like it says in there. It's just updates that need to be done, of course there is a whole lot more in the code that needs to be done, Shirley has been doing them and I got some code books to use. Last week I had assistance, Shirley was out with covid protocol and couldn't make it in the office, so that has slowed me down, plus it seems like I have spent so much time working on this nonconforming use, it will be nice when we get that done one way or the other, anyway we will have more as soon as we can. Right now, look at these, these do not have to be a public hearing, these can be passed on presentation or can be passed at the February meeting. Attorney Eller states the first one is 1-10, time of the regular meetings, it says 7:30 but I put 7:00, seems like we meet at 6:00pm for closed session, if you want her to change that to 6, you still can change the time, because it says right in there it would be 7 or such time other hour that the council says, so its flexibility there, do you want to start out at 6 or 7? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill suggested we keep it at 7:00pm, we may have the public showing up at 6:00pm so if we put that in the ordinance, and then some push back about one would be you know, Mayor Hodnett states it makes sense to me. Attorney Eller states it has a requirement if we have a meeting on a holiday that it would have to be the very next Tuesday, which might not always work, so we changed that to say that it would be a date set by the council, with notice to the public. 1-13 has a general exceeding schedule for the meetings, but it also says they can be modified by majority vote, again we got flexibility. Then number 1-16 we have, before we had committees actually named in there, and we have changed the committees from time to time it seems, so now we have it so it says the mayor can appoint such committees as he feels necessary, some of these we had changed it to he or she but that one we didn't, actually it is a provision at the beginning of chapter one that has definitions in it and it says that every case that the male gender is used it could be female, they are interchangeable, so we don't have to say he or she it already means he or she. The mayor can appoint the committees as he or she desires and on the standing committee the duties of them are to manage the areas that they are assigned to, but it also has a provision that says that the committee will have the authority with approval of mayor to take minor actions to make corrections on an emergency basis that can't wait to be delayed to a council meeting, and it had a \$250 cap on that amount that they can spend. We can leave that in there or if the council wants to make that more, then we need some input from council, leave it like it is or change it? Mayor Hodnett states we should change it to a higher amount, \$250 don't hardly get lunch for 4 people. Attorney Eller states this is why we brought it up. Mr. Poindexter states my thinking this is a very adequate dollar amount, I would not think anything less of a \$1000 myself. Attorney Eller states or you don't have to give the committees any authority to spend any money, has that every happened, has the committee had an emergency such that they must go out and repair something or evils to be remedy? Mayor Hodnett states with making changes to the water which falls under public works we just make the decision here if we have to do

something and just move forward with it, we don't go to the committee. Attorney Eller states we can strike out that second sentence, saying each committee shall have the authority with approval of mayor etc, just take that out, if we are not doing it. Mayor Hodnett states we have never done it. Attorney Eller states ok we will take out the last 2 sentences. Attorney Eller states the next one is 1.2, this is another figure that is kind of out of date, the treasurers bond was just \$5,000 and we recommend that we raise that \$25,000, the treasurer would post a bond that the Town will pay their premium, it wouldn't be a expense to the treasurer but it would be a bond to protect the Town in case the treasurer were to mess up, that figure is probably sufficient, if the treasurer were to steal \$50,000, it wouldn't be covered. The town treasurer one time did about \$12,000, but she had to pay it back. Attorney Eller states what does the council think, leave it at \$25,000 or what? Mayor Hodnett states I don't have a problem with it, we own it like a chicken on a June bug anyway. Attorney Eller states now 1-29 is the town clerk establishment and appointment and we did have a 3 year term, and that just makes you have to remember to reappoint the clerk, so we just fixed so it says the clerk serves the pleasure of the council, and that takes care of the term, and 1-35 says the clerk will notify the mayor and the council of upcoming the election, 65 days prior to the election, don't know if that has ever been done, council is aware of when upcoming elections are, so I don't think we need that one. Town Attorney was appointed for 1 year, so that means 40 years ago my term ran out. Attorney Eller stated I just put the same thing, to serve at the pleasure of council. Attorney Eller states we have a revision for Town manager, we can have a town manager appointed if the council votes to do so, in that event it tells what the salary and so forth to be fixed by the council, so that allows us to go ahead and have a town manager if we want too, if we don't have one, we don't have one. 1-45 talks about the ordinance book we have, which needs to be updated and we are working on that, it was in here that the ordinances would be called the ordinances at large of the town of hurt, but we never have called it that we call it the code of town hurt, so I fixed that. The voting place use to be Town hall but now it is not so we say it as other such places may be designated by council so that takes care of the election, and that's all of them in chapter one. Mayor Hodnett stated that shouldn't take long to vote on. Mr. Poindexter wouldn't it say the elections are based on where the presink elections are instead of the localities? Attorney Eller states he thought the registrar could possibly the one that determines that. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill states that it is not the Town Council, Mr. Poindexter stated I don't think that would fall under us. Attorney Eller states I don't think we have control over it, but we might go along with what they tell us, I can find out who designates it and put that in there. Attorney Eller states I will make those changes and bring it back on the 15th, how is that? Council agreed that was good. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated will we vote on them then? Attorney Eller states yes.

Mayor Hodnett states he had the new committee assignments in the packets, if for some reason you have a question, you can call me tomorrow that is not a problem. Mayor Hodnett states I had a meeting with staff this week, and wanted to remind them of something very simple, everyday we have people down here coming in from the community, and one of the things that led to this, that really make your mind think, Kelsie and I went over to Monte Vista Church one evening after Town Hall closed, and she volunteered her time they were having a problem with their phone out system which happens to be the same one we are using, been out of it for a couple months since their pastor left and couldn't nobody get in contact with the church people to let them know about classes or Sunday school, etc, so we went

over and she help them set it up and taught a couple of them how to go in and do it, and the thing that amazed me is that I heard about the next day that one of the people had actually said they were praising God for sending someone over to help them, that they had been that long without having the ability to get in touch with the people inside of the church that nobody knew what to do, and we went over to help them. I had a meeting with them the next day, and said you know the thing you really think about when you hear something like that is we are in a position that we should realize it's the simplest of things we should do, that can touch people, we can help somebody that is having a bad day have a really good day and we need to remember that and focus on that when we come in because that's a unique position to be in when you can help someone have a better day and I just reminded them of that, it's the simplest of things that matter. We are going to try and do an even better job of what we do and have a positive influence with people in the community. Mr. Adams said I was going through these changes and I see town manager in there, and Gary has been Mayor and town manager job, and I have said something before, that we need to pay him and I know what he is going to say before I brought that up to council but I just want to say we really appreciate the time that Gary puts in down here and helps this town, I really do appreciate it because you don't have to put those hours in, but I notice it and appreciate it. Mayor Hodnett states I do it because it is fun not the pay because all of you know I don't take a salary, I am here because I like doing, I feel like I have the ability to contribute and if you feel like that you can help people and you don't do anything about it then it's shame on you, so that is why I do it. Council states that they all thank him. Mayor Hodnett states I do have one other thing, I got an email from a resident this week and I am going to read it you, "I just wanted to take a brief minute and pass along a compliment to the town's efforts with the past weekend's snow/ice event, in particular Joseph Smith, especially considering the lack of duty of heavy equipment, the job that he did on the streets was incredible and he actually made several trips on streets that made traveling possible when needed, please pass along to Joe and tell him thanks, I also encourage each of you to acknowledge this to him, I also want to thank the members that took the time to respond to my last email about the resolution request, regardless of the results it provides I appreciate the couple of email responses and phone call that I got from one member. Mayor Hodnett states they reached out and appreciated the job Joe did, he is a professional and he is going to do it. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill states did we let Joe know? Mayor Hodnett stated I let Joe know more than one time trust me. Also this individual brought up the possibility of the town doing a resolution in support of Pittsylvania County's efforts to dial back the real estate appraisal that they just got, that they are having so much trouble with, I asked him to give me the talking points since he wants us to do it that he might want to include so that we can touch on all the talking points that he would like to see so that it isn't ours and that he had input, he wants to see it and he should be apart of the process so I am waiting to hear back from him what input and anything he would like us to include. I told him I would certainly bring it before you guys and if you want it to pass the resolution that is something we can do at the February meeting. Attorney Eller states now that we are really into this code it is becoming apparent that our computer, the program that we have is making it very difficult to incorporate these changes, those last ones we did on December 7th we were struggling to fit them in there and go into the code with the page consistently, and our code that is online has big gaps in it and we get this really good and up to date and it is in a state that we can't really work with it, then we kind of wasted it, what I am getting at is we need to really look at getting our code published, with a service that does that, so in the future when we pass a new ordinance, we can just email it to them and they

can put it on the website “new ordinance” and every 6 months or year they incorporate into the body of the ordinance so anybody can see exactly what is happening right up to date, it will definitely be a while before we can get all these wholesale changes in there, it is going to be hard and messy. Mr. Poindexter stated we looked at that a few years ago, I worked on that a little while, and they gave me a estimate, and not everyone wanted to spend the money, but we are in a bit better position than we were then, and I have raised the question if this federal stimulus money could be used to help pay for it, probably not but we can look and probably find somebody, that’s a one time thing, it is not a recurrent expense, once it’s done you don’t have to just keep, Attorney Eller states you do have to pay them something every year, Mr. Poindexter states the whole process you only do it one time then it’s just maintenance fee. Attorney Eller states they organize it all alphabetically, so zoning chapter would now be the very last chapter, it will be a much easier process, and it has an index. This has just gotten messy. Mr. Poindexter stated to continue doing that is to continue living in the past, it would not only be easier for all of us, but it would speak volumes about our mindset and how we are thinking and operating, that we are doing it the 2020 way and not the 1975 way. Attorney Eller states right, I think we can put something together temporarily, we just take these ordinances that we pass and just put them in and not try to make them fit the page, they are just there. It will be messy, but you can still see them until we get it done, and then we can send them all and get it code by it. Mayor Hodnett stated don’t get me wrong, I am in favor for it, but is there anything else out there above this, if we go to this platform what is going to be the next one coming up, instead of going here do we want to go with the next one up, is there anything out there computer wise, even above this? Attorney Eller stated I don’t know, this has a search feature and it updated instantly when you send in a new ordinance just in the next day or so you see it online, I don’t know how you can make it any faster or better, the new municipal code is one that just about every locality has, when Altavista went to it about 15-20 years ago, there was another and if they are still in business we always get them to give us a quote to see what they got now, Mayor Hodnett states yea do a comparison, Attorney Eller states yea they might give a quote that seems like it has just distilled down to municipal code, just about everywhere you see that they are the ones that everybody has gone to. As far as a better technology, I couldn’t imagine any technologies, this one seems great. Mayor Hodnett states we will look at it and see what’s out there and if they are the best and if they are not the best, we want to find the best. Attorney Eller states you can search it and it comes up, it is the common format, Mayor Hodnett states then it probably is the best. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill states they just did a new update on that VML site and the link to the LIS is awesome, Mike sent it to us and I checked it out, its very nice, now I don’t know if that is the latest and the greatest, but anything is better than what we got now, and this is for what I understand from the municipal, this is the first time It’s ever been reviewed and redone and updated other than adding to it, to go through it and take out the old stuff and make sure it is clear for now is what we are trying to do, and that computer system if it works like it was on the state site that is a really nice one. Mr. Poindexter states as I have stated many times, this is something that should have been done many years ago, and here we are the longer we wait the harder and more expensive it gets. Attorney Eller states yea it is bad and even worse on his because or numerous pages aren’t there. Mayor Hodnett states how do we let stuff like this just go on and go on and never address it? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill states we are getting there. Mr. Poindexter states one thing he would say about this concept from a finance view, is that we are getting ready to go into budget season and it is quite timely that it came up tonight, if we can come up with some idea of what this is going to cost then we can start

looking at some ways that we might can maybe pay for it. Attorney Eller states I guess we can email this mess that we have right now, and they can look at it and say this is going to be this many pages and tell us, Mr. Poindexter stated it doesn't have to be exact we just need something to work with, a sense of scale. Attorney Eller states he will try to get us a number, he thinks it cost Altavista \$10,000 about 15-20 years ago. It might not be way more because of the other computer systems now. Mayor Hodnett states the technology companies are expensive too. Attorney Eller states he doesn't look for it to be more than \$25,000. Mayor Hodnett stated anything else? No comment. Mayor said thank you all for coming we are adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57PM

Kelsie Sligh-Clerk

Gary Hodnett-Mayor