

Town of Hurt, Virginia  
Council Meeting Minutes  
July 5, 2022

Hurt Town Council held its monthly business meeting on Tuesday, July 5th, 2022, at Town Hall. The meeting opened at 7:00 PM by Mayor Gary Hodnett with a quorum present.

**Roll Call**

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

**Closed Session**

There was no closed session.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation: Mr. Poindexter

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mayor Hodnett

**Opening Remarks**

Mayor Hodnett stated we'll try to shoot through pretty quick tonight; we don't have a whole lot of stuff. It looks like we finally got caught up. I would just like to report that the new operating budget has been loaded into Southern and it does balance. The scheduled rates and fees have been loaded in as well, so that's good news. One of the things that we're working on right now is industrial rates and fees for the Town of Hurt. Once we get that completed, we'll have to come back and have a separate meeting. John, we will have to have a public hearing on that, won't we? Attorney Eller responded yes. Mayor Hodnett stated okay, so we'll have that hopefully in a couple to three weeks. Alright, that's all I have to open.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Hodnett stated I'm assuming everyone's been through the June minutes and expenditures. Do I hear a motion to accept? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated I just wanted to point out one set of minutes. There was a discussion about the 75 cents, it was actually 70 cents on the check. I think it was misspoken during the presentation to Council. Mayor Hodnett responded, I made that mistake; yes, I was working from memory, not notes. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated it may have been corrected already, but the meeting on the 15th was called a business meeting, but it was actually a called meeting. Mayor Hodnett stated that was corrected in the minutes. Mr. Poindexter stated that's the one he was going to bring up, and if that's been fixed then we are good to go. Mayor Hodnett asked, do I hear a motion? A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mr. Perdieu

Passage: Unanimous

**Public Comments**

Mayor Hodnett asked of the public if anyone would like to speak? No comments.

### **New Business (Resolution)**

Mayor Hodnett stated, in your packet is a resolution, #6242022. I'm assuming everyone has a chance to have read that. It pertains to council foregoing their salary for the upcoming year. I think that we've all determined that the mayor can make a motion. I make a motion that Council pass this resolution as written. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated I don't agree with the resolution and I just want to point out why, in my opinion, of the whole thing. The \$25 a month that we get is like a token of appreciation for serving our town – all the hard work that we do for our town and community. This \$1,800 a year does not even put a dent in a million-dollar budget. I don't think this is a significant move to make any kind of; it's just a gesture for a token. We don't receive a lot of communication from our community, unless there's problems or complaints, and I feel like this is a little incentive to show that we are getting a little something back in approval from the community for our efforts. Also, what's going through my mind is like okay, this is a healthy budget, what do we do next time there is an increase in the budget and more expensive? If this was a significant amount of money, and it was targeted to a significant debt that the town has, and our contribution, I would understand it and I could receive it better, but with this, I don't think the whole Council should be asked to do this. Individuals who want to do this, I feel like that's their choice. Mayor Hodnett asked anyone else? Mr. Poindexter stated I would like to concur with everything that Shirley has just said. I understand this is a nice gesture, I get the rationale behind it, but against the backdrop of a million-dollar budget it is miniscule. To me, that is an understatement. It's not about the money itself. It's not about the amount of money, I don't think that for any of us here, this is not going to make or break my budget or anyone else's that I know of. It's a matter of principle. I don't think it's something that needs to be legislated; it is something that should be on an individual basis – personal choice. To go beyond that, I think we all know that we had valid reasons for the hard decisions that we had to make in developing and approving that budget. It almost looks like to some or could look like to some, that we're trying to placate or apologize when it's really not justified, because we didn't do anything in that process other than in good conscience try to keep our town moving forward instead of allowing it to retrograde, and I'm opposed to the resolution on that basis.

Mayor Hodnett asked, any other comments? Mayor Hodnett stated, I'll say that I think the optics of it are impeccable. I think it shows the commitment by council that you are with the public and you're sympathizing with them for the biggest tax increase the town has had, probably in I don't know when. Yeah, we had to do it, had no choice, but that doesn't mean we have to like it. We can sympathize with the people that are paying it. I didn't get a second to my knowledge; like I said once again I put it out there and if there's a second we can move forward; if not it goes away. Mr. Perdieu states I've had several people in the community make comments to me about how they don't think this should be a paid position anyway. For the amount of money you get paid, I kind of agree. I don't think it's worth taking a salary, but I don't think we need to force anyone that wants to take that not to; everybody has different opinions. I don't think we should force anyone to take it or not. I think instead of it being a motion to pass that everyone has to sign on and everybody has to do it, I think it should be something where you want to sign on individually and you do it that way. Is that possible? Mayor Hodnett stated I think there are people sitting in this room that do that anyway. Mr. Perdieu stated I think that instead of putting into a vote and having to force people who don't want to do it, do it, let those who want to sign on go that route. Mayor Hodnett stated Donney? Mr. Johnson stated I agree with him on that. Mayor Hodnett stated, well if it doesn't get a second it dies.

### **Old Business (Ordinances)**

Mayor Hodnett asked, Shirley – percentage wise, where do you think you guys are at? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill replied, together we're not even halfway. As far as me reviewing them, I reviewed 10 out of the 13 that's on our website. I have corrections for the 10, but John and I getting together and reviewing the corrections together, we have not gotten halfway. Mayor Hodnett asked, how long have we been working on it now? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, in November we were working on it. Mayor Hodnett replied, so November. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, at the earliest November, or it may have been a little bit before that. Trying to get a better schedule where we can meet more often. He was super busy with a lot of the zoning stuff and then the Blackstock case, so he's been super busy. I've just been kind of very patient, feeding him information when he has time. Attorney Eller stated, tonight we've got the rest of the zoning. That's probably the biggest section we had to deal with. These that we have tonight are the last ones with the flood ordinance, which I gave everybody last week, so we can go ahead and turn them over to the Planning Commission to do their process and have hearings on that and be getting that passed. Of course, that takes a couple of months, and in between the other items don't need Planning Commission treatments, so they should go all at one time when we get them. It's not that far off, because the rest of them won't be as difficult. The zoning is the main thing we've really got to start on, so these plus what we've already passed and voted on should go to zoning ordinance, I mean, go to the Planning Commission. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated there were a couple of delays due to Covid and also FEMA. We waited on FEMA quite a while to get updates from them. Attorney Eller stated what we've done so far, other than what we did already in zoning, was the yard regulations – to make it so accessory buildings could not be in the front yard. The construction office added, which we did in connection with the Blackstock situation. Then we had applications for permits; that section was added to require that there not be any liens against any property before you get a permit. That would hopefully encourage people to go ahead and pay all their obligations to the town.

The inspection warrants – we added that. We added a section that requires a sign posted on a property when there's a felony action applied to that property. Then we decreased the board of zoning appeals to three from five, so we have that being incorporated with these others and take that to the Planning Commission. Hopefully they will set up a meeting this month and get it advertised. Mayor Hodnett asked how much more time do you think you need? Attorney Eller stated we just keep going. Mayor Hodnett stated well I talked to Donney and Collin, about joining in on this to try to expedite and get it moved forward. Attorney Eller stated I don't think it's a matter of more people looking at it; Shirley is looking at it. I have to turn them all into actual amendments like this, so that's the part that's takes more time. We don't need more people. Mr. Perdieu asked, if you are on 10 out of 13, then less than a year? Attorney Eller stated, we don't need more people than Shirley. Mayor Hodnett stated, if we started on them in November, can we set this November as a deadline to have it done and completed. Attorney Eller replied sure. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, we should be able to review everything by then. Attorney Eller stated we certainly want to do it by the end of the year anyway. Mr. Perdieu asked, is that why we are waiting to send the Municode off? Mayor Hodnett replied yeah. Mr. Perdieu stated the lady asked the other day and that's what I told her. Mr. Poindexter stated, that right there is something I was going to bring up in this conversation – as to where that fits in with what we at least tentatively decided to do with Municode. Where are we with that because I would really like to see that pretty soon. Mr. Perdieu stated we are set up with them to get a quote as soon as we can. As soon as we can we are sending the binder off to them; I think it's going to Florida. They're going to go through it and scan every page and

get us back a detailed quote. They are quoting it two ways. They're quoting us for self-publishing, where Kelsie would make the updates, and they're quoting it where it is full service. The mayor has suggested, and I agree, that we lean heavily towards full service because Kelsie has so much on her plate. There are some downsides to that; there are pros and cons to both. The downside of that is they only update it like two or three times a year versus with the full service she could do it the morning after we make an amendment. Once we get everything set up, they do it two or three times a year and we'll be able to implement all these changes. It will not change the whole time. That's one less thing Kelsie has to do. We can always change back to self-publishing. Right now, we're just waiting for this process to get into a stable position for us to be able to send off the one copy. I think once it goes live, and it will be a delay, once they get the book and they'll send it back, there will be a several month delay in us hitting the go button and it going active on the internet. During that time is when we can still be working on these ordinances and finishing them up. The sooner we get the book out, the better. Attorney Eller stated, I know Altavista does it as soon as their council passes an amendment; we email it in and at the beginning of the of the website when it opens up it shows what has changed, and that's almost soon as you get it. Mr. Perdieu responded right, and they will not incorporate it into the main body then; they only do that a couple of times a year. Attorney Eller stated right, that's what doesn't get done. Mr. Poindexter asked, so they have the full service instead of the in-house? Attorney Eller responded yeah, but it's online, everything that is done can be found. Mr. Perdieu stated they're going to quote it both ways. When we did the budget, we took her estimate for the full service and overestimated, so in hopes that it would be covered because she did not give us a firm quote. Mr. Poindexter stated, it sounds like to me it should fall either within what we budgeted or very close to it. Mr. Perdieu stated it should be very close. Mr. Poindexter stated, given the workload that we have here and the projects that need completing and more forthcoming, I think it's a no-brainer that we need to go full service. Mr. Perdieu stated I'm more interested in seeing Kelsie continue to do what she's doing – getting certifications and whatever else you can do to better yourself and not focus on this part of it, because what we're going to have once we add Municode to the website is going to be so much of a jump for us anyway, and we're going to be in a much better place. Attorney Eller stated Kelsie wouldn't have to do anything. Mr. Perdieu stated all we would have to do is just send it off, anyone could do it at Town Hall. Attorney Eller stated, as soon as it gets passed, we send it. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, I agree; on day one I suggested we go full service. Mr. Perdieu stated I was the one pushing for self-publishing. I see the light, and Kelsie might have hit me over the head a couple of times.

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

Attorney Eller stated that's the report I've got. We've been doing all of this.

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

Mrs. Brumfield reported that the operating account at First National Bank is at \$332,051.78. We take out the APRA Fund amount of \$226,057, and PD Fundraiser of \$112.02; that leaves us in our operating budget \$105,882.76. Our next water billing cycle will be August 15th. The town had to set up a reserve fund and it's a separate account that we had to set up and we set it up at FNB. The amount of that was \$8,569.60. This reserve account was required. It's part of the debt service and the financial agreement with the Virginia Department of Health; these funds cannot be commingled in any of the town's other funds. As long as we get that loan, that's part of it; we've got to keep these funds separate.

The Town also had to purchase for the pump station a surge protector and have an electrical hookup that cost \$4,312.40. We had to purchase a water meter and the meter heads for Staunton River Plastics; that cost \$4,732.73. Also, we had to get a control board for the generator and the installation for that; this was actually hit by lightning and to get that done, it was \$3,279.38. We had quite a few big things that were just not anticipated but we had to do and purchase. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked, do we have any back-up funds? Mrs. Brumfield stated, no not to my knowledge. Mayor Hodnett stated, depends on the definition of back-up funds for anything in particular. Are you talking about funds to back up Public Works? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill replied yes. Mayor Hodnett responded, we have the LGIP account, but as far as just sitting around in a checking account saying that we're setting aside specific dollars for backup – you know repairs we might need here or there – no, we don't do it like that. Mr. Perdieu stated, but with the surge protector, that should be a one-time thing. That's going to protect that control over the generator purchase, so that's \$7,000 right there and hopefully we'll never have to spend it again. Mrs. Brumfield replied, exactly – they were good investments; we had to do it. Mr. Perdieu stated, another thing that should have been done a long time ago.

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

Ms. Sligh stated she had received the real estate and personal property tax books from the county and has already started working on them. Sligh reported that she applied for a VMCA scholarship which will help if granted – money towards participating in the CMC conferences. Sligh stated that Kathy wanted her to report for her that she will be sending more photos for the website. Lastly, Sligh reported that we are still collecting money on water bills.

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

Mr. Smith reports that he was going to report on the surge protector that was installed. It has a 30-year warranty and should protect the pump station and generator. The generator had kicked on last month three times – lightning strikes and power failures, but the third time was a test which was good. I've been working with water billing, trying to get a hold of some people, turning off water for people not paying their bills. I'm still putting out the leak letters. I've had about four or five fixed and we put out about 40 total. Mayor Hodnett stated, a lot of those are repeats. Smith stated, a lot of them say they don't have a leak but then they find out that they do have a leak. Mayor Hodnett stated, and then they want relief. Smith replied, as soon as they find out they have a leak, they want relief. I have been working on a few of those as well; I think I've done about 5. Mr. Perdieu states I don't think they need relief if you have sent them multiple letters. Mayor Hodnett replied, well they fall within the policy. Smith stated, the longest one I had was 28 days because there was an issue with a plumber coming out, and it was legit, but the formula works and I like that a lot better.

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

##### Calls for Service

Civil Complaints - 4

Suspicious Person - 1

Public Service - 1

Vandalism/Destruction of Property - 1

Stolen Vehicle - 1

Trespassing - 1

Assist Other Agencies (Emergency Services) - 0

Mutual Aid (LE) - 4

All other offenses - 1

Identity theft - 1

Paper Served - 3

Animal case - 2

Noise Complaint - 3

Breaking & Entering - 2

Check for Wanted - 2

#### Other

Miles Driven - 221

Use of Force - 0

Department/Officer Complaints - 0

#### Department Updates

We continue to update our evidence room.

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

Mr. Jones stated, yes sir – update on the ordinance enforcement for nuisances. Mr. Earnest Tribble has failed to comply, and you will be getting a notice to commence action against him this week. Mr. Walter McCormick has submitted a plan to me; he's been under the weather, but he's moving equipment and coming into compliance and there'll be a final inspection in two weeks. Mrs. Reynolds, who has two pieces of property that are in violation, is working with me and she has some conditions which bear giving her time to get her affairs in order. Citizen response has been good to this, unless the citizen is the recipient of our action. While I've been out putting notices out, certain citizens would come over and say thank you for doing that. That's a long time coming, so it's a positive program for the most part – except those who are affected by it. The trailer courts are getting ready to get a formal notice to their owners. There have been about 22 violations issued to individual occupants. However, they have not responded. One has not responded because she's deceased, but now the trailer park owners are going to have to step up and take care of it, so that's where that stands. It's a rolling process. I do a certain amount at a time in the idea that hopefully people will get the message and self-comply. A new set of 25 targeted addresses has been identified, and within the next two to three weeks they will be getting notices. Mayor Hodnett stated, sounds good; thank you.

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

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

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

Mr. Johnson stated, I just continue to get positive feedback about what's going on down here at the SVMP (Staunton River Plastics). Citizens are pretty excited about it – good positive stuff. Mayor Hodnett stated great. Mr. Poindexter stated, the last time I rode by there, I noticed they had done a fair amount of painting and pouring some concrete; that was a delight to see.

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

Mr. Poindexter reported, not a great deal in a way of updates tonight; we're coming out of fiscal year changeover as the mayor has already alluded to. The new info is in the system and functioning properly.

It will be a while longer before we have a more definitive picture about any potential rollover funds, or lack thereof, whatever the case might be. We have some things we need to work on administratively here in the office regarding business licenses. There'll be more to report on finance later, should there be a called meeting later this month. In fact, I would recommend that there be one – probably in the timeframe of the 21st or the 25th. That would be a time to revisit some of these end-of-year figures as well as business licenses. All in all, the tentative end-of-year report doesn't look all that bad considering the national and global economics that we're dealing with – the inflation, decline of our 40-year-old water system, things that we're all familiar with. In fact, we are fortunate that it is not worse than it is. One of the bright spots continues to be the diligent effort of our staff collecting taxes, delinquent debt, and utility bills. Income is over projection in most of those areas, so again thank you for that. We have not seen that until very recent years. Some of the revenue items were down this year. Those are not controllables; they're factors external from Town Hall we can have little if any bearing upon. That's something that we have to accept and deal with what is there. That's all I have for finance at this time.

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

**Report from Mayor (Gary Hodnett)**

Mayor Hodnett reported, everything's moving forward on all the outstanding projects we have that I've discussed with council – positive movement on all of them across the board. That I think is extremely good news. We'll still be working hard to make sure that that happens. We should be meeting with the contractor for the renovation of the building, hopefully next week. Once we have that done, we'll have a called meeting on that, to get squared away and move forward from there. Another thing that I want to do, and I'm going to start tonight with Public Works, Joe... I'm sure that not everyone understands the workload that staff is under, individually. I'm going to read through a litany of things that he does on a daily basis, weekly, and monthly. We may have added one person to our office staff this year and now we've got three, but we're still understaffed, so please be patient.

Mayor Hodnett stated, Joe's required flush all fire hydrants in the town, which hasn't been done the last couple of years. Mr. Poindexter asked, what is the typical frequency of that? Mr. Tom Fore and Mayor Hodnett both replied, annually. Mayor Hodnett stated, in addition to that, Joee has to exercise one-half of all of the existing fire hydrants; he has to clean them out and make sure that the valves are working and take care of that; he has to clean the valve boxes. What did we say Tom, do 3 to 4 a year on those? Tom replied yes. Mayor Hodnett stated, and he has to clean them, put correct oils in them to make sure that everything is working right so that the caps come off. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked, how many fire hydrants do we have? Tom replied, about 89 fire hydrants and 68 valves. Mayor Hodnett stated, and we figured 2 hours to exercise them and clean them per hydrant. Tom Fore stated, because they're seized, they're not operable on certain valves. Those lids are supposed to come off every year and the reason is, you put new Never-Seize on there so that you can operate it. When you only take one off and flush a little bit out of it and that's it, it hasn't been exercised properly. Mr. Perdieu asked, so the reason we are in the problem now is because it hasn't been done in the past? Tom replied, right – once you get them up to speed it will take about 45 minutes to do one, because the process is you walk up to the hydrant, you close the valve in front of the hydrant so the hydrant is all the way open and then you crack the valve in front to let a little bit of water come out, because if you only raise the valve a little bit and the hydrant has a weep hole in the bottom, then all that water flows out on the ground, so you've got

to open that hydrant all the way up and then crack it to let the water through it so that you get a good flush. His flushes have to be a directional pipe flush; he's going to work from the center of the town and work toward dead ends. Once he starts moving water, he's working out to the dead ends. Once he gets to the dead ends, again what you're trying to do is get rid of your disinfection by-products that have formed in the lines over the years. Organics that are there – that's why it's got to be flushed. Once he opens that valve up while that water's running, you just let it clear, get all the caps off of it and you're putting the Never-Seize on it, inside of the cap and outside the ring, and then in the very top of the fire hydrant he pulls out an Allen nut or screw and he adds mineral oil to the top of it which is a food-grade type of oil. Then the caps have to go back on, turn the hydrant completely off, open the valve all the way back up, put caps back on, and then if you're lucky, you get to paint. Mayor Hodnett stated yeah, I was going to say we've got to paint them too.

Mike Jones stated, before we move on, let me illustrate what can happen to a locality if we don't do this. I have a client that shall remain nameless, but it's a medium sized county with over 400 hydrants. It has an authority that operates for them. I was asked to come in on a totally unrelated public safety study, but in my study, I found three-quarters of the hydrants that were nonfunctional, which basically dropped their ISO rating and increased their insurance until they could get the hydrants, because they had not been exercised and inspected in over three years. That's a real issue, when your ISO rating goes down and your fire departments have to carry a tanker to every fire call. That could cause lives to be lost, so we got ahead of the power curve here, and it's a very, very serious public safety effort. It cost that locality a lot of money to fix the damage on some hydrants that couldn't be fixed. Mayor Hodnett stated, thanks Mike. We are spending a ton of money on stuff that should have been done in the past. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked, reviving a dead town, so will it get better if we do it more frequently? Tom replied, yeah – once the first round is dropped down, like I said, about 45 minutes, doing the same thing. The time there is just the time to allow it to flush properly. Again, we're not trying to blow the water throughout the lines; we're not trying to do that, what we're trying to do is to do a directional clearing so that when he lets that water out, he's opening that valve off to get about three fingers coming out the side of it, one two-and-a-half-inch nozzle. He is diffusing it; he is dechlorinating it at the same time it's coming out of the fire hydrant. Again, depending on how long it takes to clear it, anywhere from 10 to 20 minutes, and then you want to stop that and go to the next one. Mr. Johnson asked, is that a one-person operation that you are talking about? Tom replied, not in my town. Mr. Johnson stated, that's the reason I'm asking, can we incorporate the fire department to get involved in some of this, or is that something we can't do? Mayor Hodnett stated, we can talk to them about it. Mr. Perdieu stated I was just thinking, we have to find some way to get him some help. I didn't think about the fire department or whether we would pay Tom more hours or whatever, and they tag team them, and then you pay somebody else to go behind you and paint them. I don't know, what's the best solution to get them done, because I'm also assuming that since it hasn't been done in several years, we're going to run into some that are probably going to need to be repaired or replaced? Tom replied we went out and did them; Joe's also setting up to be able to drop his tank, to have an interior clean. Part of that is to get his pressure at the top of the hill and pressure at the bottom of the hill to know where those pressures are so that when you take that tank out of service, the pump comes on and it maintains the pressure in the system, but you have blow-offs on those hydrants. That one at the bottom of the hill, I could not get the cap off the left side; they lock. This lock, if I got on it too hard, I would break it, so I just left it alone. It's going to take some heat and banging on the side of it until you break free. The thing about those caps is

that the actual nozzle on the fire hydrant is brass and cast iron. When you put those two together over time, if you don't keep that Never-Seize in place, they fuse together. Mr. Johnson stated, I remember the fire department flushing them on our street years ago, but it's been a long time. Mr. Perdieu asked, is the fire department going to be gentle enough if they get the one like you went to where the cap wouldn't come off? I'm not saying that they are a bunch of jadoo's. Mayor Hodnett stated, what we will do is that I'll talk to Eric and see if they can lend us a hand, but when you ask him for volunteers from the fire department, they're going to have to match up with Joe when he has time. There's probably going to be scheduling conflicts there. Mr. Perdieu stated, but to me even something they could do volunteer-wise would be to paint them after you're done. If you give them a map and say paint this one, this one, this one and this one, then you go back to painting or you've got to go back and check behind to make sure they painted the correct ones; you'll at least know they have been done. Mayor Hodnett stated, we can ask if they will volunteer. Mr. Poindexter stated one small detail I would like to clear up while we're talking about fire hydrants... are they owned by the town or by the fire department? Mayor Hodnett replied, the town; they are ours and we are responsible for them. Mr. Perdieu stated they are part of the town's water system. Mr. Poindexter stated, I thought so; a citizen asked me about that one day and I could only tell them I was 90% sure. Mayor Hodnett stated they are ours, so when we go to the fire department, we are asking them to gracefully volunteer their time, and it's going to take a lot of time. Mr. Perdieu asked, are there any other options? I know you are only like one bullet-point off your list? Mayor Hodnett replied, well anybody from council want to volunteer? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked, can you spray them? Mayor Hodnett asked, brush them, and has to be a special kind of paint right Tom? Tom replied, yeah, OSHA red is the color that you're going to be spraying. There's an aluminum color that Joe decided to go with to paint them aluminum so that you can actually see them at nighttime with the headlights on them. On the front nozzle Joe wants, we're going to color coordinate that pump nozzle so Joe knows exactly what type of line he's working on, so if there is break here, he's able to tell whoever's coming through, I need a 4 or 16 or 10 or 12-inch line, because he was looking at the cap, he'll know exactly what he's going to work on in that system. The fire department will know which ones get the most pressure by the color of big cap in the front of it. Mr. Perdieu stated, I think we need to have a council paint-day; give everybody a map and paint can. Tom stated, the first thing you need to do is to service them all; make sure everything's working like it's supposed to. We're going to try, I'm going to work with him, start it out to do one at a time; we will come in and probably do it on a Thursday or Friday, but it's based on his workload because he can't just go out there. He's got other things that he's got to do, so I've got to work with him to schedule the time.

Mike Jones stated, one other thing with this, in my experience with that, is that we should number the hydrants and also, based upon the ones that get covered by brush, place the fluorescent locator sticks that are about six feet tall beside each one in areas of undergrowth, which will help – like if the local fire department gets overwhelmed and has to call in for mutual aid, having a map of the hydrants that are numbered and the locator sticks will help mutual aid-responding departments locate the hydrants. Mr. Perdieu asked, don't they already have numbers? Tom replied, the company that came in and actually exercised them all and gave you a report back in 2019 – they numbered them, but their numbering system is still hard to identify based on streets, because some streets have no number, so that's going to have to be figured out, but we will get them to where they can be numbered. Joe stated, they are not actually numbered on the hydrant itself. Mayor Hodnett stated alright moving forward. Daily, check the water and wastewater pump stations, and he has to report those readings to Altavista. Monthly, there's

compliance sampling for the state. That's one full day – disinfection byproducts, bacteriological samples, monthly operational reports to the state. He's saving the Town roughly \$1,000 a month by taking on this job. Weekly, reviewing Beacon and the leak reports and sending out letters; this must be monitored for 14 days to make sure that the residents are adhering to fixing their leaks, or whether they're going to show up to us for adjustments on their bills and all so that has to be monitored. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, Gary do you think the leak monitoring has added more, has it helped as much as we expected or has it added more work than it's worth or do you think it's still working? Mayor Hodnett responded it is totally worth it. If the people will adhere to it, and I can speak from being notified of two leaks. Mr. Perdieu stated, it's saving our citizens money. Mayor Hodnett stated it's saving you money if you want to listen to it. Mr. Perdieu stated, and it's saving us money because we're not paying for extra water for people doing these abatements. Tom stated, it's basically a time transfer that occurred. Joe's time is more administrative now, watching that instead of being out reading meters, and having to read meters; now he's able to watch what's happening on Beacon. Mayor Hodnett stated, alright he must verify the information to contractors who are working in town, coming in to do jobs; they have to get a right-to-work in the Town of Hurt permit now, so he has to look at these jobs and see what is going on, so he's aware of any inspections that have to be made. He's responsible for quarterly water billing, Kelsie helps him on that end when they do that. He's responsible for payment agreements for people in town that have these agreements; he has to monitor them to make sure that they stay in compliance and turn off water meters if not; he's been busy cutting off water and we've had a lot of people pay bills today.

Joe is responsible for routine maintenance of the generator at the pump station, so he has to keep up with scheduling for that, bring in the technician to run diagnostics on it, and keep tabs on that to make sure it's running right. He oversees special projects such as phase one/phase two, and also acts as an inspector on those projects, so he's out in the field every day when Lewis Compton is over there working at the pump station in Altavista, the water treatment plant, Joe has to be their onsite, watching what he's doing and inspecting everything he's doing to sign off on it for the state, so that takes time. Because of the consent order, he's also taking care of the operational valuation reports that are made for the Virginia Department of Health; he does that. He's responsible for boil water notices and rescinding these notices anytime we have a breach of our water system within the town – like we had, what Joe – two weeks/three weeks ago? Joe replied yeah. Mayor Hodnett stated, so he was there from the start of it until eight or nine o'clock at night; he and I were delivering recission notices Saturday morning, so we were out doing that, but he's responsible for that. He's responsible for the backflow prevention program that is being implemented in the town; he has to talk with people and explain what that is, and make sure that they understand and are keeping their letters up to date. Tank cleaning; he's getting ready to start on 250,000-gallon water tank right off Spring Street, so that's going to be a process in itself, but he is responsible seeing that it is handled correctly – coordinating it, getting people in, and taking care of that. He's working on the new lead and copper rule from the state for all Town of Hurt water customers. He waters the flowers; he picks up the garbage around here. He's responsible for contacting engineers, VDH, Peed & Bortz – he's working with them, and he's also working with the Health Department. He's making sure that each of these people knows what the others are doing and that in itself is a job, trust me. Inventory of all the water parts that have been ordered and going in the container out back, he's responsible for that. Zoning applications and changes, he reviews and signs the permits and variances, the permits to work in town that we were talking about a while ago; all of these things fall under him.

Every two years, well we've covered this one, he has to paint the fire hydrants and handle all that stuff. If you listen to what I just went over, and I forget how many items there were, none of that was on his projected list of his responsibilities when he was hired, and we went down a full list of things and that are not even on that, so that makes about three pages of stuff he's responsible for. Mr. Poindexter stated, it's all over and above the general job description. Mayor Hodnett stated, all over and above his general job description, and when we go into phase two on the consent order, I can tell you, we are going to have to have help from council, with people on council being there and monitoring some of that project. He can't do that and keep up with everything else he's doing, so what that means is, some people on council are going to have to understand what these projects are, what's going on with them, deal with the Health Department, deal with engineers, and they're going to have to sign off on some stuff and they're going to have to be responsible for what they're signing, so with that said, that's just an update on what he's doing. Tom Fore stated with Joe's passing of his class five water license test, after this license expires, he's going to have to do 16 hours of continued education classes or eight hours a year, every year going forward. That's just something else he's got to keep up with, and if he doesn't get it, he can lose his license, so you've got to let him go to school. Mayor Hodnett stated, at the next meeting we will have one on the treasurer or clerk as to what they do, because everybody that works for the Town of Hurt is well past what their job descriptions list. They're above and beyond and I don't mean by a little bit; I mean by a lot.

That's all I have, so we can adjourn at 7:50 PM if nobody has anything else. Thank you for coming.

*Kelsie Sligh*  
Kelsie Sligh, Clerk

*Gary Hodnett*  
Gary Hodnett, Mayor