

Town of Hurt, Virginia
Council Meeting Minutes
June 7th, 2022

Hurt Town Council held its monthly business meeting on Tuesday, June 7th, 2022, at Town Hall. The meeting opened at 6:00 PM by Mayor Gary Hodnett with a quorum present.

Roll Call

Members present: Mrs. Kathy Keesee and Mr. Luke Perdieu, and Via phone were Mr. Gary Poindexter and Mr. Donney Johnson

Closed Session

A motion was made to enter closed session to discuss personnel, prospective business, real estate, and consultation with legal counsel, as authorized by VA FOIA § 2.2-3711 A (1, 3, 5, 7).

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

Council entered closed session at 6:12 PM and exited closed session at approximately 6:30 PM.

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

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

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Mrs. Keesee

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mayor Hodnett

Opening Remarks

Mayor Hodnett asked Attorney Eller for the public comment period if we needed to wait until 7:00pm? Attorney Eller stated well we aren't going to be able to have the hearing on the budget, so it's a little different. It states that the open session will began immediately at the end of the closed session, approximately 6:45pm. We've actually announced that the meeting would be at 6:45pm. Wait until 6:45pm, then you should be okay. When we do get to the public hearing on the 15th, it says 7:00pm, so we'll have to wait until 7:00pm. Mayor Hodnett states Wednesday a week from tomorrow will be the public hearing. Mr. Perdieu asked if there was a closed session before that? Mayor Hodnett replied no we are not going to have a closed session before that, we are just going to jump right in. Attorney Eller stated if we were having a hearing and it said 7:00pm we would have to wait until 7:00pm. Attorney Eller states once again Kelsie has produced a book. Mayor Hodnett stated yea she was a little under the weather today, so I sent her on home. Attorney Eller stated after that effort again, these minutes are just great now. Mr. Perdieu stated they are very in-depth. Mrs. Keesee stated they are word for word. Mr. Perdieu stated my wife loves to see them packets at the door, because she knows it is going to take me 2 hours to read everything. Mayor Hodnett welcomes the journal reporters and states we are waiting until 6:45pm and we are going to get it moving. We will move pretty fast. We want to get everything done tonight, so next week when we come in for the budget, we'll just be right on that. Attorney Eller states yes, you will have the hearing, and you can tentatively approve it, but you have to

wait another seven days. Mayor Hodnett stated when you say tentatively approve it, describe to me what that is, is that a vote or a voice? Attorney Eller responded it looks good because you can't formally approve it for another seven days. Mr. Perdieu asked did we actually release the budget and let everybody see it first, I guess that's what's coming out in the paper tomorrow, or when do they get to see it, next week? Mayor Hodnett responded any time they want too, the summary is online, but not the full budget. If they want to see that they can come down here and get a copy anytime they want too. Mrs. Brumfield asked so it has to be approved any time after the 22nd because that's seven days right? Attorney Eller responded right; you can put the whole budget on the website couldn't you? Mrs. Keesee stated yes. Mayor Hodnett stated we will after it is approved. Attorney Eller stated why wouldn't you before? Mrs. Brumfield stated I think it is. Mayor Hodnett stated yea it is already on there. Attorney Eller stated the only thing that has to go in the paper is a synopsis. Since it's so easy to put it out on the website, might as well do it. Mayor Hodnett stated you know us, right by the rules. Attorney Eller stated don't make them come down here when they can just click on it. I don't think they are going to look at it anyway, transparency, that's what you want. Mayor Hodnett stated its 6:45pm. Journal thank you guys for coming. We hope we have some worthy news for you tonight.

Consent Agenda

Are there any additions to the agenda? Mayor Hodnett stated Jason do you have anything? Probably not, just your regular stuff. Chief Lovelace responded yeah, just my regular stuff. Mayor Hodnett stated I'll add the neighborhood watch and the classes. We'll discuss that when it's more of an appropriate time for that. I guess next, do we have a motion to approve the consent agenda and the minutes from May, I think it was 3 sets, wasn't it John? Mayor Hodnett stated May 3rd and May 17th, so 2 sets. A motion was made to approve the consent for May 3rd and May 17th as is.

Motion: Mrs. Keesee

Second: Mr. Perdieu

Passage: Unanimous

Public Comment

Mayor Hodnett stated thank you. Moving forward the public comments. Anyone like to make any public comments? Bob Majure stated we don't have any today. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you. The budget will be next Wednesday the 15th, I don't know if y'all saw it in the paper or not.

General Business

Mayor Hodnett stated general Business, new business bond counsel update. We've been putting that back and back and back, so we are scheduled for Thursday the seventh. I think everything is in order to move forward with that. Hopefully we'll get approved. We put in our first request for disbursement of funds for the dollars that we put out paying the contractors and all, so I can tell you that it is unbelievable the detail that you have to go through. The last three days, Joe pretty much that's all we've done isn't it? Attorney Eller stated you said the 7th, well today is the 7th. Mayor Hodnett stated it was supposed to be today and they put it off till the 9th. Attorney Eller stated I think they put it off again. Mayor Hodnett asked from the 9th? Attorney Eller responded I think they put it off from the 9th. Mayor Hodnett stated last I heard today they were still going to shoot for the 9th. Attorney Eller stated when I signed my letter dated for the 9th, I was going to bring it over here so we could send it out in the package, and I think they told Melissa don't bother. Mayor Hodnett asked really, okay, well, that's something different than what he told me this morning, but this thing is fluid, it's moving. Attorney Eller stated it may be a little bit later. Mayor Hodnett responded okay; we'll do it whenever they get ready. Attorney Eller stated absolutely.

Old Business

Mayor Hodnett stated next, old business, the barrier at the pump station, Collin is not available, so we won't discuss that. Ordinances, Shirley she's not on the phone, John do you have anything for us on that? Attorney Eller stated we've got to do the new flood control ordinances. We got to do amendments to them and that's part of the zoning ordinance. We have to advertise that and it's not ready to actually be put in the paper, but I do believe to give you all a draft of it, Shirley's got it. When we get ready to do all the zoning ordinance changes this will be part of it and this has to be sent into Thema, and the approved as well. We'll be doing that and getting that approved, and Shirley and I are going to meet next Monday and work on some more of the general ordinances. We're going to meet more often to try and speed it up now. We got the problems solved with the zoning area. Mayor Hodnett stated great, that's good news. Luke, the municode? Luke responded getting ready to send it off, we've been waiting to get the timing right to go into the next budget. I sent you the information for the FedEx information today, just for whenever your ready to send it off for us. Mayor Hodnett stated I want to talk about that, we want to go all in. We don't want to want to be responsible at Town Hall. Mr. Perdieu stated I think that's fine because Kelsie has plenty of things to do. Mayor Hodnett stated she is over worked, exactly. Mr. Perdieu stated the only thing I say that it complies is, we keep amending stuff, it is just going to be a back law of stuff to be put on, but by the time they get it on there we will have this kind of stuff ironed out. Attorney Eller asked if we are going to send them what we have now so that they can see it and the volume of it? Mr. Perdieu responded yes. They get the whole binder. They get to see the size of it, and they make a scan of everything, and then they send it back to us. Probably have it back within two weeks. Mrs. Keesee asked, and this is the same company that our website is through? Mr. Perdieu responded yes. Mr. Poindexter stated Gary I didn't hear what Luke said when you first moved to this item on the agenda, its not all coming through. Mayor Hodnett stated he said he's got everything ready with municode, for us to send the binders down, so they can start getting copies of everything and start getting the preliminary work done and ready to move forward. Attorney Eller stated when you get ready what your going to send, I'd like to take a look at it and make sure that the newest ordinances that you passed are in there. Mr. Perdieu stated as far as I know we are just going to send them the binder. Mayor Hodnett stated yea we are just going to send the binders, but I can ask the question on the newest ordinances. Attorney Eller asked the binder? Mr. Perdieu stated that real big thick binder up there. Attorney Eller stated yea, well that's what I want to see, so I can make sure what is in the notebook is correct. Mayor Hodnett stated well that's what I'm telling you, those last things that you and Shirley worked on that you sent of copies of, we haven't got those in the notebook yet. We will have to get them in. Attorney Eller stated that's my very reason for wanting to look at it. Mr. Perdieu stated it did say that if you have anything like on a word document or PDF on your computer that you can email to them, it would make it cheaper on us if you already had it typed up. If that makes sense. I don't know what you and Shirley are doing, if y'all are doing it on the computer. Attorney Eller stated well we can't give them anything that has not been passed. Mr. Perdieu responded right, but anything previous that has been passed that's in the computer, you don't have to scan that section, they can just take what we already have off the computer. I told them that since the book has been a living breathing beast since 1970s, that's the most reliable copy is just whatever is on paper in that book, and that its going to be hard to piecemeal all back together with word documents. Attorney Eller stated well we can send them an email with all the most recent ones. Mayor Hodnett stated we won't take them time to file them in there, we can just send the copies to them. Attorney Eller responded they can put them in there. We will do that and get that together. Mr. Perdieu stated you can send them to me or Gary,

either one. Mayor Hodnett asked Mr. Poindexter if he heard that? Mr. Poindexter stated it sounds like John's office sends a PDF of every chapter of a current version that they have of the Municode. I was going to suggest that. That's the cleanest and most up to date and ensured way there is to do it. Mr. Perdieu stated I'm sure there's going to be some overlap somewhere. We're going to get our wires crossed eventually. We're just trying to prevent it as much as possible, but I will send you our caseworker's email and phone number. Attorney Eller stated okay good. Mayor Hodnett stated so we are good with that.

Unfinished Business

I am going to remove from the unfinished business the study to attract minority candidates because we're not getting any movement on that. I'm going to go ahead and just take that off.

Report from Legal Counsel (Attorney John Eller)

Attorney Eller well you basically have heard mine about the zoning ordinances. That's what I'm working on right now.

Report from Treasurer (Ellen Brumfield)

Mrs. Brumfield reported that General Bank account has \$268,899 in it. Of that \$226,057 is ARPA funds, and that leaves us with an operating budget balance of \$42,842. We should be receiving a reimbursement soon, as Gary just mentioned with the bond counsel and this Virginia Department of Health where we have paid some of the vendors, roughly \$99,164. We should be getting reimbursement for that because we have paid those funds out of our general account. The Town Council checks have been printed and just being distributed for the year. Renewal for the VRSA, which is our Virginia Risk Sharing Association, we voted to add the \$500 coverage fee for the additional workman's comp. That has been added to the renewal rate, which brings it to \$15,943 annually, and we pay that quarterly. That's all I have.

Administrative (Kelsie Sligh Clerk Report)

Sligh was absent. Mayor Hodnett stated she is not here, so I will give her report. She's been working real hard collecting current water bills and doing an outstanding job. I think as of today, it's only what like \$20,000 left to collect on. Mrs. Brumfield stated when I did the numbers today, I think it was only like \$12,000. Mayor Hodnett stated so \$12,000 vs \$20,000. We're not even at 30-day point of bills being due, so that's fantastic. I ran a 30-60-90-day report, because right now at the 90 plus days, we've got \$22,000 that is owed, and most all of this is tied up, well probably at least half of it is tied in contracts with the Town. People on the payment plans and all, so Joe and I are going through this to make sure that everyone's meeting their contract obligations, and if they're not, we're going to take action against these people immediately. I think it's about \$12,000 of that \$20,000 is tied up in payment plans, so we're working on that. There's Kelsie's report.

Public Works (Joseph Smith)

Joseph stated I don't have a real lot. Like the Mayor was saying the water billing is out. We put out the CCR report and got that on the website and put some down at the schools and some down at the post office for the residents to pick up. They can also pick up a copy here at the Town Hall, or they can print one, whatever they want to do. They worked on the road on School Road to Prospect. They filled that up and put the asphalt down. We were able to locate the missing valve and put a rod on it, and all I have to do is take the dirt out because it's been impacted for years. Mr. Perdieu stated at least you know where it is now, that's an improvement. Mr. Smith states we had an issue with the generator station Friday. I

went down to check the generator and it was running. I checked the running hours, and it was running for five hours. Somewhere around two o'clock in the morning, it got hit by lighting. The problem was, it was telling me with the electrical panels for the transfer switch that it was on emergency power. I called Dominion got with them, they said our electric to the station was fine. Me and Tom went into the meter, took the meter apart and opened up the panels and tested the 480, all the lines were good across the legs, everything was good. I called the generator company, as soon I called the generator company he said okay, I'll be out, I know what it is. He came out and he had a new control panel and installed it on the generator. Now it will switch off an emergency and we're back on the normal. The problem is it burned up the control panel. Control paneling itself is about \$3000 plus for them to install it. Now apparently this has happened before, many times. There's no surge protection on any of the electrical in that building. I have to contact the electrician, get a price of what it is going to cost, and how many they need to put surge protection on electrical in the building. Mayor Hodnett stated this isn't an option, this is a must. Mr. Perdieu stated it's a matter of when. Mayor Hodnett stated how many \$3000 panels do you want to buy. Mr. Perdieu stated probably not going to buy this one. Mrs. Keesee stated this isn't anything of insurance helps with? Mayor Hodnett responded no. Mr. Smith stated apparently it got hit in 18 and a couple times before that. Mr. Perdieu stated good grief, it's not covered under insurance? Mayor responded no. Mr. Perdieu asked do you already have an electrician on it? Mr. Smith responded no, not yet. Mr. Perdieu asked do you want me to give you mine? Mr. Smith responded sure. Mr. Perdieu stated I will give you his number. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you Joe.

Police Report (Chief Lovelace)

May 2022 Police Report

Calls for Service-

Family Offense nonviolent- 1

Suspicious Person-3

Public Service-1

Vandalism/Destruction of Property-5

Larceny-2

Disabled Vehicle-1

Noise Complaint- 1

Alarms-1

Assist Other Agencies (Emergency Services)-1

Paper Served- 3

Fraud- 2

Animal Case-3

Simple Assault-1

Drug Offense- 1

All other offenses-2

Suspicious Person-1

Other

Miles Driven-1416

Training- Intoxilyzer recertification for all LE

Assist Other Town Departments-1

Use of Force-0

Department/Officer Complaints-0

Department Updates-

Continue to work evidence room updates.

Department has been awarded a lodging scholarship to attend training for 2022 Virginia School Safety Training Forum.

Chief Lovelace reported that recently we got recertified for intoxilyzer training, that's something that's mandatory for us every two years. We got intoxilyzer certification, and everyone passed, so we're good on that. Several months ago, I applied for a scholarship for lodging for school safety and we were awarded that scholarship. We'll be going to a school safety training, and they'll actually lodge us for free. Other than that, Mayor Hodnett and myself have talked about setting up some classes free to the community to come in and speak about fraudulent activities and how to be safe from fishing and other things like that. We look forward to setting those up. Mayor Hodnett stated we're going to also implement a neighborhood watch. We're trying to bring in Grit and Motley into that if possible. Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Department is on board with it and Sheriff Taylor said if need be, he would be more than glad to come out and talk to people and talk to the communities about the value of the neighborhood watches and all this. There right there with us, so that will be good for the community with the classes that Jason's talking about, you know, we're looking at the elderly within the community about making sure that they don't get scammed and understand that when you go somewhere and use a credit card to pay your gas or whatever don't lay it on the counter and turn away because somebody with a scammer can be behind you and read your card, get all your information. We're going to try to educate people on all that, and that's where we're at. That's something that I think will be really important and a big hit with the community.

Public Safety Mike Jones

Mike Jones reported good evening, everybody. Sorry, I haven't seen you too much. Ever since all the shootings, it's been rather busy in my other world. In the Hurt world I've got the second enforcement notices going out on the previous ones. Several folks are either out of Town or noncompliant. The folks who have reached out to me and ask for help will be probably coming to Council to ask for some form of relief, since they are having difficulty in getting their property to meet code. I'll be coming down to issue my second set of first notices as I go through the list of violators. That's pretty much all I have for you this week. One other thing I'll be bringing through the Mayor, for you to review. I'm recommending that we establish a new ordinance called and accumulation. What that accumulation means is, multiple houses in Town that indoor furniture that is permanently affixed to the front porch, and its upholstered furniture and a lot of jurisdictions throughout Virginia and North Carolina recognize a problem that it does not fit in the business ordinance per say, but it creates a horrible eyesore. I have taking the ordinances of various locations, and I put one together, and I'll be submitting it to you for discussion. The last thing is, late yesterday the Department of Homeland Security, has issued a nationwide enhanced alert for potential terrorist activities. There are some specific threats, nothing in our area, but it's been a generalized, raising the alert, which doesn't really affect us other than it puts our Police agencies, fire, and public safety on alert, and also arcade for ransomware attacks on small Towns, and that's about it. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you, Mike.

Reports from Membership, Boards, and Commissions

Administrative Kathy Keesee- Mrs. Keesee reports that I hope you all get to see the photographs that Kelsie put on Facebook and our website for the Memorial Day picnic we had. I especially like to thank

everybody that was involved in that. Going forward, I am working currently on a new PR advertisement that will go into the Discover magazines, trying to show the versatility of our community. That's all I have right now.

Community Development-Donney Johnson

Donney reported that he has gotten a lot of feedback from getting the road repaired on School Road. People have been positive. I want to ask Joe something on the barriers we've been talking about at the Pump Station, Collin contacted me yesterday, and he was having a little bit of confusion on it, about them needing to be apart. What is the deal with that? Mr. Smith responds there's a problem with the line that runs from the Pump Station across the street and up the hill. The blocks have to be three feet off the center in either direction. That will put a gap between them. Mr. Johnson asked you have to have 6 foot between them? Mr. Smith responded over that pipe, yes. That's what I was told. Mr. Johnson stated that's all I got. Mayor Hodnett stated thanks Donney.

Finance-Gary Poindexter

Mr. Poindexter stated okay 3 items tonight, one of them very quickly, the budget, of course, has been deferred to next Wednesday for the public hearing. I am continuing to work on a few additional dips and data as far as economic and demographic data to share with all, I don't have that ready yet. As far as the end of May report is concerned obviously, we are now in the highest month of the fiscal year, so we're 91.6% of the way through the fiscal year. Guess what, our general fund revenue is at 92% of budget, right on target. Good work to our staff collecting the money that is due. I appreciate their diligence. The general fund expenditures are also very close to where we should be, 96% year to date. On the enterprise fund, we are at 77%, and I have a question on that in just a minute. Enterprise expenditures were at 110% of budget which is over as we expect due to capital projects and other variables. The question that I have when I looked over the report, the quarterly base charge, it's on our water bills, but I don't see any revenue listed under that line item, it's budgeted but it's nothing posted there. Mayor can you tell me anything on that? Mayor Hodnett responded yes; we're moving that over. It's been going into water billing and the collections there. When it came in, it was being flagged with water revenue. We're moving it out of there. We've gone into the system to get how much we've collected so far and then we're going to move it in to correct that. Mr. Poindexter stated so in other words just up to this point it has not been separated the base charge from the volumetric charge. Mayor Hodnett replied correct. Mr. Poindexter stated that's what I have for the monthly report. The last item that I want to mention tonight is the topic of business licenses. We have alluded to that briefly in the previous meeting. I have reviewed all of the business license forms submitted to date at least as of last week, I have identified a few on first loop, a few businesses that have not submitted one yet. I encourage maybe a reminder for those folks to do that. Many of them look generally realistic, reasonable if you will. There are a few that appear for some potential further review or may need some additional supporting documentation. I would say that while we are talking about business license and all of those with the budget, I think maybe we should take a survey of the business tax rate of other Town's our size for comparison, like we've already done with real estate and personal property decals and so forth. It's too late for the current budget but we should probably get that on the radar for next cycle if not before to make sure that we're in an appropriate level of our peers. Lastly in view of all that, I think it will not be a bad idea to have another finance committee meeting, either later this month or in the first part of next month, depending on when all numbers are available to evaluate these licenses and things in more detail. Right now, we have the immediacy of getting the budget passed and completed before July 1, so

obviously that's priority one. Beyond that I would encourage us to have another committee meeting and zero in on some of these a little bit closer. That's all I have for finance at this time. Mayor Hodnett stated on that meeting, just let me know when you want to have it, so we can take care of it. Mr. Poindexter stated that sounds good. I will need to see when Luke and Shirley are both available. I know I am not available on the 23rd but outside of that, I got some flexibility this time of year. If the other two will let Mayor and myself know, we will work out a date and time for that. Mayor Hodnett stated alright, thank you.

Public Works- Collin Adams

No Report

Report from Mayor Hodnett

Mayor Hodnett stated I don't have anything other than just a reminder to let everybody know that we will be working very hard on this community watch. I think it's something that's going to be important and these classes that Jason's been talking about. I think we really need to do everything we can to get the word out on that. Thank you all for coming and we will see you all back here on Wednesday the 15th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Kelsie Sligh

Kelsie Sligh

Gary Hodnett

Gary Hodnett