

Town of Hurt, Virginia
Council Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2023

Hurt Town Council held its monthly business meeting Tuesday, March 7, 2022, at Town Hall. The meeting opened at 6:02 PM by Mayor Gary Hodnett with a quorum present.

Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Gary Poindexter, Mr. Bob Majure, Mrs. Kathy Keesee, Mrs. Christian Tyree, and Mr. Jeremiah Knowles

Closed Session

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

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mr. Majure

Passage: Unanimous

Council entered the closed session at 6:00 PM and exited the closed session at approximately 7:13 p.m.

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. Majure

Passage: Unanimous

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Mr. Poindexter

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mayor Hodnett

Welcome/Opening Remarks

Mayor Hodnett thanked everyone for coming. If you would like to speak please sign up on the sheet on the podium. You will have three minutes to talk.

Consent Agenda

Additions to the agenda, Mayor Hodnett stated I would like to add our February minutes and expenditures, and also like to briefly update everyone on the chicken ordinance.

A motion was made to approve the February minutes and budget expenditures.

Motion: Mrs. Keesee

Second: Mr. Knowles

Passage: Unanimous

Public Comments

Mayor Hodnett opened the public comment period at 7:05 p.m.

Paul Johnson at 609 Lynn Street stated when the chicken ordinance is discussed I would like to ask any questions at that point in time if needed. We had a meet and greet with the Mayor a couple of weeks ago, the social media post from Mike Jones reflects poorly on the Town and needs to stop. I am a contractor, if I stated on social media things that were stated, I would lose my job. School teachers in here would lose their job, anyone in a public position would lose their jobs. Also, if you are at liberty to share, can we get a status on the Staunton River Plastics, it looks like construction and equipment installation has stopped and I was just curious at what day they are looking to start production.

Mayor Hodnett stated as far as Staunton River Plastics they are looking for a switch box to come in from Mexico that's going to work on the current that will be running the machines. They haven't started moving any equipment in until they get the switch box. They have been waiting on it for six weeks now that I know of. Everything else is set up, sewer, panel box, and electrical box, but as soon as the switch box gets in from Mexico they are good to go. Now as far as the chickens, Town Hall is going to have to own our mistake. The ordinance was changed, everyone had 60 days that they were to come in and get a license permit to have chickens. It fell through the cracks, but we will advertise 30 days tomorrow and let everyone in town know, 12 hens, no roosters, and the pen has to be a certain size. We are going to let everybody know that has chickens that they have to come to Town Hall and get a permit, and once that takes place we are going to start enforcing it in 30 days. Mr. Blackstock stated at the last meeting you stated that the waste had to be carried out of the Town of Hurt, can they be disposed of in the green boxes in Motley or Grit? Mayor Hodnett stated I would be surprised if they could. Mr. Blackstock stated I ask because if you can't dispose of it in Hurt, I don't know where they will dispose of it. Mayor Hodnett replied I will find out.

Public Comment period is closed at 7:10 p.m.

General Business

New Business

Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates Audit Report Scott Wickham

My name is Scott Wickham and I am in charge of the Town's audit. I am here to go over the results of the audit that ended June 30 2022. The audit was completed back in October but getting the schedule to work out and getting here has been a little bit. Thank you all for having me. On pages two, three, and four you have the independent audit report and this speaks to the numbers in the financial statements. The Town received an unmodified opinion, which is the best opinion you can get. It means the numbers presented in the report are truly accurate. If you are comparing this report from this year to last year you will notice that the format is a lot different. You also implanted GASB, which was a significant impact for a lot of localities. Leases are now included in the financial statements. The biggest impact for the Town which is a positive impact, is the tower lease which is included as a receivable, now a long term receivable, as opposed to an operating receivable in prior years. Exhibit one on page six is the statement of definition, this gives a summary of the overall Town of Hurt's financial position and it has assets deferred outflows, liabilities deferred inflows and net position across the bottom. Net position is the net worth of the Town essentially on the full accrual accounting considering all liabilities and all assets. In total, the Town had about two and a half million dollars of net worth. Of that two and a half million dollars, 1.7 million was tied up in infrastructure and capital assets net or related debt. On page three, exhibit eight you have the balance sheet on the modified accrual basis of accounting, this is a much shorter time frame. This is going to be your cash basis, plus your short term receivables, less of short term payable. The fund balance is really what you consider available to be used. Across the bottom, we have a fund balance, a total of \$736,000, of that some was held as non-spendable. About \$533,000 was available as of June 30.th. Over on to exhibit seven, on page 12. This is a balance sheet, little more detailed for the water and sewer fund. I did want to point out that the Town did issue a bond for the first time in a really long time, as far as I'm aware of for water improvements. That does show up here as a bond payable, about \$69,000 as of June 30. Exhibit nine on page 14, this is the statement of cash flows for the state water and sewer fund. I find this exhibit to be helpful to see how you are generating and using funds. Across the top you can see the operating activities, you can see that the funds generated

\$67,000 which went to pay for capital improvements and debt. Overall decrease in cash about \$70,000 during the year. On page 83 shows the GASB report. We report two findings here, the same two findings have been reported for a while, they're really common for small towns. The first one being internal controls. There's been a lot of improvements in this area as far as getting proper checks and balances in place. Having a second set of eyes on everything and having documentation printed with a signature on it. If you review something and don't sign off on it, there is no way for me to know that someone else has signed off on it and reviewed it. From where you all were when I started working with you all to where you are now is a vast improvement, but it's still challenging, we're going to keep working on improving those controls. The second item is led to material adjustments. As part of our audit, we find items that are not properly accrued as part of the year and accruals. We are required to let us know that we've posted proposed material adjustments. Those are included in the handout as well, but those are common items for a small town to have finding in the report. Overall, the audit report was really well.

On page two, we have a 10 year trend of the general fund summary. You can see the fund balance across the bottom there has grown at less than 2% per year. Towards the top, the green box, this shows revenues that have grown about 3% per year, and expenses has grown about 4.7% per year. I want to point out a big trend we expect to see, with the current federal funding that's out there. There's a lot of federal funding coming on your government expenditures, but we expect somewhere in 2008 or 2009 when the ARPA funding was there, a pullback in state and federal funding, a lot more requirements for localities to fund themselves. Just watch that and monitor your expenditures, especially with increasing inflation as well. But overall, that's a pretty good trend. On page three, to kind of give you an idea of what that fund balance means. Excluding that land you had for sale, you had about \$555,000 in fund balance, and that's about your annual expenditures, so you're very healthy as far as the general fund goes. On page four, it's some trend information there, the annualized growth rates and the tax assessments. Overall across the entire tenure trim, almost flat, less than a 1% increase. On page six is a pie chart of the general fund revenues where the funds come from, and then where they've gone. On page seven, we also have trend information for the water and sewer funds. You can see an increase in the revenues over that 10 year trend, about seven and a half percent compared to operating expenditures increasing under less than 5%. That's a good gap there, as I mentioned with expected increase in costs.

The next section is our audit recommendations. As part of our audit, I mentioned we have two findings on the report. We also have other items that we noted during the process that were either non-material non-compliance or best practice recommendations. I know that the staff is working on improving a lot of these items, the State Fire Fund was a new test for us. It's technically not required for us to test it with you all but it was required from the counties. I want to make sure that you are following the same requirements that the state requires and the program so it should be a reimbursement basis and the annual report should agree to the actual expenditures. I know that there's been a long process of improving the accounting software, and so much has improved from where it was. Continue to work on getting the abatement posted in a timely manner that has been supported by the Commissioner of Revenue taxes of operation. Another one is the PPTRA discount want to try and align that discount that the Town receives with the amount provided to the citizens. The next couple of pages is the letter to the internal governments to give you all an overall summary overview of the audit process. Again you all implemented GASB 87. The rest of this letter goes to speak to any challenges or any problems during the audit. Overall, the staff was very helpful and uploading information to us ahead of time or having it here

as we were onsite, so the process of the audit went pretty well. The last section here is, as I mentioned, those accrual entries that we provided to get the books accurate based on documentation you all provided and those sorts of items are here for reference. Overall, in summary the process of the audit has improved so much since I started here. I'm pretty happy with where the processes are now, and I know that you're going to work to do better in that area, so a pretty good audit, any questions? Mayor Hodnett stated I'll open up the floor to the residents if anyone has any questions to ask the auditor about the health of the Town. No comment.

Dog Complaints:

Mayor Hodnett stated Mr. Holliday I didn't know you were going to be here tonight, and didn't add you to the agenda. I think that you are here to address the three different dog complaints. The question is what are you going to do to make sure that your dogs are kept up and to keep this from happening again? Mr. Holliday replied I have fenced in my whole yard, as well as wireless just in case. Copper is much harder to handle than we figured. Right now I'm at about \$3,500 worth of improvements on my property to make sure that this isn't a continuing issue. The only thing that I would add to that is I have four young children. It is entirely possible that my dog is going to run out and find his way wherever it is that he decides to go when he does that. There is nothing I can do to stop that. The efforts that we've taken to put the fence up and to do the wireless stuff with the dog, I will do the absolute best I can with my children and making sure that they're kept in the fence at all times possible, but I can't rule out that he's not going to run off from time to time. Also, I can't rule out that he's not going to get the Postal Service guy when he comes up in the driveway. That is entirely his fault, I yelled at him, and told my son to get the dog, and he kept approaching my son, and he got nipped for it. It is my land, my property and he had no right to keep coming up the driveway. I had to get the dog. He was looking at me and he was still continuing toward my son. Mayor Hodnett asked have you considered a shock collar for the dog? Mr. Holliday replied that is what the wired fence is. Copper was abused before he came to us. He was my neighbor's dog, but he was fed and watered by us. He is a problem, and we have been dealing with that problem. We have done everything we can from the time we've had him to improve our property to be able to put a fence up for him to keep him contained. We are doing the best we can. Council woman, Mrs. Tyree, asked where this was and what kind of dog it was? Mr. Holliday replied Spring Street and he is a bloodhound. Chief Lovelace stated Mr. Holliday has put up a fence in his backyard, he's got it all the way around his backyard. He is making effort to control the dog. The only suggestion I had for Mr. Holliday was to extend his gate. Mayor Hodnett stated we thank you for coming and appreciate what you are doing.

Blackstock Construction Zoning Revision Request:

Mr. Blackstock stated I own the property at 301 Prospect Road. Last April I came down, and I was issued a special use permit for Blackstock Properties with the LLC to do business. That is what the building is in. I was issued a special use permit, and Blackstock Construction has been using the site for an office and for storage. All the stipulations that the Town gave me, that I've adhered to, and at this time I would like to see if I can amend the SUP to allow and change the name to Blackstock Heating and Air with joint ownership with my son, Michael Wayne Blackstock. Currently, it is being run out of 3692 Harmony Road in Long Island. We have been getting some equipment because we needed help loading and unloading. We do have some coming in loading and unloading at the location. We just hired a new guy yesterday, so we have one full time and a couple part time employees. All I'm asking for really is to change the name of the business from Blackstock Construction to Blackstock Heating and Air. Rocco printed the sign

and this is what it is going to look like, but we will have to go by the Town code for the size of the sign. We already have a post up there that has been there for probably 50 years or so, so we are going to use that. Council man, Mr. Majure, asked if this is changing the name, completely switching businesses or is it going to be two separate businesses? Mr. Blackstock replied it is going to be one business Blackstock Heating and Air. Mr. Majure asked if Blackstock Construction will not be operating out of there? Mr. Blackstock responded it is going to be one business, Blackstock Heating and Air. I don't have anybody doing any construction. I have been working with Rocco. I had some surgeries last year and since then I've been helping him. Attorney Eller stated he asked you, if Blackstock Construction would be operating out of that building, you didn't answer him correctly. Mr. Blackstock replied no sir, one business, Blackstock Heating and Air, we are just changing the name. He and I can both do that type of work. With the workforce like it is now, we can't find help. Attorney Eller stated you don't need to get a new SUP, you can just give us something in writing. Mr. Blackstock stated my business license will expire in May, it won't be Blackstock Construction anymore. With you all's approval it will be Blackstock Heating and Air. Attorney Eller stated you don't need our approval to change the name or to sell your business location to your son because the special use permit goes with the land. As long as you are in compliance and as long as he stays in compliance with the business you can just keep going. We just need to know that, and when he gets his business license it will be one business. Mr. Blackstock stated when we get our business license, we are still in it together. I am not leaving, we are just working together now. Attorney Eller stated okay, one business, that is in compliance with the SUP. Mr. Majure asked we didn't put any restrictions on the type of business. Mr. Blackstock stated construction offices is one of them. Attorney Eller stated right, if it's a construction office then why are you doing construction business. Mr. Blackstock stated all of the work will be done away from the property. Councilman Mr. Poindexter stated there's no fundamental change in the usage proposed, it is still an office at a storage building to operate out of as it has been. Mr. Blackstock replied yes, and I will still have the same stipulations that you put forward as far as the five vehicles up front. Mr. Poindexter stated it will be still be subject to all the other conditions in the SUP that is in place. Mr. Blackstock stated the other one was no vehicle over 15,000 pounds. We won't have anymore or any less traffic going in or out as far as VODT is concerned. Mayor Hodnett stated so it's just as simple as changing the name, you're good to go. Attorney Eller stated we just need something in writing to file with the SUP.

Mr. Blackstock asked do you all know what size the sign can be? It was stated by a few that it is in the ordinances and we will get it to him, we don't know off the top of our head. Mayor Hodnett stated he will email it to him tomorrow. Mr. Blackstock stated one other thing, coming off of Dogwood Lane at the stop sign, people are coming to the stop sign, but most of them are not stopping and shooting straight across. Times during school and different times of the day it is hard to back in, I wish that you would reconsider the cars having to be backed in. Sometimes it's a danger to us like today, for example, the school bus was stopped and a car had stopped on Prospect and it went around into the parking lot as I was pulling out. I wish you would reconsider the vehicles having to be backed in. Attorney Eller stated so you want to modify the SUP? Mr. Blackstock stated I wish you would reconsider it, yes. Attorney Eller stated well that requires a hearing advertisement for everything. Mr. Blackstock replied well let's just can it then, I don't want to go through that again. Chief Lovelace asked if he could sit in Mr. Blackstock's parking lot? Mr. Blackstock stated I would rather you not. Chief Lovelace stated I am just trying to remedy the problem.

Dogwood Mobile Home Park Zoning Variance:

Mayor Hodnett stated he, the property owner, is ready to start moving forward with taking some of those old mobile homes out and moving larger ones in. Mr. Majure stated I don't see an issue with them replacing a 12 foot to a 14 foot as long as he's willing to continue to clean up that property. That's the main thing I see a concern with. That is not something that would be a part of this variance, just something we will have to enforce. Council woman Kathy Keese stated I would also like to know what he means by improved streetscape, I want to know what that entails. Attorney Eller asked is anybody here from the applicant? Mayor Gary Hodnett replied no. Attorney Eller asked how will be able to get the questions asked if nobody is here? Mayor Gary Hodnett stated I can ask him tomorrow and email the council. Attorney Eller stated well, we talked about this at the work session. There were certain spaces in a conformity in a certain way. That's what we need before us in order to vote on it. Mayor Gary Hodnett stated so you want each individual mobile home to be separated, I thought we said we could put numerous ones on one request? Attorney Eller stated you got to be able to show it, space number four is two feet wider on the side, we went over this. Where is he for the council to address in the form of a motion and vote? Mayor Gary Hodnett stated I will get it tomorrow and we will postpone it until the work session. Attorney Eller said it would be good for the applicant to come. Mayor Gary Hodnett replied I will see to it that he will be here.

Old Business

Food Truck Ordinances:

Mayor Gary Hodnett stated I still have not heard back from Staunton River Plastics. We don't know if a truck can go on their property or not, waiting to hear.

Report from Legal Counsel – Attorney Eller:

Attorney Eller stated we have taken care of Mr. Blackstock's request and there isn't anything else that I have right now besides the things we've already discussed. Mayor Hodnett stated we need to get clarification on the \$50 versus \$75 and \$100 versus \$250. Attorney Eller stated what we passed and what we advertised \$75 to reconnect and \$100 to replace the meter if we had to pull a meter, to put the meter back in and restore service is a \$100. That is what was in the paper and that is what we passed September 6. On August 2, there was a resolution that says only \$50 to restore the service and \$250 if you have to replace the meter. I can't explain how or why they are different, but we put it in the paper. All the ordinances, statement of the policy, and everything that was before the council. It was advertised and was passed, so that's what's in effect. Mayor Hodnett stated but we've had two different things passed. Attorney Eller stated the other one was just passed for a public hearing, the \$50 and \$250. It was not passed. Mayor Hodnett stated so if Council wants to go to the \$250 we are going to have to readvertise? Attorney Eller stated you would have to go back through the process, because of \$25 less restoration fee and \$250 if you pull the meter. Joe stated if you want to charge the \$100 that is fine, if that's what y'all want to do, but I thought we said \$250 because they weren't paying on the water bill. It is not for the sake of just pulling it out, it's for the time and effort to put it back in. Attorney Eller stated well maybe it is justifiable for it being \$250 but all I am telling you is what we got and what was passed. We passed it before Council, and it was in the paper. It was passed without any discussion. We have only charged the one guy the \$250, so we will refund him the \$150. Mayor Gary Hodnett stated okay we will go with what is passed. Attorney Eller stated if we want to go up to the \$250 and reduce the other down to \$50 we can do it. Councilman Gary Poindexter stated we will have to go through the full process before we amend that any further. Vice Mayor Bob Majure stated it sounds like something we need to

do during the work session. Mayor Gary Hodnett replied that it's not a problem we will take it up in two weeks. Councilman Gary Poindexter stated one thing while we are talking about rates and fees, we are getting ready to go into budget development here in the next couple of months. Unless it is something pressing, that's the time to examine all rates and fees on the master list and see where we need to be and what we need to take into consideration as part of that process and then when we publish a budget we can advertise it all at one time.

Reports from Staff:

Treasurer Ellen Brumfield reported that the bank account at first national has \$710,836.93 of that \$526,606 is the ARPA, Covid recovery fund. That leaves in the general operating fund \$184,230.93. On February 28th \$54,008.92 was wired to the LGIP infrastructure development and repair. Town Council in your packet you had the budget vs actual, any questions? No comment. Also, on Friday I emailed you checklist data payments that were paid in February, any questions on that? Councilwoman Kathy Keesee stated what was the Adams Brothers, what did that involve? Mayor Hodnett replied they did concrete on Cemetery Road and East Spencer. The Postal Service requested it because she was running into a lot of potholes. Treasurer Ellen Brumfield stated I will pass this around and will need everyone's signature for approval based on the auditor's request.

Clerk- Clerk Kelsie Anderson reported that tax collections are sitting at 77% collections, a lot of the delinquents are on personal property taxes and mainly because I have yet been able to enforce the DMV stop. In order to add a stop on someone and their vehicle, I have to have all social security numbers, title and vin numbers on the vehicle. I have been working with Pittsylvania County and trying to get all the Town of Hurt's residents socials in order to implement that. It's over 1,100 social security numbers that I received plus and spouse, and or child, so please bear with me as this will take time getting into the system. Also, I applied for a scholarship to attend the IIMC in Minnesota to continue to work towards my CMC. If I do not get granted the scholarship I will not attend due to funds. Mayor Hodnett stated I think we should consider sending her whether she gets the scholarship or not because it is continuing education for the job she has done. It makes her better at what she does. Councilwoman Kathy Keesee asked how much it was? Clerk Kelsie Anderson replied the class itself is four days long and \$625. Mr. Majure asked can you explain what the CMC is? Clerk Kelsie Anderson replied it is Certified Municipal Clerk, I don't think the Town has ever had one, so I am trying to work towards that. Mr. Poindexter stated I like the idea of that. It would be a good use for that limited amount of money. Mr. Majure asked when do you find out? Clerk Kelsie Anderson replied they were due on February the 27, so hopefully within the next couple of weeks. I do know they are good about helping small Town clerks with limited funds. Councilwoman Kathy Keesee asked and that wouldn't include your transportation? Clerk Kelsie Anderson replied no, just the classes. Vice Mayor Bob Majure asked how much time before you find out about the scholarship and the actual conference? Clerk Kelsie Anderson replied the conference is in May so hopefully in April I will find out, if not sooner.

Public Works- Public Work Director Joseph Smith reported that the fire hydrant is straightened at the end of Spring Street. The school bus backed into it a few weeks ago. We had the repairs made and got the two bills, now I just have to send it to school bus company to reimburse us. I had one tree taken down on West Hurt Rd, the tree broke in half and it was leaning down pointing towards the road. I finally got a hold of VDOT and they came out and agreed to put it on the emergency repair list. We are working on a assets list for the Town, that is what we have to have for the Virginia Department of Heath and that is writing down every piece of pipe, fitting, valve, fire hydrant, fire hydrants valves, the pump

station equipment, the pumps, the motors, all the electrical panels throughout the whole water system, and I have to give them the year it was made, how much it cost to repair and that it's on average time. For example, the fire hydrant has a limit of 40 years. Anything that approaches before the year mark, I have to put on a one-year CIP plan which you may have to repair 12 at a time and that can be very costly. This has to be done throughout the process for the state and for any loan applications we fill out because they want to know that you are keeping track of your system and maintaining your system, which we have not been doing. We are working on that. Also, Tom Fore worked on the leap application for the lead and copper. The grant they have out that we put an application in for, we're waiting to hear about that. Councilwoman Kathy Keesee asked do you know when you will hear about that? Mr. Fore replied it could be as late as November, and then we have one year to complete it. Mayor Gary Hodnett stated that will be running right along the work with the tank under the railroad track, doing the loop system. All of that stuff will be happening at the same time as well as upgrading the pump station. It is going to be 40 days worth of work in seven. Public Work Direction Joseph Smith states we are also in near completion on the first phase. Tom Fore stated he did receive a letter today from the director of the Health Department in regard to laboratory analysis that is done. VDH is up loading to the Public Works Director. Mayor Gary Hodnett replied no doubt about it.

Police Department, Chief Lovelace:

Police Report

Calls for Service- 2-2023

Civil Complaints- 1

Suspicious Person- 1

Public Service- 1

Vandalism/Destruction of Property- 0

Paper Served- 1

Suspicious Vehicle- 1

Domestic- 1

Fraud- 1

Disorderly Conduct- 0

Assist Other Agencies- 0

Mutual Aid (LE)- 0

Traffic Stops- 6

Sex Offenses - 0

Motor Vehicle Accidents - 1

Larceny- 3

Drug offense- 0

Mental subject- 1

Weapon violation- 0

Run Away- 0

Disabled vehicle- 1

Animal cases-2

Family offense non violent- 1

All other Offenses-2

Other

Miles Driven- 1470

Training - Overdose Investigations
Assist Other Town Departments- 0
18 speed camera violations
Use of Force- 0
Department/Officer Complaints- 0
Department Updates-

Public Safety:

Mike Jones reported that the Mayor just received the updated Town Hall security guidelines for when we put our equipment in place. I am also pleased to say we were able to get a \$6,000 reduction from the folks at Amulet regarding some adjustments. You've probably received the Town of Hurt emergency ops plan, which is an update and a required document. Also, developed a form, called the Council Speak or Rules that is coming into play across the country and asked speakers who are compensated to reveal that to Council before they start speaking, but that's a legislative decision. The ordinances that have been issued, we're slowly getting compliance, which is a good thing. On the crime data that is used to monitor cities and towns across the country, Hurt came in at a A-, a violent crime A-, property crime and all other A-, so that is pretty good. A lot of the writing that you see is very labor intensive, but I want to make sure we stay in compliance and what we do matches up with the West Piedmont Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Items Arising Subsequent to Notice

Mayor Gary Hodnett stated he has no items arising.

Report from Mayor Gary Hodnett:

Mayor Gary Hodnett reported that I am really glad that you guys were here to hear the audit report. I think that should make you feel real good and proud at the work that Clerk Kelsie, Treasure Ellen, and Joe do for us to get a good audit report. It shows a lot of improvement, every dollar that goes through here is accounted for. The last thing that I have, I know a lot of you are here are concerned about the locking of the door, we have talked to the police officers, sheriffs, chiefs, and Jason do you have anything that you would like to add to the locking of the door? Chief Lovelace stated I know there's been a lot of talk about locking the doors. It is my professional opinion as the Chief Police for the Town of Hurt and also my personal opinion, we should keep this door locked. It's okay for us to agree to disagree. The whole point is not only for the safety of the staff, but for you as a consumer of Town products, like water and taxes. We need to be proactive. When I stand here before you, I want you to know I am basing this off facts and not just my personal opinion. The United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment or Threat Assessment Center, conducted a report of mass attacks in public spaces in 2019. Our project began in 2017 and gives important facts regarding mass attacks in public spaces, and progress. I'm just going to hit two lines pretty much from the director of the Secret Service, and this is what he says, and this is by James Murray. He says understanding the key factors in preventing these attacks is more critical this year with COVID 19 pandemic, causing additional stressors in lives of our citizens. That was in 2019 so fast forward a couple years. It says we encourage our public safety partners to review the information and apply it to their own best practices for providing a safe environment for communities across the country. Unfortunately, times are changing, and I don't like to see them change. I've heard stories of people coming in and sitting down and talking, I wish we could continue to do that. It's always nice to have that and sit down and talk and have a good time, but

unfortunately, we cannot. It's our job as employees of the Town to make sure that your information is kept private, and that is part of it. Thank you for listening, I appreciate it.

Mayor Hodnett stated the one thing that I will add to that, we are going to keep the door locked until we harden Town Hall. We are going to protect staff, but I'll concede this, once this is locked and Town Hall is safe, but if Council wants to open this door after Town Hall is hardened, I'll leave that up to Council. Anyone that enters that foyer though would be the person at risk. I talked to Mr. Richard about that this week, he came down and requested a meeting with me. The point that I made to him and I took him in and showed him the foyer, if somebody comes in here behind you, and they're having a bad day, Clerk Kelsie Anderson and Treasurer Ellen Brumfield are safe. She is behind bulletproof glass, so everybody in this building working is safe, except for that person paying their water bill. That is the flaw in it, residents would not be safe at that point in time. You came down, and correct me if I'm wrong, not wanting the door locked, but after you saw that you or any other resident would be at risk, you felt like it should be locked at that point in time. Mr. Richard stated yea, the understanding of the buzzer and everything, it is just hard to say what would happen in that situation. Mayor Gary Hodnett stated I appreciate you coming down and talking with me, so I will leave it up to Council. Until it is hardened it is going to remain locked, after that residents coming in here don't have any protection whatsoever, if you want to unlock it you can put a motion on the table to unlock it. Myself, Jason, and all the other police officers we have talked to felt like it should be locked, but I will leave it up to y'all. Councilman Gary Poindexter stated I think it needs to stay locked at least for now, at least as you say at least until it's hardened. After that we can reevaluate, but one thing that needs to be kept in mind is that this building is not an apples to apples comparison to Altavista. Their lobby area is much larger. Our lobby is a very narrow corridor. That is a different situation. I would just say keep that in mind. That is a driver for only allowing one person or two persons at a time. If somebody is going into a large lobby area to wait to go up to a closed window to be waited on that's one thing, but that little hallway is point blank range from the window. That's different and people tend to be more irritable when they are in a confined space. Someone in line waiting, thinking that the line is taking too long, there are days when people you would not expect to snap over that. It's not likely, but it could happen. I think we need to keep that in mind and not rush to unlock it. Mayor Hodnett stated again I'll ask is there a motion to unlock it after Town Hall is hardened? Vice Mayor Bob Majure stated I don't think we need to talk about that at this point, I think we need to see what the hardening looks like at that time. Mayor Gary Hodnett thanked everyone for coming.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Kelsie Anderson

Kelsie Anderson-Clerk

Gary Hodnett

Gary Hodnett-Mayor