

Town of Hurt, Virginia
Council Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2022

Hurt Town Council held its monthly business meeting on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at Town Hall. The meeting opened at 6:00 PM by Mayor Gary Hodnett with a quorum present.

Roll Call

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

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. Johnson Passage: Unanimous

Council entered closed session at 6:00 PM and exited closed session at approximately 7:00 PM.

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

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

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Mrs. Keesee

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mayor Hodnett

Opening Remarks

Mayor Hodnett stated thank you everybody for coming tonight, and our guys from Pivot Energy and Clean Footprint. Mayor Hodnett asked Bennett, what officially is your title? Bennett responded, I'm with clean footprint, but I also run a nonprofit in Florida called Energy Florida. I have various clients that I'm interacting with. My profit agency, I volunteer my time to do that, but I also work with Clean Footprint as well and Pivot Energy. Mayor Hodnett stated great, we do appreciate you guys coming.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Hodnett stated everyone should have looked at the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as-is.

Motion: Mrs. Keesee Second: Mr. Johnson Passage: Unanimous

Public Comments

Mayor Hodnett stated we will open the public comments and first will be Mrs. Walker from Pittsylvania County. Mrs. Walker stated I'm Martha Walker. I reside in Ringgold in the Dan River District. I have the pleasure of working with Pittsylvania County Schools this year, as well as last year, on the one-cent sales tax referendum that is on the ballot. In 2021 that referendum failed by 14 votes. The timing and impacts of other things created conditions for people, or not everyone understood what it was for.

This year, when the judge signed in February to put it on the 2022 ballot, we went to work. The business community has stepped up; they have said this is important, because we recognize strong schools as economic development. We know that a one-cent sales tax will generate \$3.8 million per year. We know that with the legislation passed by the local community (county), it can only go for school construction or renovation. On this sheet you will see what the priorities are for this money. The first thing is to take away/remove every mobile unit at any school where they're located. To build classrooms, to construct those classrooms that are conducive to learning, and most importantly safety is part of that, because when children are in a mobile unit, they have to leave that mobile unit to go to the restroom, to go to lunch, to go to any kind of physical activity that they do, to enter it or to exit the school. That is not necessarily the best condition for safety for our children. In addition, we know there's infrastructure, and you're going to hear from Dr. Jones in just a little bit, who will give you more details. On the back of this form, you will see a full listing of what will happen in every school. My job here tonight is to ask you as Town Council, thank you for your service and to ask you as a Town Council, would you endorse this one-cent sales tax for our schools and to respond to any questions that you have.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated we already passed the resolution to support this, do we have to repeat that? Attorney Eller stated well that failed so now we have a whole new referendum, so yes. Mrs. Walker stated we are here for questions; our email address is here; anything that you need, I'm happy to come back on behalf of the group who supports this called Pittsylvanians for a Brighter Future, and anything we can do. Hurt in itself did not support the referendum. We believe if we can educate and inform and be more available that they will understand; our voters will understand more of what the money is for, and what it will do for the school system and our students. Mayor Hodnett stated we supported it last time and if Hurt didn't support it at the ballot box maybe we need to do a better job of getting the message out and some of us could work the polls and pass out literature, because 14 votes, we ought to be able to get in there and find 14 votes. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked where would that 1% tax be? Mrs. Walker stated it works in any retail sales, but does not apply to groceries, it does not apply to medicines, and agriculture products that we are using to create more food to grow food -- it doesn't apply to that. When you and I go shopping, we go shopping, we spend a dollar, it's an extra payment. What we found out from the finance director of Pittsylvania County, that if we had to increase real estate tax, it would be an eight-cent increase, and no one wants that. Sales tax is the most equitable tax we have. Mayor Hodnett stated well, I think it's safe to say that we will approve the resolution and secondly, when it comes up for the vote, we would like to get some information because, I know personally, I'll be glad to go up, work the polls and hand out some information. Mrs. Walker stated thank you.

Mayor Hodnett stated Mr. Jones; Jones stated thank you all for having us today, and I'll be very short. I'm just going to say the same thing that Dr. Walker said. We appreciate this opportunity. We have 10 elementary schools. If you look on the back at what we're going to focus on, as well as our Career and Technical Center, Hurt Elementary is 74 years old. I know you've been to HES; we have mobile units out back, so students have to go outside to get there. We've got a detached cafeteria and gym, where students have to go outside and get to the cafeteria and back. We've got a lot of work that we need to do. We have old windows; we have window units. We want to put a safety vestibule, which means a double entry into the school, so when you come and visit you can get out of the cold, and get inside, but you can't come in, there is still a locked set of doors there, and we can buzz you in from there.

A lot of safety features that we need to do in Hurt, but if you look at our results, our SOL's, when you speak to the superintendent, he's going to share the good things. We're very fortunate in Pittsylvania County to have students who work very hard, and our SOL (Standards of Learning) results are at the top of the state. We're also the 30th largest school division out of 130. We have a large school division. We have ten elementary schools, of which eight are older, and even our two newest schools, Twin Springs and Gretna Elementary, we need to do some work there. If you drop a child off at Gretna Elementary School, you get in this long line that backs out by Food Lion and out onto the main road there, we've got to do something there to enhance that, work on that traffic. Dr. Jones stated thank you very much.

Mayor Hodnett stated I've got a question for you; we worked with the health department to get some bottle filling stations for the school here in Hurt, where they did away with the fountains, so you put the bottle in and it's fresh water. Mrs. Lowry called last week and said that the county is coming around and reworking the general fountains and all. I was under the impression that the reason they wanted to go to the bottle filling stations was because of lead and copper. Tom, am I right about that? Mr. Fore stated yes. Mayor Hodnett stated when I heard that they're going to come in and revamp these and start back up again, I was wondering why. Dr. Jones stated I'm aware of that. We were looking at moving past Covid and getting back to the old fountains, where the kids can get water because it is getting hotter outside and children coming in need a lot of water. Those filling stations are kind of slow and backing up. Or if that's something we need to look at in Hurt, we surely can. Mayor Hodnett stated yeah, I would like to know the answer to that. I mean, they've been used very lightly and now all of a sudden they're going to be used again, you know, is there any danger? Dr. Jones stated yeah, and our maintenance staff mentioned to me that they're going to have to run them for so long to clear the pipes. We will do that when we open the back up. It's going to take a little longer than just a couple of days to get them all up and going. We're going to start the high schools I think and work back, but yeah, we're going to let that water flow through those pipes. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you.

Mr. Tom Fore stated I was just going to educate you just a little bit more on the federal standard in 2024, the Health Departments across the state are going to be doing more and more communication with you all. The main thing is the type of material that's in the school buildings, with higher lead and copper levels being found in school systems because of stagnant water sitting there during the time period that you're shut down. They're not seeing the proper flushing. It's basically educating your water folks in your local community. They're supposed to be working with the school systems to help them be compliant in all that they do. You're going to see Pittsylvania County reach out to you as time goes on. Mayor Hodnett stated thanks, Tom. Mayor Hodnett stated that's all we have signed up for the public comment period. We'll close that at 6:58 PM. Mayor Hodnett stated to John, if you guys have anything that you'd like to say, Bennett, and I see that Buzz is with us. Nice to see you Buzz, the last time I saw you, I felt like borrowing your name and maybe trying to play a little tennis. Buzz Becker isn't that cool.

Attorney Eller stated let's wait until 7:00 PM. Mayor Hodnett stated we're waiting two minutes. Attorney Eller stated all of the citizens will be here in the next one minute. Mayor Hodnett stated these guys took 9 pizzas to the Fire Department yesterday and a case of sodas, I mean, those guys are magicians, they made it all disappear in like 10 seconds. John stated the mayor brought the idea that hey, you know, let's bring the Fire Department in early about life safety, fire safety, that sort of thing. It was a nice opportunity to talk to the group.

What a great Fire Department and a great group of volunteers, amazing. It was nice to have a talk with them. We plan on bringing them in to all the, you know, when we get into the actual site plan and electrical layout, and really delve into how these things work, so that they get comfortable, so that if they need to be involved in an emergency, that they're going to be safe, so again, it's a good idea. We enjoyed it. Mayor Hodnett stated well, we appreciate it. I mean, you guys filled out all the questions and got them, I think, where they needed to be.

Public Hearing

Mayor Hodnett stated we will now open the public hearing on the SUP for the solar farm at 7:00 PM -- Mr. John Porter. Mr. Porter stated yes, sir; thank you. I'm here representing Clean Footprint and Pivot Energy. The long-term owner operator of these systems, I would just like to use this public time to say thank you to the town. You've got a wonderful mayor. He's got a great vision, and I'm sure you all share it. The renewable energy that we're going to be able to build here... you know, obviously, if things go the way we'd like them to go, to be able to serve this community, because the types of systems that we specialize in are distributed generation. The energy that we produce stays in your community, and actually feeds into the houses and businesses here. They won't be able to know it, and we won't be billing them, they'll still get their normal bill. The whole idea is that it's local energy for local people and local business. Something that we're also working on is reaching out to some of the new plants that are being built here, like the one that just popped up almost overnight, down the street, 200 new jobs coming in to Hurt. We'd like to try and bring them in, so that at least in part, their manufacturing becomes 100% go-partly-green. That's the vision that the mayor has for the town and says that you're really leapfrogging ahead and providing these opportunities for business. We may have, you know, I say, it's not certain because the state programs aren't certain, but we may have the opportunity to be able to sell our energy to low- and moderate-income folks in the area. We can save them money on their energy bills; that's something that we all believe in with Pivot Energy and Clean Footprint. It's very much mission aligned. We don't look at this as a temporary thing, we're going to be here for the long term. We'd love to join your organizations; we look to do things with you to build your community. That's our philosophy, and that's what we want to do. Finally, the wonderful thing about these arrays is they're really out of the way, out of sight, out of mind. That's the wonderful thing when it comes to solar these days, out of sight, out of mind, that's what we try and do wherever we go. We try and make sure that they're very hard to see, that way it keeps the amount of negative impact to a minimum. That's really all I have to say other than thank you again, we're glad to be here, and we're open to any questions, thank you. Buzz Becker stated well, easier trip for me, because I'm based here in Virginia; I'm just up the street in Charlottesville and don't have much more to add after John. These guys have done a great job. I think one of the things we appreciate about Clean Footprint is engaging you all to try to get as much feedback early on. I know we had conversations about other projects that were maybe not as thoughtfully cited. I think a lot of neighbors feel that solar projects are better left unseen and unheard. I think that's what we're proposing here today. John put it really well; I think one of the reasons that I work for Pivot, you know, there's a lot of these solar developers you can work for, especially if you have this experience. It is important to me to work for a firm that owns and operates the projects long term, so you can hold us accountable for what we do or don't deliver on with this proposal, and then investment in that local community. One of our big beliefs as a company is that we believe that we're going to be transitioning a lot of the energy as a country and as a state to be renewably sourced, but that should include investing in the communities where those projects exist. Big priority for me, and I'm happy to take any questions.

Mr. Bennett Boucher stated well, as a former city manager for the City of Cape Canaveral for 17 years, I've seen a lot of projects come through our community. If I saw this type of project come through my community, I would wholeheartedly endorse it. I think when you can find a project that will add value to your community, but also wants to partner with your community and be part of your community over the long term like they said, I think that's meaningful. You don't want people to come in and do their thing and then get out. You want them to be part of your community and really get to know the people in the community and work with them to build those relationships. I think we've done that in the short term that we've been working with you all. We want to do that for the long haul. I really enjoyed the Fire Department last night. I wanted to stay but they dragged me out. In Cape Canaveral we had a volunteer Fire Department and I assume the role here; they went from one fire station to three fire stations. They grew from not having any advanced life support to getting advanced life support. Just to watch a volunteer group grow over time is meaningful, and when I saw your volunteer Fire Department last night, they really have their act together. You should all be proud of them - very dedicated. When you see a clean shop, their bunker gear stowed away where it should be stowed, and everything in the right place, you guys have some great leadership and great folks working for you; thumbs up on that one. As far as this project, I see nothing but pluses for your community; any questions will be great.

Mayor Hodnett stated I'll tell a little story about last night. When we went in and started eating pizza, Bennett went up front with the honchos from the Fire Department, sat near the table with them, ate pizza with them and talked to them. John made his pitch and we're getting ready to leave, when I look and Bennett is still sitting up there and talking to them, and I'm like hey dude, are you with us or are you going to spend the night? Come on, let's go. We had a good time. We really do appreciate it. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated how long have you all been in it? Buzz replied I've been doing it for 12 years, John replied about the same, Bennett replied about 12 years, going with Energy Florida doing different types of projects. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked what other areas have you serviced? John replied the Northeast is where I've done a lot of my work, but we're really concentrating in Virginia now. We'll do some in Maryland, but we're very excited about Virginia. We have a lot going on. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked any little Town's like Hurt? Buzz replied, my story's a little bit different. I've been working in Virginia for a little bit now. A lot of my experience is kind of more central and Northern Neck, but certainly towns. I have an old project in Irvington, Virginia - in the Lancaster area, if you're familiar with there. Isle of Wight and Westmoreland, worked on some projects a little closer to my place. Powhatan, Albemarle, all over the place and do have some great experiences as well. Mayor Hodnett asked any other questions?

Attorney Eller stated I've got one. One of the things that we have heard from people in the area of a really large project, about 800 or 900 acres nearby, is the erosion that has come from that and the lack of compliance with erosion laws apparently, by that developer. I would want to ask that question. That's a big concern, that none of our streams around here suffer from erosion. Buzz replied yeah, and I can speak to a few different things with that. One of the benefits is that projects, as they are conceived to go into the Virginia grid, part of the benefits is through the Clean Economy Act. What that did is set aside a bunch of the transition to the new grid for the smaller counties. That's why we're bringing you these smaller projects rather than 800 acres. One of the benefits, beyond just distributing a lot of investments throughout the Commonwealth, is that from a stormwater management standpoint, it is much easier to manage 25 acres here/25 acres there than these huge swaths of land, so that's one.

Another is that, as we've already delineated the wetlands for this property, we understand what type of impacts there might be with the stormwater management processes that we're going to be putting into place. That's something that is regulated at the State DEQ. Before we can get issued a building permit, later down the line with a site plan review, before you issue us a building permit, we will have to provide compliance with their standards. It's something that, if at any point we fail to uphold that standard throughout the life of the project, you can pull our permit, and it will have to decommission. You really do have a lot of strongholds and protections. Attorney Eller asked so you wouldn't object to us putting that as a condition in the special use permit, strict compliance with erosion? Buzz responded no, not at all. It should be that a building permit will not be issued until we provide that safety-based permit. Attorney Eller stated we've seen, I'm sure that the folks that have the large one I was referring to got all their permits but then they didn't do what they were supposed to do. Buzz stated sure, and it might be one of those situations where I assume that was one of the earlier projects. I think localities and counties are getting smarter about what standards to hold developers to. That's just something I've always had as part of mine, that we have to put that decommissioning security upfront, and it had to be something you all can call us on as well. If something happens to Pivot or Clean Footprint, whomever, you can hold the accountability on that project to remove it if we're not holding up our end of the bargain. Attorney Eller stated that was just one of the concerns I wanted to bring up. Buzz responded sure, especially when you have a ton of clearing before forming the course it could be an issue, but I don't think that this project is.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked, how big is your company? Buzz responded we're growing fast. We were at 90 people as of a couple of weeks ago; I think the intent by the end of the year is to get up to 120-130. It's growing pretty fast, which is good. I think it shows how much excitement and growth there is with solar. Mr. Adams asked, the solar panels - are they fixed, or do they follow the sun? Buzz responded yeah, so single axis trackers with these, and one of the benefits of doing that is, we put them in place, they're going to generate more power, so it's more efficient. That way we're not having to put more and more panels and cover more area. Mr. Adams stated so they do track. Buzz stated yes on a single axis. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked, there are two types of panels, right? I was hearing a report about it not too long ago, about how a community had gotten them and was supposed to be helping low-income housing, but they were cheap panels and breaking and falling apart, that kind of thing, and they struggled with getting people to come back and service them. Buzz responded we only buy tier one panels. This is like the top 3% of all manufacturer panels in the world. Exactly where which panels are manufactured, I think like everything else in any type of manufacturing right now, supply chains are just crazy, so I couldn't speak to that and that'll be something we provide in a site plan and like, here's the actual equipment by type and by brand that we'll be doing. We're talking top shelf stuff here. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated you are close by, Charlottesville, and you guys travel? John and Bennett responded we travel.

Mr. Perdieu state you guys own and manage your sites? Buzz replied yes, sir. Mr. Perdieu stated I'm assuming you're going to contract out someone to put it in for you? Buzz responded, the installation, that's right. Mr. Perdieu asked, and you guys are going to be heavily involved in that process? Buzz responded yeah, the whole process. That's one of the big economic benefits in that as much as possible, and certainly something I've committed to in other places, is putting on local job fairs for some of those construction positions, or some of the maintenance positions, would love for those to be locally hired.

We know those aren't 20-year jobs necessarily, but they can be good experience, especially knowing more solar is coming to the state, giving people the chance to get in. Mayor Hodnett asked, are there any more questions? No comment. Mayor stated thanks Buzz.

Attorney Eller stated well let me raise the Planning Commission recommendation that we made known to you all, as if the special use permit to be granted tonight, we would want conditions to be added that will answer some of the questions that were not actually covered in the application. As to the decommissioning plan, I didn't see where it said when it would begin after termination of operations, would it begin 60 days after termination? When would it be completed? How long would it take to complete? Buzz responded what I've typically seen in most conditions in Virginia is, have a condition that says it must be removed within six months of ceasing operations, rather than trying to have a start date on when the removal will be, because maybe it's the holidays, maybe there's a lot of stuff going on, but we could commit to at the end of the operations of the facility, it must be removed, and the land restored within six months. Attorney Eller stated well if you don't start until before the six months and then you say, well, we just can't get it done. You would be better if you had a date, some kind of a date, that it would begin so we would know that it's going to be completed within the six months. I personally would rather see some kind of beginning date as well as the ending date. Now that you could put into your decommission of plan.

Mayor Hodnett asked could we have, you know, suppose you start four months into the six months and then penalties for every day past the six-month period or something? Bennett responded, as a City Manager and to go toe to toe with the city attorney here, I believe the Planning Commission also said that we have to comply with your code, your utility solar code, the decommissioning code. In the code I believe it says that within one year of the ceasing of operations we can have the facilities removed, and if there's an issue, we can ask for an extension at that time, I believe that's in your code. Attorney Eller stated well what if we want it in 6 months as a condition? Bennett replied but your code currently says 12 months, if you want to agree to 6 months, sure. Attorney Eller stated okay, so just put that in your plan, that's fine. Bennett stated make that addition and we will update it when we go to site planning. Attorney Eller stated and the bond, we don't really have an amount of the bond, but you can't really tell that. Depends on when you might have to do the decommission. Right now, you'd have figured it's going to be \$254,000, and then offset that completely with salvage. Is there any way to put some kind of an escalator on there? Because you're going to operate this for 30 years? Is that the life of it? Buzz responded 30-40 years. Attorney Eller stated so obviously, 30 years from now, \$254,000 will not be sufficient, so what kind of an escalator can you put in there? And then, of course, maybe you get more salvage too. Buzz stated quite a crisis right now, yeah. What we've done in other places, rather than an escalator, is have a provision where that estimate is to be revisited every five years for a new estimate. We can have kind of the most recent look at that. Attorney Eller stated okay, put that in there. I think that will work if the Council feels good about it. Then our liability insurance, I had asked that the town be named as an additional named insured, and the reason for that is just the general practice that lawyers, when they file a suit in the event of an injury, they sue everybody that is anywhere in sight. That might mean the town would be brought into it. Maybe we wouldn't stay in it very long, but the insurance would cover our defense costs and then we would be free of it, but that would help the town. Buzz responded it's a little bit more novel to me, truthfully. I mean, is that a provision you ask for

in all your permits for development? Attorney Eller stated this is the first one. Buzz stated yeah, fair, I'm just thinking of other things where the town is not certainly the property owner, and that entity should be additionally insured. Fairly atypical for the local jurisdiction to be included in that. It might be something that we need to talk to our counsel about. Attorney Eller stated well, we can talk about that a little more and an indemnity; I just don't want the town to get sued and have to pay a big fee to get out of it. Buzz responded I agree, we're in the same place. Attorney Eller stated I don't think the liability would be there because the town is not operating the facility and does not own the property, but like I say, if you get sued, you've got to defend yourself long enough to get out. Buzz responded yeah, and this is where I'm proving I'm not a lawyer. I was trying to figure out, what is that standing through which the town would be dragged into this, that's kind of hard for me to imagine?

Mr. Perdieu stated often when we allow something like this and issue that SUP, we are liable because we allowed you to do it. I know that's been brought up in other instances. It's not that we have nothing to do with you guys doing anything down there. We allowed you to do it. If someone starts screaming property value or he didn't let me do that, that's a liability thing for us, and that may not be suing you guys, but is one way where we do have liability in this, even personally. If I vote yes and someone has a problem with that and they find out that I voted yes illegally and I knew that, then I'm personally liable. That's just one way that our town tries to maintain as little liability as possible, just trying to cover ourselves. I do see you guys talk about you have the ability to provide decommissioning bonds up to a million dollars in this paperwork, I do see that you talked about that. That's good information. That's just one reason why we're concerned about liability.

Attorney Eller stated that's it for me, that's all I've got. Mayor Hodnett stated alright Council, on the SUP permit, you heard the two conditions and a maybe. Attorney Eller stated you've got three and then the liability if that's your maybe. Mayor Hodnett stated yeah that's the maybe, so its three plus a maybe. Attorney Eller stated the details on the decommission plan, we got to put in the special use permit, a condition that the cost of the decommission will be reviewed every five years, so that one goes in there. Mr. Poindexter asked what are all the conditions and the cost of the decommissioning; what else, compliance with all DEQ requirements? Attorney Eller responded well the last thing was complying with the town's requirements as to solar facilities that was kind of a catchall. Mayor Hodnett asked, well if that's already in existence do we need to use that as a condition for a SUP? Attorney Eller responded, it's something you put in, most of the time you put in there that they will comply with all five of the laws. It's in the one we just did. Mr. Perdieu asked would it be better worded like that, where we comply with all applicable laws and that covers us and the state and the federal, better word it that way, then to just say us? Attorney Eller stated yeah. Mr. Poindexter stated this is going to be a wordy motion. Attorney Eller stated well you just say that you approve the special use permit, or the application of Pivot Energy, subject to the following conditions that applied to the permit. Number one would be the decommissioning plan; we'll have a completion date not less than six months from the cessation of operations. Now we know that Kelsie can get this down because you saw those minutes. Next one is the decommissioning bond; the amount of it would be reviewed every five years for inflation. The third one is the liability policy, adding the town as an additional named insured, and subject to discussion with the town attorney if you want to put that in there. Which then I'll finalize that, and then strict compliance with the erosion control to be the fourth one, and the fifth one will be compliance with all applicable laws, so Kelsie can read that back.

Mayor Hodnett stated alright, moving forward are there any other comments? No other comments? Do I hear a motion? A motion was made to approve Pivot Energy's SUP application for the solar facility, with the conditions that we receive a full decommissioning plan that includes: (1) a date not more than six months following the end of use and reevaluating costs of decommissioning every five years for the decommissioning bond; (2) compliance with all applicable laws by the solar facility; (3) adding the town and an additional named insured on the liability policy pursuant to guidance from the town attorney; and (4) compliance with all erosion guidelines laid out by the VA Department of Environmental Quality.

Mayor Hodnett asked Pivot and Clean Footprint if they were good, Bennett? Bennett responded I just want to clarify that this is for applications for VA six and seven. Mayor Hodnett asked applications for? Bennett stated we have 2 applications; I just want to make sure the motion applies for both. Mayor Hodnett asked, and that is SVMP - the two there? Bennett responded yeah. Mayor Hodnett stated the 2 parks within the SVMP.

Mr. Perdieu stated I will amend my motion to include that it applies to the SUP for Pivot Energy project numbers 6 and 7, located within the SVMP.

Attorney Eller asked, so are they completely separate, would it be more appropriate to do 2 separate special permits, one for 6 and one for 7. Attorney Eller stated the motion would be what you said as to project number 6, issue a special use permit, and a separate special use permit for number 7 with the same conditions.

Mr. Perdieu stated I will amend my motion a second time, that it will be the same SUP for both projects, numbers 6 and 7. Attorney Eller stated no it will be a separate one for each one. Mr. Perdieu stated it will be worded the same but 2 separate ones, same guidelines will apply to 6 and 7.

Motion: Mr. Perdieu

Second: Mr. Poindexter

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett stated looks like you got your SUP permit, can you start tomorrow? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, and finish next week? Attorney Eller stated I will prepare the actual document shortly and get it to you. Buzz stated I appreciate you all's time. Mayor Hodnett stated we appreciate you coming, and at least now we have got the model for our park. John stated we really look forward to this long-term relationship because we also have a lease option with the Town of Hurt and we're excited about that. We've got a couple things brewing on that so more to come. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you, you guys travel safely and come back to see us anytime you like.

Meeting Procedures

Mayor Hodnett stated the next item of business is the meeting procedures that you guys received in your packets. Hurt Town Council rules and procedures, you've been through them; any questions? Shirley, I think we answered a couple of questions you had, so do I hear a motion to proceed and to adopt them? Mr. Poindexter stated I think that this document is, except for a few typos, very well prepared. I think it provides the kind of structure, framework, and procedural decorum that we need to be more efficient in our proceedings. I'm happy to see this; it's one of the things that I wish I could have gotten done several years ago, but that's water under the bridge. That being said, I'm pleased to make a motion to adopt Hurt Town Council Rules and Procedures as presented.

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mrs. Keese

Passage: Unanimous

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, with the correction of 8 copies on page 9. Mayor Hodnett responded yes.

New Business

Mayor Hodnett stated that next for new business, and I've got Gary listed, but we're going to handle the resolution that was dealt with for admin. Do I hear a motion on that?

A motion was to accept the resolution for town employees.

Motion: Mrs. Keesee

Second: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett stated thank you and next is to accept the hazardous mitigation plan as presented.

A motion was made to accept the hazardous mitigation plan as presented and approved by FEMA.

Motion: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill

Second: Mr. Perdieu

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett stated thank you

Budget Outline

Mayor Hodnett stated next, Gary, on the budget, instead of kind of going into the detail, looking for like a timeline, because I know we're going to have to have probably some quick meetings between now and the next 30-40 days. If you would kind of outline that for everybody. Mr. Poindexter stated I'll try to be quick with that. Suffice it to say that at least the first half or two thirds of the month of May is fixing to get very busy here in terms of finance. The budget development is well underway, though slower than originally expected. The preliminary draft of the general fund, I would estimate is about three quarters of the way complete, and about halfway or a little less actually, for the enterprise fund. Plans are to meet with the mayor and treasurer later this week to finalize some details in the general fund and we should be able to get to work in earnest with the enterprise fund beyond that. Some time-consuming tasks will be breaking down the insurance, the liability, and property costs among departments, along with looking at water and wastewater structures and rates. The latter part of that may become rather complicated in part due to state criteria that must be met if we're going to qualify for loans for capital improvement projects. In view of that, I would like to ask that we have a finance committee meeting in the second half of next week, to review the preliminary draft and to prepare a recommendation for the full Council. Beyond that, I would ask that we hold a called meeting/work session of the full council the following week to review and approve a proposed budget to advertise a public hearing during our June 7 monthly business meeting. Please know that the window of time is narrowing, because the whole budget process must be completed by the 30th of June when the fiscal changeover occurs. If it's agreeable to other members, I would like to suggest that next Thursday the 12th be considered for a committee meeting and the following Tuesday the 17th for the called council meeting/workshop. The reason for that is that the proposed budget, whatever we vote to advertise on the 17th or whatever day we meet that week, it will have to be published in the May 25th and June 1st editions of the Altavista Journal in order to have enough notice time before the public hearing on June 7th. We do not have a lot of extra time to work with. That's where I am right now with the budget and will save other comments until the reports from members and boards. Mr. Perdieu asked, a meeting on the 12th? Mr. Poindexter stated that's what I'm throwing out. I'm suggesting that as a meeting date, but I'm just one person, whatever works for the majority is what we're going to have to do. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated that sounds good. Mrs. Keesee stated I have a conflict; my granddaughter is performing in a concert that night. Mayor Hodnett stated on the 12th? Mrs. Keesee responded yeah. Mrs. Keesee stated am I on the finance committee, I was? Mr. Poindexter stated it is you and Shirley. Mr. Poindexter asked, would you prefer to meet on Wednesday? Mrs. Keesee stated Shirley can't on Wednesday. Mr. Poindexter stated we need to come up with a date that we can all 3 meet. Mayor Hodnett stated time is running out.

Mrs. Keesee stated she's fine with meeting on Friday the 13th if you're not superstitious. Mr. Poindexter asked, so you all want to do Friday? Mrs. Keesee and Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated that it was fine. Mr. Poindexter asked, what time? Mrs. Keesee asked, what time is good for you? Mr. Poindexter stated well 4:15 is about the earliest I can get here; I have to work, so 4:15 to 4:30 PM would be ideal if that works for you. Mrs. Keesee stated that's fine, 4:30 PM. Mr. Poindexter stated 4:30 PM on the 13th for the finance committee, and how about a called meeting on the 17th for the full council? Mr. Adams asked what day of the week is that? Mr. Poindexter stated it's on a Tuesday, 2 weeks from now. Mr. Johnson asked if Luke was on the finance committee. Mr. Perdieu stated I am on the administration; you asked me what I didn't want to be on, and I told you I didn't want to be on finance. Mayor Hodnett asked, so how about the 17th, everyone's shaking their head yes. Mr. Poindexter asked what time? All agreed to 6:00 PM. Mr. Poindexter stated alright, I appreciate that. That's all I have for now on the budget.

Mayor Hodnett stated alright, I've got a couple of new things to get on the agenda. First of all, finance, Gary, I would like to ask your committee to look at all the business licenses we have for the town. We're going to make them available to you. I want you to go through, see if they look like they meet muster; I think you'll find a lot of that doesn't look exactly right. People paying taxes on these things and if we need to do audits, we do audits. Mr. Poindexter stated we can add that to the agenda today. Mayor Hodnett stated alright for the 13th. Mr. Poindexter stated review budget draft and business licenses.

Public Works

Mayor Hodnett stated, Public Works - Collin, kind of along the same guidelines, would like you guys to take a look at our wastewater billing. Right now, we're billing the same thing that we pay, and that seems to be a little ridiculous \$5.50/1,000 at the 85% rate of water use, so take a look at that and see what you think and where we need to be. Mr. Adams asked Tom, what is Altavista's? Tom replied, you are 85%, exactly what you are paying for yours is what we charge you for. In other words, if you're trying to do any kind of improvement or maintenance on wastewater and you've got a wastewater problem, then you have no money to take care of that right now since your water is having to cover your heat and sewer. I mean you got electricity to run your pump stations, and you're not making money to pay the electric bill to run the pump stations and send it over the road. Mr. Adams asked, so what would your recommendation be on it? Tom replied again, we want to evaluate your pump station electrical costs because you want to cover all those costs and put in the 3% inflation factor on top of it, because you'll probably be doing about five hours a week in required maintenance and checking. His salary, electrical costs, any insurance costs from those facilities, you do want to incorporate actual costs into it and then put a 3% figure on top of it; that covers all your expenses and anybody that's paying, they're paying for the use of your facilities. Mr. Poindexter stated, this crosses into finance. Mr. Fore stated, and I would be happy to meet with you and your committee to discuss it. Mr. Poindexter stated there's some overlap into the finance with that because what I was mentioning while ago is not only indicative of the wastewater rate, but also a consideration of whether we should reform the structure like we did with drinking water a few years ago – having a quarterly base charge in place for capital improvements or whatever the situation may be. That's a conversation too lengthy for right now, but I can't help but throw that out there. Mr. Fore stated I'd be more than happy to meet with Collin and his committee. Mayor Hodnett stated yeah at this point in time, finance is going to have so much on you, I don't think you're going to be wanting to take on anymore, so we'll just keep that with Public Works.

Mr. Poindexter stated yeah, I can't do that one right now. Mr. Adams asked, who else is on the public works committee? Mayor Hodnett replied, Donney and Shirley. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked are we having a meeting? Not yet? Mr. Adams stated, well I guess we should. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated I'm not pushing it; I just don't want to miss it. Mr. Adams stated let me look at my calendar, I've got you all's numbers. Mayor Hodnett stated, we've got a couple more things for you guys. Number one, we kicked around an M&T tax for a while; it's time to make a decision, so include that on your list as well. Third, lights at the railroad trestle at Jeff Blaesing's place when you come through, we need to get some lights in the walkway through that thing. We had someone trip this weekend going through it. I've talked to VDOT; it's a railroad issue, and they're going to apply to the railroad for a license to put lights in there. It may be \$500, may be \$1,000 to get the authorization to do that, so we may have to pay something but we're going to have to put some lights in there, so Collin, just put down Jay Craddock and talk to him when you get a chance but that's a must, so we need to move on that ASAP.

If you notice on the agenda, this goes back to our procedures and how we're going to work things, you'll see that we've got new business, old business, and unfinished business. Under old business we have the barrier at the pump station that we talked about a couple of meetings ago. We need to make up our minds whether we're going to table it or go ahead and order this stuff and put it in, and Tom while you're here, I think Collin you have a question for him about the weight? Mr. Adams stated, I've already talked to him about it. They just said we shouldn't put those things right on top of water lines, and the main line comes up in there. It's going to take two or three of those big concrete blocks. They are cheaper in Lynchburg; I think he told me \$75 and \$150 delivery fee so that's going to be about \$450 to \$500. I guess what we need is for council to okay it, you know, so when they do get the blocks, we can go ahead and move on it. Mayor Hodnett asked, so you guys want to make a motion to give them the authority to go ahead and order blocks, so when they're available, we can get them? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked what about the redo for the pump station, are we just going to buy the blocks and have them available? Tom stated I would just suggest that if you're going to try to protect it in the future from anybody coming off that hill to protect your investment to go ahead and put them in now. Anytime you all need them moved because you are going to do upgrades to your facility, we'll be happy to come over with our front-end loader and move them. Mr. Adams stated thank you. I think two will do it; it might take three. Joe said we were going to measure and see; I think they are five feet, that's basically, I would say \$500 to \$600 should cover it completely. Just need an okay from council so we can go on and get it because we have been talking about it for six months. Mayor Hodnett stated yes, I need a motion. A motion was made to order concrete blocks to protect the water pump station.

Motion: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill

Second: Mr. Johnson

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett stated okay, Collin you got your go. Second, under old business, the ordinances. Shirley, I know you and John are working on them and John, you sent me an email today. Attorney Eller stated I just got back on them; we've been busy with the SUP's. One of the big things we have to do in the zoning ordinances is flood control. Revisions have to be revised. I got a model ordinance and also that ordinance that passed in Abingdon, which would be a good model for us. We've got that ready to turn into our flood control ordinance. We'll have that part and I'm hoping we'll be able to get the zoning ordinance part of the code done by the next meeting if at all possible. We'll have to go through advertising for that.

Municode

Mayor Hodnett stated Luke, you were working on Municode. Luke stated we've been assigned a lady named Aleta. She is our representative, as in an administrative accounting representative. She's working on getting us a solid quote; they're very hesitant to give a blanket quote. They want to see what we have and how much paper. I got that information tonight, and we'll send it to her tomorrow. I'm hoping we'll have a quote back within a week; their company has been through a lot of changes. I think that's why it's been very hard to get on the phone with them, but I think the changes are good for us. They're now owned by Civic Plus, which is who does our website anyway. That should be a good way to do it, and should plug right in. Some decisions that we need to think about are that they have two main options, one is considered a self-publishing option, the other is a full service. The self-publish would be someone like Kelsie. When you guys change an ordinance, once the site is set up, she can go in and change it herself. There's no waiting period; she can change it on her way out the same night. Obviously, she wouldn't usually do that, but that's instant. With the full service, they make the changes for you; it is more expensive, and they do those changes in batch changes three to four times a year. I know right now we're in the process of changing a lot of things, but I think as far as billing wise, they say it's more of an even payment. Budgeting wise, it's going to make a lot more sense to do the self-publishing option, as we have control over what goes on there. She's going to give me a quote either way, just so we can kind of see what the difference would be. I always like knowing all of my options. The other option, the other thing we have to consider is, do we want a legal review of all our ordinances in light of the Virginia state laws? What they would do is, they would not only code it, they call it codification, but they would take all our paper, and they put it online, and they put it into a digital format. They codify it all, they may change the chapter numbers, whatever, but make it really organized. They'll have a legal team that is familiar with Virginia law go through it and make sure that everything we have is legal. Nothing against Mr. Eller, I know that book is huge, and we've been building on and building on from what we had in the 70's. In previous experience, if it's not ridiculously expensive, I think it would not be a bad idea to go through the legal review, but it does take longer.

Attorney Eller stated I think that would be a good backup. Luke stated I think so, too. It would just cover us in general. Attorney Eller asked if they are going to do a hard version? Luke responded you can get that; you can get the hard version. Of course, there's an extra fee for it, but everything will be available online where you can print off whatever you want. There'll be like a master copy on the internet, and I think that'd be the way to go. That way, everyone has the same copy to work from, you can have a copy in-house because it is online, and you can have access to everything from your computer at home. Attorney Eller stated, and it's got the search. Luke stated, and it has a search function and is very neatly organized. Attorney Eller stated Altavista has hard copies too, but I don't know that anybody uses those. Luke stated once you change something, the hard copies are good. Attorney Eller stated that every year they send you a whole bunch of pages that you have to put in there, and the book is thick and weighs about 10 pounds. It's just very difficult to use it and it's so easy to go online. Luke stated we have 1,312 pages in that binder over there. They're going to look at, instead of making Kelsie scan everything and email it, they would just send us a FedEx box; we would be able to track it, send it down there and they scan everything themselves and send it right back to us. That's probably the route I would suggest just because that just seems very invasive. The self-publishing thing takes three to four months to set up, if you don't do a legal view, so once you hit the go button and send them everything it's a process to get it all up. Our mayor said he wanted to do it on the next billing and the next budget cycle.

I'm hoping to have those numbers back in time for your meeting. Mr. Poindexter stated, you know he and I were talking about it. Originally, we did kind of hope to do something about this before the FY changeover, but this week we realized that's just not going to happen. Luke stated she acts like she will have me something within a week. Mr. Poindexter stated, having a number to put in the budget, yes. Mr. Perdieu stated that's my goal, to have you a number before your meeting. Mr. Poindexter stated this is something we are going to need to budget for in the upcoming FY, and just get it done. Mr. Perdieu stated the longer we wait the worse it's going to get. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated I suggest we don't do self-publishing; I mean looking at those ordinances and seeing how out of order they are. It's so many things that have been discontinued and things that go in a spot and some of the numbers are just not even in order. I'm not sure how you even put them in order. I'm not saying Kelsie can't do it, but it would be so time consuming trying to organize all of that - all the right numbers and in the right order.

Mr. Perdieu stated so I'll clarify maybe a little bit. They put everything we have on the site and the self-publishing thing is just your additions or changes. Attorney Eller stated that's not very hard. Luke responded no, they would take what we have, clean it up with their codification process, they would clean it up and get it digitized. Then when you go through, when you have changed the ordinances, when you change two paragraphs, she would just copy and paste what you change. There's always phone support if you're going to make a big change to a big section. I mean, they're charging you, but they'll do it for you. I like the self-publishing option. If you're going to change two paragraphs, it's a whole lot easier to just go ahead and get it published and not have to pay them for it, but you can get them to come back in and help you. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated needing updates for small stuff sounds like it would work. Mr. Perdieu stated yes, if you're going to add a whole new section, I think it would benefit to just call them and get them to do it, but it would take several months to do. Attorney Eller stated they'll reorganize the whole thing, that's what they do. They put them in alphabetical order, and ours are just random as far as the alphabet goes. Now everything's going to be the lowest number is A, the highest number will be Z, so zoning will be 52 or whatever, which makes sense. Mr. Perdieu stated the lady also, she's a salesman, she wants to sell you. She wanted to set up a demo for me and I will be there, I'll be present, but I think Mayor Hodnett and Kelsie especially, you guys need to be present for that demo. Let her show you how the self-publishing thing works versus the full service, and you make the recommendation whether or not it's something you're comfortable doing. I think that would play heavily into our decision. I'm not going to be the one doing it every day. I think that's a big part of that decision to get that set up so you can see how it's done and talk to your friends that you met at the convention and see if they do it that way.

Attorney Eller stated you're going to get it from us in the form that they want to see it, with the line out in the underline showing what's been taken out and what's been put in, that we put before the council when they passed the changes to the ordinance. I think that may be all you have to send them, that's what we send them now. Mr. Perdieu stated, I think that's all you have to do now. It's just like you editing the website, you just go in and click what you want to change, add, or delete. I don't think it's any harm, but I don't think it would be a bad idea to watch a demo. Mr. Poindexter asked once you send a change in, they convert line-out to clean copy? Mr. Perdieu responded yes, that's what she will do. Attorney Eller stated we get hard copy back, so they don't integrate them into the code but once a year. When you go on the website the first thing you see is what's new. It will show you all the latest things that have been passed. They're not over in the body of the code until the end of the year, and then

they're integrated. I don't know about the self-publishing whether that's going to integrate them right in when they're sent in, or are they going to be put in what's new, like Altavista. We definitely don't want the books; they are a waste. Mr. Adams asked so you said there will be a search bar in there on it? Mr. Perdieu stated it will be very comprehensive, it will be much like Google. Mr. Adams stated the way our stuff is now, if you are looking for a certain thing you have to look through the whole thing. Mr. Perdieu stated I had a guy stop by my house after Blackstock's first hearing, wanting a copy of the ordinances, and I was like no you don't.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Hodnett stated alright let's move on. Once we get some prices, we can figure out what we want to do. We have unfinished business from way back when. About a year or so ago, we started talking about the possibility of changing some of the language in the employee handbook to maybe try to track some minority applicants for some of our positions. Shirley, you were working on that. You know this is one of those things. Are we going to keep it on here or are we going to walk away from it. We've been on it for a year, and we're no further along than we were a year ago. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, actually what happened in June was when it was brought to the table, I think Mike brought it in. It was about a community policing aide. That's the part that he assigned me to take care of; I found some interested candidates. He sent me some potential guidelines; I never gave out those guidelines. I came back to council in September of 2021, and they decided that we were not going to go forward with this until the next budget is presented, so that's where it was left hanging. Mayor Hodnett stated so the question is do we want to take it off, not pursue this, or do we want to continue to pursue it, make a decision on whether we're going to address it, or what are we going to do? We need to decide to either leave it or move it? Mr. Poindexter stated if it's something we are going to pursue, we are in the middle of the budget. If it's going to involve money, this is the time to talk about it. Mayor Hodnett stated I thought that it was police officers and not just the volunteers and all that; I thought it was the full-blown thing. That's the impression I was under.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated no, this was the part time job for community policing aides. That's what he told me to do and that's what I did, because one guy that was very interested was aware of how that program worked. Mike stated he had a few technical difficulties. Now, following your discussion, we were looking at two tracks. One was the police aide for a specific purpose to supplement police patrols, not sworn duties, but essentially a police aide that would help the town in a variety of ways. The second thing, which I think we should continue, is we should always have outreach available to minorities of all types. We should find opportunities to reach out to citizens of color and gender, and we should look for applicants who want to be part of our community. That could be part of our personnel development process. That's something everybody can do, we can have a formal process that ensures we obtain as much effort in locating quality applicants, but we should also collect data that says how many applicants we have that fit the categories. We should also have outreach, which every town employee can do, but maybe we can decide how we want to do that. That's an appropriate thing for the Admin Committee to take up; it should be low cost, and at the very least it will show that we are committed to seeking quality applicants of different genders and diversity. Mayor Hodnett stated with that said, how are we going to proceed? Mrs. Keesee asked Mike, what are your thoughts/suggestions as far as the Admin Committee trying to go forward with that? Mike responded, I think we should, number one, develop a mission statement that says the town is actively seeking good qualities of all types, and that we are encouraging

people of color and gender to apply with us and to show interest in our town. Make sure everyone knows that we're open to all applications. I think we should have a clear mission statement. I think we should have in our personnel documents items we can send out to virtual job fairs, send to Virginia Employment Commission, and I think we should revise our applicant's statement when we do public applications. That we actively seek people of color and diversity in our hiring - that's the start. If we hear of job fairs, at the very least, we should send not only an email invitation to the town's website, but also to local places and we should send copies of job announcements and a little information flyer about the Town of Hurt. Mayor Hodnett asked if everyone agreed with that? Councilmembers agreed.

Report from Legal Counsel – Attorney Eller

Attorney Eller stated, I don't have anything further.

Reports from Staff Administrative – Ellen Brumfield (Treasurer's Report)

Brumfield reported the First National Bank account balance is \$331,286 and of that, COVID relief is \$226,057 and the children's Christmas fundraising by the PD is \$112.02. That's leaving us an amount in general operating from \$105,117.70. Auditors were here yesterday; we worked with Scott Wickham and his team, they've set a projected date to be back for their final fieldwork, which is going to be August 1st and 2nd. The COVID Recovery Fund, also referred to as APRA, reporting was submitted before the deadline date of April 30. I'm sure Gary Poindexter is probably going to speak a little bit more on this, but we will be meeting to discuss the budget and get ready for that. I will update you as well, that VRSA, that's one of the things that we're waiting on is their renewal rate. I reached out to the contact there and she said we should get those rates, that they had not been sent out to any of their customers. She is hoping that we will get them by the end of this week. Mr. Poindexter stated this is incredibly late. Mrs. Brumfield responded it is about the same time as last year.

Administrative - Kelsie Sligh (Clerk Report)

Sligh: I just wanted to say thank you all for letting me attend the conference. It was very helpful. We learned a lot of information about how things are done and the way they should be done. I was very thankful to attend that. I am going to work towards getting my CMC (Certified Municipal Clerk). With that, Gary Poindexter - I'm sorry, I know it's a stressful time for you, but I would like to ask that Ellen and I have classes in the budget because I think they are useful. If I'm going to work toward getting my CMC, I will need to attend 50 hours of classes. Mr. Poindexter stated I very much like the sound of that, so we need some more in the staff training fund. Sligh responded yeah; I don't think we had a code for that. Sligh stated I do have to be apart of the IIMC for 2 years before even earning my CMC, but I do have some time on that. Mr. Poindexter stated, I am delighted to hear that you have that on the radar and that you are interested in it; yes, I will get to work on that. Sligh responded thank you, I appreciate it. Sligh stated the Memorial Day event - I do not have any volunteers for it yet, so if anybody wants to volunteer, please let me know. I do have the event posted on Facebook and the website. Mayor Hodnett stated one thing on that, if you volunteer, volunteer so she can put you in a slot where you are going to be needed. Don't just show up and assume that this is where I want to work so that's where I'm going to work. All that does is create problems and work around, so she'll assign you a slot. Luke stated I told you I would be there. Sligh stated okay thank you. Mrs. Keesee stated I will be here too; I just can't stand.

Public Works (Joe Smith, Coordinator)

Smith: On April 20th, I put out 25 leak letters; 3 repairs were made, and I haven't heard from any of the others. On the 29th, I put out nine more and no repairs were made. That's what is going on with putting them out every Monday. On the 25th, I received the last of the parts from the first order I made. That was about \$6,000. On the 27th I attended the Virginia Rural Water Association Conference, where I met water operators and tour operators. I made contacts with companies that sell pumps, motors, pipes, and got many business cards. Also, I attended a luncheon where Mr. Fore got a Lifetime Achievement Award. On the 22nd, Donney and I picked out a container; it was delivered, and they set it on the other side of the shed, and all that is left now is to build shelves and organize it. On the 28th, I received all the sample parts that I ordered for the sampling stations, and we just installed them today. I have one more left and that should be tomorrow. Mr. Fore and I worked on the CCR report. We're waiting for the next newsletter to go out with the information on the CCR so that we do not have to mail out or put it in the paper, saving the town about \$1,000 per year going forward. This time we're just putting it out on social media and on the bills. We got around the advertising part and mail out part, saving postage. There will be places they can pick it up; you can pick it up here, at the post office, and the two schools. There's a posting with a link that will take you right to the town website. Approved by the VDH, that will go out the same day that the letters go out.

Mr. Perdieu stated, thank you for fixing the mirror. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked, and you have a test coming up? Smith responded, I go May 9th for my water license. Councilmembers all stated good luck. Mayor Hodnett stated luck has nothing to do with it; he knows it. Mayor Hodnett stated Joe and Tom went out and worked with a plumber and a lady Thursday who says she didn't have a leak. The plumber said she didn't have a leak. They've been looking at it for three or four days and got a little excited about it for a while, and they went up and talked to them, and the plumber wrote a real nice thing on the Our Town Altavista page about the new water meters. We cut and pasted it onto our Facebook page about how good they were; how Joe and Tom educated him on the ultrasonic water meters and the Town of Hurt was lucky to have them and have the meters, and he gave us a really nice write up, so that's good. Thanks guys, appreciate it.

Police Department Report

Calls for Service:

Civil Complaints - 2

Suspicious Person - 1

Public Service - 3

Vandalism/Destruction of Property - 0

Larceny - 3

Suspicious Vehicle - 0

Alarms - 2 2

Assist Other Agencies (Emergency Services) - 0

Mutual Aid (LE) - 2

Traffic Stops - 17

Other

Miles Driven – 1,767

Training - Social media and open-source investigations

Dark web and Cybercrimes

Use of Force - 0

Department/Officer Complaints - 0

Department Updates -

Organizing and updating evidence room.

Chief Lovelace was absent; Officer Sawyer reported that during the month we attended training for social media and open-source investigation, which I've already used for investigating a couple of cases, also training on the dark web and cybercrimes. We had zero use of force and zero complaints. As far as the department updates, we've been doing a lot of work with the evidence room this past month, we've categorized evidence and we built metal racks to put them on. Also, we've gone digital for record keeping, and we've made the room a whole lot more secure. Still a long way to go but were getting there. Mr. Johnson stated, it looks nice. Mr. Adams stated I like the haircut by the way. Officer Sawyer responded thank you.

Public Safety/Assistant Town Manager – Mike Jones

Mike stated, good evening, everyone. Not too much for me this time; I've been concentrating on the ordinances and broken-down cars and working with the building officials. Got new properties chosen for initial notification, and official enforcement notices going out to folks who've been previously warned. That'll be going out, hopefully tomorrow in the mail. For the new councilmembers, make sure you have your town credential ID card taken to DMV. If you're not sure, check with me, Jason, Ellen, or Kelsie. There are some documents that I sent to Kelsie, that she'll forward to you just for your records on new stuff. We have an addition to the OSHA lone worker protocol that particularly applies to any employee who's working by themselves, either due to their job assignment or the lack of personnel, and that'll require an adjustment to policy, which I'm working on. Other than that, we've got VRSA annual meeting that's being held virtually coming up this Friday at 9 AM. It would be very helpful for councilmembers if you could attend that meeting virtually; it would be very helpful for you. That's all I have.

Reports from Membership, Boards, and Commissions

Administrative: Kathy Keesee stated I want to say thank you, Joe especially, and staff for this beautiful work of art across the front of the building. Dixie and I went and purchased the flowers, and I was running into a personal problem that day, so they took care of planting them and making sure they were watered. Everything looks really, really, good, and I'm very tickled with that. Also, when Jason and I can get the time, we're going to try to make sure we get this spot over here fixed. You were talking to me earlier; I had asked if we could get \$500 more dollars out of the budget to appropriate what we already had. Mr. Poindexter asked in addition to what we already have? Mrs. Keesee stated yes, what we have left. Mr. Poindexter stated I knew it was something, but so much has gone on. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated I've been getting a lot of compliments about how our town looks, some from people that don't even live in this area. Mrs. Keesee stated what tickles me is seeing people on Facebook, posting a picture here or over here at this sign, you know something to do with the logo, or some kid sitting down here at the park and then coming up and somebody's taking their picture in front of the building - it says a lot. Mr. Poindexter asked, is the extra you need for the sign out next to Wayside? Mrs. Keesee responded yes,

because according to Jason, we had \$1,100 left. We estimated it with stack stone and the new plants and actually covering the old logo with the new one, that hopefully the \$500 will take care of it. Thank you to Kelsie for posting the new spring pictures; I do plan to take a lot of pictures on Memorial Day so we can have a slideshow of that.

Community Development and Public Relations:

Mr. Johnson reported that I've been getting phone calls and bumping into people commenting on what you commented on about how nice things look. You would be amazed about how excited people are to have that mirror back up. I've got a friend who lives in Asheboro; his mom recently passed away. He posted the new plant and put it on social media. You might have seen it; it's all good. We got the container out back here, and got the bench put in it. Let's rock and roll.

Finance:

Mr. Poindexter stated I don't have a great deal, because most of it I said earlier over the budget. Did you need, if I heard you right, you need an extra \$500 in this fiscal year to finish that project? Mrs. Keese stated yes. Mr. Poindexter stated by just looking at this report we still have \$895 available on the beautification/ RLM Park that we can get that out of because we're nearly ending the FY. In view of that, I would like to make a motion to allocate \$500 from account 10-191-7705000 to upgrade the sign near the entrance to Wayside Park.

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mr. Perdieu

Passage: Unanimous

Mr. Poindexter stated general comments on finance will be short tonight. Looking over last week's report, Wednesday marked 10 out of the 12 months completed for the current fiscal year. That is about 83% of the way through. General fund revenues are at 87% of budget, 83% of the way through the year. That is a milestone in view of our past. That is spot on and indicative that billing and tax collections have gone well. There's nothing to say but kudos to our staff, along with any fellow councilmembers involved in that endeavor; thank you again. That underscores the quality of your workmanship and commitment to the cause. Similarly, general fund expenditures are 87% of budget; again, very close to where we should be. Given the challenges that we faced over the last year, that's a good number. Now for the enterprise fund, they are not quite as good, but again, considering the circumstances with the water system and the unforeseeable metering and usage patterns, the unpredictability of that, expenditures are at 93% of budget and revenues are at 66%, so there are some things there that we can review, but I don't see anything that constitutes a crisis. Really none of it comes as a surprise, given the chronic concerns that we have and many variables. That's all I have. Mayor Hodnett stated Ellen, correct me if I'm wrong, that first money that we paid to Louis Compton, which was \$66,000 that we fronted, so that's where \$66,000 came out of the water. Mr. Poindexter stated that would account for a good size part of it. Mayor Hodnett stated and when we process the bond, we will be able to recuperate that money. Mr. Poindexter stated that's all explicable with some of these things, and that there was no way anyone could predict last year and with this budget development. Given the circumstances, I think we're in a pretty good position at this point. Mayor Hodnett stated, Ellen she's a little more on edge about it than I am, but I think we're in great shape.

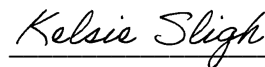
Public Works & Planning/Zoning Commission:

Mr. Adams stated we've covered about everything that public works has. This doesn't have anything to do with public works, but I want to say for our town employees... I know we do this at about every meeting, but you all do a fantastic job for us, and I really do appreciate it. Thank you.

Mayor Hodnett stated they really do a great job. Joe had a guy come in today a little upset about his water, and Joe calmed him right down. Joe stated they all start out that way. Mr. Adams stated you're not going to make everybody happy. Mayor Hodnett stated the amazing thing is really, after the guy came in and he was able to look at the computer and Joe walked him through, stating here it is man, you're not up at 2:00 and 3:00 in the morning using water. Here's what it shows, let me show you another account that is correct with no leaks, it's zero, nothing being used. He finally calmed down and understood he had a leak and needed to find it. We're still battling 1,000 on leaks. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, and Kelsie is planning to stay with us forever because she is doing all the classes and getting certified in everything, she can't leave. Mrs. Keesee stated we got her at the right time.

Report from Mayor

Mayor Hodnett stated, I will close out by saying thank you. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated did the maple tree problem on Lynn Street ever get looked at? Paul Johnson said there was a tree brushing his truck when he drove by. Mrs. Keesee stated it was several trees that were coming down. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated I just like to follow up on some old things. Mrs. Keesee stated, what about the chickens? Mayor Hodnett stated we go by there and don't see chickens; it's kind of like being at the scene of an accident exactly when it happens. We can go by there 47 times and not see anything, you know, and he can walk in and see a chicken, so that's where we are. We go check it out, we don't see chickens, like I was told there were chickens crossing Prospect Road; well, I haven't seen a chicken cross Prospect Road in I don't know when. Mr. Adams stated why did the chicken cross the road, but we can fix that problem, no chickens. Mayor Hodnett stated we can fix the grass problem by saying you can't plant grass; there is always a fix to a problem. Mrs. Keesee stated they are supposed to be contained anyway. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated all animals, right? Mr. Perdieu responded yes, except cats. Mayor Hodnett stated no, there is no leash law for dogs. Mrs. Keesee stated, so dogs and cats can roam free. Mayor Hodnett stated thank everyone for coming; I appreciate all you do. You guys from the County, thanks for showing up, we are going to support you, man. We are getting \$6.6 million; I'll stand in line all day begging people to vote for it. Thanks for coming. This meeting is adjourned at 8:23 PM.


Kelsie Sligh, Clerk


Gary Hodnett, Mayor