

**Town of Hurt, Virginia
Council Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2023**

Hurt Town Council held a called business meeting Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at the Hurt Town Hall. The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Gary Hodnett with a quorum present.

Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Gary Poindexter, Mr. Bob Majure, Mr. Steve Worley, Mr. Paul Johnson, Mr. Michael Blackstock, and Mrs. Kathy Keesee

Closed Session

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

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mr. Majure

Passage: Unanimous

Council entered closed session at 6:02 p.m. and exited the closed session at approximately 6:47 p.m.

A motion was made to return to open session and to certify that only personnel, real estate, 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 Gary Hodnett

Welcome/Opening Remarks

No Comment

Additions to the Agenda

No Additions

Opening of Public Comments

No Comment

New Business

A motion was made as an outcome from closed session to extend an offer of employment to Mark Ryan Preston in the position of Assistant to the Director of Public Works with the condition of acquiring a class five Virginia Water operator's license within 18 months from start date and the offer is pending his acceptance and completion of requisite paperwork with the start date on or about December 4, 2023 in the amount of \$18 per hour.

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mr. Majure

Passage: Unanimous

Mark accepted the position. Mayor Hodnett replied we will talk to Ellen tomorrow, she will give us a timetable because you have to be in the system. I would like to get you in as soon as possible and get

the paperwork filled out and ready to go. When will that work for you? Mark replied I wasn't sure the timeframe, and I am happy about that, but I am supposed to be out of town tomorrow through Friday, but if you need me to stay here I will. Mayor Hodnett replied no Monday will be fine. Mr. Poindexter replied it could be a little bit of variation in that next week, depending on how long it takes our treasurer to process the state paperwork, there are certain boxes that have to be checked there. She is not here tonight to speak to that. Mark replied would it help if I came in tomorrow to fill out the paperwork. Mayor Hodnett replied that would be helpful, thank you, see you tomorrow.

Mayor Hodnett stated with our new floors in here, we really need to get us some new rugs for the entry points. We talked to Cintas this morning which they come out weekly and bring the rugs and clean them. We asked for three rugs, for the two entry doors and one in the hall, they will change them out every week, it would run us \$897 a year. We have to do something because of our new floors, but what do you guys think about that? Mr. Majure asked if this was the only company that does this work? Mayor Hodnett replied they are the biggest and the best around here. That's who everybody uses to my knowledge. Mr. Majure asked if Mr. Blackstock if they had a service like that? Mr. Blackstock replied we used to at the convenient store, we used Moorefield but they are out of business. We used Moorefield Dry Cleaning, it was much cheaper, but that's the name of the game. I see Cintas being used at other businesses and they do a good job. Mr. Poindexter stated I would assume that there is some room in the building and grounds line item current. Mr. Blackstock asked what about housecleaning, you're not using any of that money. Mr. Poindexter replied we don't have a line item called that, we have one called building and grounds. As long as we are not over budgeted already on that line item, I am good. Should be under the general, public works, 10-141 something like that. I got a question on that, not trying to nitpick about \$800, but on buildings and grounds we only budgeted \$3000 but we're showing \$17,000 over budget, that is a outlier with something at the plaza and it was coded under that. Mayor Hodnett replied I think stuff that was going on all around here ended up in there. Ellen can clarify. Mr. Poindexter stated we have \$3,000 in street maintenance that we haven't used any of it. We have places we can find it if that's what everybody wants to do. Mr. Blackstock stated you need it before the weekend. Mayor Hodnett replied yeah I hadn't thought about that. Mrs. Keesee asked if we could please replace the solar lights out at our sign and put a solar light at the other sign, please. These have gotten really dim, but especially with the Christmas decorations going up. I think it would look a whole lot nicer if we put up new solar lights. Mayor Hodnett replied not a problem.

Mr. Majure stated \$300 per rug per year. Mayor Hodnett replied the units are \$3.34 per rug, so it's \$10.31 per week to have them here and then they charge you a service charge to bring them out and that's \$6.95 a week. Mr. Majure replied I think it is a necessary expense, otherwise you will be doing a lot more cleaning. Mr. Poindexter stated we just spent all this money renovating the building, we need to take care of it. Mr. Majure asked what the total amount was? Mayor Hodnett replied it is \$897.52 a year. Mr. Poindexter asked if we wanted to add a little more for the solar lights? Mayor Hodnett replied lets just say a \$1,000.

A motion was made to appropriate \$1,000 out of the general fund for three rugs for Town Hall and the servicing of those rugs and solar lights for the town signs.

Motion: M. Majure

Second: Mrs. Keesee

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett stated we will get on that tomorrow. We received a letter from the Commonwealth of Virginia, on the bipartisan infrastructure law bill, the DIL, our \$250,000 grant, they have approved that and they're paying 100% of the principal. We're not on the hook for any of that, but they do have a

caveat with it. I will read that to you. You must successfully complete or satisfy all requirements and conditions including those identified in the initial offer letter before VDH will authorize finalization of the principal forgiveness agreement. Basically, if you don't hit all your check marks they're not going to okay it and you're going to be on the hook for the money so that's just another thing we have to pay extra special attention to. He is already putting the paperwork together for phase 2. Mr. Johnson asked do you have any minorities contractors? Joe replied I have contacted them, you have to have at least six and you have to file in the paper work in those boxes where the paperwork was emailed or mailed to you. Mr. Johnson stated that is where you use your cleaning crew and that covers 75% a year in your fee, minority cleaning crew.

Mayor Hodnett stated the solar contract, I didn't bring it tonight because it's the mark up. There's a lot of red, blue, and a lot of black ink. I felt like it would be more confusing than it would be worthwhile for everybody to go through it. We've asked him to go back and get it finalized and hopefully we're going to have it Monday or Tuesday for the meeting. May not have it, if it doesn't, we'll have to take it up at the work session, but that is pretty much being finalized, well it's finalized now just have to get a clean copy for everybody to see. Mr. Poindexter stated so they are working on a clean copy? Mayor Hodnett replied yeah, John called him today and told him to have us a clean copy by Monday if he could and if he couldn't, certainly by the work session. Mr. Majure replied it looks like he agreed he would have it to us soon.

Mr. Johnson stated I got something, that is probably a little trifling, but I've heard a whole lot from the people in the neighborhood. If we can get Jason to have a conversation with the two homes on West Spencer, they absolutely refused to take their trash cans off the street that have almost caused multiple car wrecks because nobody wants to hug over by the railroad tracks and nobody wants to hit those two trash cans, but they have not been moved in over two months. Mayor Hodnett asked where are they at? Mr. Johnson replied right when you get passed Walter McCormick's and the two hair cutting places as soon as you come through the curb on West Spencer, you can't miss it. The two houses right beside each other. They leave them sitting there, they have been sitting there for over two months. Mayor Hodnett replied I ride by there everyday and haven't noticed it. Mr. Johnson stated I have had a pile of complaints especially from the older people that even if they meet a vehicle where there ain't a trash can they stop in the road. Mayor Hodnett replied coming down the hill, right before the underpass? Mr. Johnson replied as soon as you take the right at the underpass, go past B's. Mayor Hodnett replied oh, no wonder I didn't see it. Mr. Poindexter replied I'm pretty sure there is something in the ordinance that states they are supposed to be retracted by 10 o'clock. Mr. Johnson replied right, or it will be \$5 a day. Mr. Poindexter replied I don't remember the exact detail, but so many hours after pickup. Mr. Majure asked if we needed three or four complaints before we could do something about it right? Mayor Hodnett replied not on something like that because it's a ordinance. We can make a move on that right away.

Mrs. Keesee stated I was going to ask about our new council members regarding our Christmas dinner. We want to make sure not to offend anybody and we're going to have our Christmas dinner on the 20th of December. You will all be getting information about it and the cost of everything and how we're going to go about it, but before we ask the former people that were on council, and I'm talking about Jeremiah, Pierre, and Glenn, we would also like to include them for the Christmas dinner and wanted to make sure it was okay with you guys. All three new members (Worley, Blackstock, and Johnson) agreed to have them. Mr. Blackstock stated I had a concern at the polls, I worked the polls at New Prospect on

Election Day, a lot of the town spoke that they had a problem with the property they call it the Roach property, headed south down Prospect Road, it's a split foyer house on the right, right before you get to the town limits, the debris in the yard and noise at night. They were very concerned about the debris being a public nuisance, so need to get Jason to check on that property. Mayor Hodnett replied its not our first rodeo there. Mr. Blackstock replied something needs to be done. Jason Colbert was working the polls that day too, and he said that they had been there too. Mayor Hodnett replied we will take a look at that and the trash cans. Joe replied there is a lot of trash cans you are going to notice this week because of the notice we had to put out about only the brown cans. Some people put out a brown can and a blue can and they didn't put it out in time because I drove around to see how many we had and they still had them full by the curbs. If you notice on Prospect there is a couple and down further is some more. Mr. Majure asked you can only have one trash can in town is that correct? Mayor Hodnett replied yes. Joe replied the 90 gallon brown can. Mrs. Keesee asked if there were some that did not put out their old blue cans when we switched over to the new cans. Joe replied the last three days I have been picking up the blue ones. Do we have to go by there if we see one and tell them that they have to give the can up? Mayor Hodnett replied I don't see why we can't, belongs to the town, because they were supposed to be picked up when the other people left, they were supposed to have out on the road for them to pick up. Ones that didn't set them out on the road, kept the cans. I saw one on Darrell Lane, they have three blue cans. Joe replied I wanted to make sure there wasn't a legal issue there. Mayor Hodnett replied it belongs to the town so I think we can pick them up. We are not going to pick them up, so they can set them on the road all day long, Altavista is not going to pick them up. Then we will ding them for leaving it out on the road, then they will have to take them over to Grit or Motley and dump them because Altavista is point blank they will not pick them up. Mr. Poindexter replied well that is not the contractual agreement we have with them. We have a contract that they will pick up one designated can per house, period. Mr. Worley asked as far as taking them back in, you already have a ordinance for that right? Joe replied yeah. Mr. Worley stated if we are enforcing the ordinance it should be a done deal, right? Mr. Poindexter replied it is something in the ordinance that states after pick up, I can't remember the amount of time. Mayor Hodnett replied he is talking about picking up the blue can and bringing it back down here. Mr. Worley replied no I am talking about the brown can, they have a limited amount of time once it is picked up to get it off the street. Basically all we need to do is just enforce the ordinance that is already on the books. Joe replied it said 6' o clock Thursday putting them out and have that back in Friday by 10 p.m. Mr. Poindexter replied Friday at 10 p.m?. Joe replied that is what I thought. Mr. Poindexter replied then there is no reason they should be sitting out all weekend. Mr. Worley asked Thursday at what time? Joe replied 6 p.m. Mr. Worley stated I put mine out on Thursday evening, need to make sure I put it out by 6p.m. before I get in violation. Mayor Hodnett replied yeah I put mine out when I run in the morning. Mr. Blackstock asked what if people work second shift and have to put them out before then? Joe replied I respect that and that's why we aren't really tough on them, just don't leave them out there for a few days. Mr. Johnson stated my last thing is the permit for the chickens, has anybody in town come down here and got permit for their chickens? Mayor Hodnett replied yes. Mr. Johnson replied I just wanted to make sure. Joe replied your neighbor Mr. Johnson does have a permit, he did come down and get one. Mayor Hodnett replied the one on Prospect we are still working on them, across from the school. Thank you guys for coming.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

Kelsie Anderson

Gary Hodnett

Kelsie Anderson- Clerk

Gary Hodnett-Mayor