

Town of Hurt, Virginia
Council Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2023

Hurt Town Council held its monthly business meeting Thursday, November 9, 2023, at the Hurt Volunteer Fire Department. The meeting opened at 6:00 pm by Mayor Gary Hodnett with a quorum present.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent- Mr. Paul Johnson

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 6:04pm and exited closed session at approximately 7:10 pm.

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

Mayor Hodnett stated I want to thank everybody for coming. We welcomed our new council members in closing, they have already started to roll up their sleeves and get to work, so that's good, glad to have them. We hate to loose our other two members, we have enjoyed working with the, Jeremiah and Pierre.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Poindexter stated I want to ask a few questions about the financial report just for clarification and information, not to take issue with anything. Just looking over and most things appear to be in range for where we should be this time of year, but a couple of things kind of jumped off the page. On page two, miscellaneous income, what was that, 1,417% of budget, again I am just asking to know what it was? Mrs. Brumfield stated we will need to look at that to be specific on that. Mr. Poindexter stated it is \$1,300, not a huge amount of money, I just wondered what it was for. Mayor Hodnett replied my guess would be is some of the fringe stuff may have hit miscellaneous. Mrs. Anderson stated clockwise, our timesheets are under there. On page 3, the workman's comp insurance, we are 3rd of the way through the new FY and we are 141% of that, what caused a spike in that? Did something cause that to go up or

is that a coding issue? Mrs. Brumfield replied I think that may be a coding issue. Mr. Poindexter stated that is normally nailed down in the spring when we develop the budget. Mrs. Brumfield stated with VRSA. Mr. Poindexter replied yeah with VRSA, I didn't think it would have gone up that much in the middle of the year. Page four miscellaneous expenses, there is a large for year to date, not for this month, about \$16,000. That is a bigger amount of money, what is that? Mrs. Anderson replied that is the Plaza. Mr. Poindexter stated then on page five the line of duty insurance, \$662 over budget, is that just where it came in more than what we guesstimated when we built the budget? Mrs. Brumfield replied yes, when we did the budget we did not have a number on that. Mr. Poindexter replied I know when we did the budget we didn't have a final number from them, and we didn't know exactly what it would be, so we put a place holder in there, I just wanted to be sure on that. On page seven the southern support is 131% up this early in the year, what's going on with that? Mayor Hodnett replied we have been laying pretty hard on them for support. Mr. Poindexter replied extra tech, I understand, just wanting to know. Other than that I am good with the financial report. Mayor Hodnett stated one of the things I want to bring up to now that we are starting to go through some of the stuff, currently our water billing and water usage is tracking at about 25 million, so we are considerably off from what we budgeted for, so that could be a big hit to the budget as well. Mr. Poindexter stated now the most recent billing was cycle number 1 for the new FY right? Mayor Hodnett replied yes. Mr. Poindexter stated it looked like to me the way I read it, it was July, August, and September, so based on the first quarter sales if you multiply that before it would translate into 25 mg for the year. Mayor Hodnett replied but if you look at the last quarter from before, were already tracking down, so we've got a trend that we are moving down. If you took those two, which gives us a 6 month average, because both numbers are considerably down from last year and this year off the budget. Mr. Poindexter stated that is a very real concern because the Enterprise Fund is based on, I probably shouldn't say hoping for, but its based on anticipating selling 27 million gallons in new FY, that's one of the ways we balanced the budget. Maybe somebody can sell some water. I guess I'm being a little facetious, but we need to sell some more water because it's a difference between what we buy for and what we sell it for. Not only does it pay Joe, but it keeps the pumps running, testing done, and everything else water. Mayor Hodnett replied we are also having a lot of leak problems to that we have been dealing with. When you calculate leaks into it, your still not hitting your goal and the leaks are going to push it up, not down. Mr. Majure asked if the leaks were within customers facilities? Mayor Hodnett replied yeah.

A motion was made to approve the October expenditures and October minutes as presented which comprise our consent agenda.

Motion: Mr. Majure

Second: Mrs. Keesee

Passage: Unanimous

Public Comment

Mr. Pierre Richard stated its been a honor, a privilege, and a pleasure to help out help the Town of Hurt, work with beautiful people on this town council. Thanks a lot for supporting the new guy and thanks to our town staff they have always been helpful and friendly. It has been a great experience and I hope I made some friends. Congratulations to Steve, Mike, and Paul, I am certain you guys will make great council members. Looking to the future I wonder if it is feasible for our staff to review and consolidate what might be non sensitive and unskilled tasks like stuffing envelopes and pass those task along to volunteers. I am happy to say that I already know of one citizen who is volunteered to help Joe out with various task. I am ready to volunteer and help out with office task, also if it is appropiate I could work as a

volunteer coordinator, so thanks for your attention and your consideration. Mayor Hodnett stated I can promise you one thing, next water billing you will be extremely busy.

Wanda Dews signed up but decided to make no comment.

New Business

Public Works Assistant- Mayor Hodnett stated Joe talked to a guy the other night about public works assistant and helping out. I think you got the same feel as I got about him. I think the person is a very good candidate, but he likes where he is working at right now too. Joe any comments you would like to make about that? Joe stated he is worried about how much time he has to spend on the computer, any type of office work, he is mainly a outside worker now. He is skittish about coming in and working on paperwork. Mayor Hodnett replied other than that he looks pretty good. I think he could help us.

Sunday, December 3rd Christmas at Town Hall 4:00pm-6:00pm- Ellen Brumfield stated it will be the first Sunday in December from 4:00pm-6:00pm and we will need volunteers. We've got a lot planned mainly for the children, but also the adults to come out and have good time and to fellowship. We will be posting this as well on the website, but get the word out, and the schools know. We would love everybody to come out but also need some volunteers. Mayor Hodnett stated the kids really love it, they get into it for sure. Mrs. Brumfield stated but we do need some workers, because if we have the hot cocoa, popcorn, the cookies, and the different things and then of course we will have Santa, the Grinch, also some other children are going to sing. It should be a good time, a lot of fun for the children. Mayor Hodnett stated that don't just include staff and council, if the spirit moves through anybody in the community, you are certainly welcomed to come on down and party with us and work with us.

Dec. 20th, 6:00pm @ Hurt United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall- Kathy Keesee stated even though we tried to get out caterer as early as possible, the only date she had available was for December 20th at 6:00pm at the fellowship hall at Hurt United Methodist Church.

Report from Legal Counsel – Attorney Eller reported that we have been working on the solar lease. We marked it up and sent it to Mr. Becker. He said he has to go to Illinois for a couple of weeks on a big project and would get back to us. He did get back to us last week, he had taken what I had wrote in by hand and convert it into one of those redline things which I have received. We have set up a time to have a phone conference with him on Tuesday to go over the differences that we have, what we want in the lease, what he has in his lease, and we'll get it worked out so we can bring it to the council at the work session meeting. I have given our new councilmen a copy of the redline version. I have one for Paul Johnson I will leave. Mr. Blackstock asked did you change out the 20 to 35 acres or did he? Attorney Eller replied that was my markup. I marked out the 20 and put in 35 and he put that in, but some of the stuff he didn't put it into the body of the contract. You see where a lot of it is put in over to the side, but it didn't get put in to the text like the 35 did. That's why we are going to be on the phone, why didn't it all get in. Mr. Majure asked what time that call was, I'd like to listen in if possible. Attorney Eller stated you want to be in on the phone call, okay 11:00 o'clock at my office on Tuesday.

Reports from Staff

Treasurer –Ellen Brumfield reported that our bank account at First National is \$312,578.21 of that is \$139,217.19 is ARPA, leaving us with \$173,361.02. Town council members you have received the check register for October, I will be passing this around for your signature and date. This is for approval to be on record. Mayor Hodnett stated this is another thing our Auditor is having us do. Mrs. Brumfield stated

town council members you had a chance to review the September bank reconciliation, I will need you to sign it and date to be put on record. Also I'd like to welcome the new town council members and if I could see you after the meeting, I need to get some personal information from you so that I can get you into the system after the meeting. Mr. Majure asked if it is possible that you know the amount of money in the reserves for the enterprise fund. Mayor Hodnett replied the LGIP account. Mr. Poindexter stated I was going to ask if we could have a general update, if not tonight, sometime pretty soon just so we know what is in each account for future reference. Mrs. Brumfield replied I can do that. Mayor Hodnett stated you can either come to the business meeting or give it to me.

Administrative - Kelsie Anderson reported that real estate, personal property, and water bills have all been sent out. If you have not received them please let me know. I have been very busy with collecting payments, and they have been coming in steadily. Also been busy with the move.

Public Works – Joe Smith reported that I have been working on water relief for a couple of residence and rebuilding meter pits. The gentleman said that seven years ago he needed it replaced and I told him when I had the material I would replace it. When the material came in I fixed his and another residents as well. Also I had a few leaks at residents home, about 8 or 9 of them and had to go out and check them and steer them in the direction if it in inside the house or outside. I also been working on lead and copper inventory with the VDH and try to put together a PER plan of action for work to be done after loan in acquired. We have a meeting on Tuesday. I had two water leak adjustments and still working on my leak list. Mr. Blackstock asked Joe if he could clarify on the replacement and the shelf life on the water hydrants in town? Joe replied yeah I can, but I don't have my list right now. I have my asset management list on my computer. That tells me what the life period of that fire hydrant is, but within the next five years is when we have to start. Mayor Hodnett stated I was thinking it was 10 years but your saying within 5 or 6 years then we are going to have to start replacing some. Mr. Blackstock asked if they can be rebuilt? Joe replied I am looking into that. I've had a couple people tell that they will rebuild some of them depending on the shape of the fire hydrant. They have to come out and look at it to figure that out. I got one group of people looking for a wrench, with the fittings on the side, they don't make the wrench anymore. If you want to get inserts for the plug ins they are two to three times the normal price of a fire hydrant because of their age, but yes they can be rebuilt. Mr. Majure stated so you are going to be doing your due diligence and seeing which one is more cost effective for the Town? Joe replied yeah.

Police Department – Chief Lovelace

October 2023 Police Report

Calls for Service-

Civil Complaints- 1

Suspicious Person- 1

Public Service- 6

Vandalism/Destruction of Property- 0

Theft from a building- 0

Suspicious Vehicle- 1

Assist Other Agencies (Emergency Services)- 2

Drug Offense- 0

Animal complaint- 2

Traffic Stops-4

All other offenses- 3

No reportable- 1

Other

Miles Driven- 571

Training- Lovelace attended Gang training.

Assist Other Town Departments- 0

Use of Force- 0

Department/Officer Complaints- 0

Department Updates-

Goodie bags were given out to both FCA and HES students to all students up to grade 5 promoting positive interaction with LE and Halloween safety.

We participated in Trunk or Treat at the Plaza. Tristan and myself attended law enforcement appreciation lunch provided by Liberty University with other law enforcement agencies.

Report from Mayor – Gary Hodnett stated I don't really have anything new that's going on other than the remodel, we have completed that and started moving into Town Hall today. We have been hitting that pretty hard. Our next meeting in two weeks will be held at Town Hall. If any of you want to come down and take a gander and see what's going on, you are certainly welcome to do that. Janet you asked me a month or so ago about could the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Department help us with radar, I talked to Sheriff Taylor and he said that he thought that that was something they could do. He is talking to his deputy that handles radar and to see about it, but he said he thought it was something doable. I've asked Jason to work with Sheriff Taylor on that. Other than that I want to welcome our new members, I wish Paul was here to welcome him. As soon as he is back and gets a chance I will talk to him and welcome him on board too. I certainly look forward to working with you guys, like I've worked with everybody else. Get ready to start drinking from the fire hose.

Mr. Majure asked Kelsie if there was a update from Municode? Mrs. Anderson replied the last email that was forwarded to all council members is all that I have, unless they have reached out to John. Attorney Eller replied they said they are still working on it. Mayor Hodnett stated thank everybody for coming.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

Kelsie Anderson

Kelsie Anderson-Clerk

Gary Hodnett

Gary Hodnett-Mayor