

Town of Hurt, Virginia
Council Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2023

Hurt Town Council held its monthly business meeting Tuesday, October 3, 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. Jeremiah Knowles, Mr. Pierre Richard, Mr. Glenn Mitchell, 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 6:01 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, 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 glad to see everybody here. We do appreciate the turn out. You may have noticed the camera; we are doing the Facebook live stream for our meetings now. More people can actually be involved and see what goes on and hear the things that are talked about.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the September expenditures and September minutes as presented.

Motion: Mrs. Keesee

Second: Mr. Mitchell

Passage: Unanimous

Additions to the Agenda

Mayor Hodnett stated I would like to add the candidate forum and to discuss a little bit more about funding the assistant to Public Works.

Public Comment

Paul Johnson stated I live at 609 Lynn Street. I got a letter last Friday in regard to the Town of Hurt candidate forum and I reached out to the mayor about it because I wasn't made aware of it beforehand. I've got an obligation where I will be out of town at that time, I asked for it to be rescheduled and was denied. Just so everybody knows I am running for Town Council; I'd be glad to meet with anybody that I haven't already talked to when delivering signs to their houses and what I stand for. I'll move on to my

questions, first what is going to be the proposed price tag for the new shopping center? Secondly, how much money in grants has Mike Jones been able to secure on the town's behalf for the remodel of the shopping center, and when will the townspeople be able to see a rendering drawing of the shopping center and what will that look like? What's the timeline for construction? What's the proposed start date and finish date? I ask all these because I went back through newspaper articles and the way I'm understanding that is the shopping center kind of will be our saving grace for taxes to people in Hurt. The last thing I want to see is Staunton River plastics, where it's built and sitting. Nobody's inhabiting and no tax revenues coming. I would love to know who's going to be the base store down there to what's going to be the draw to bring them into this town.

Kim Johnson stated I live at 609 Lynn Street. A couple of comments first, I want to express my disappointment in this Council's willingness to admit Mike Jones back into Hurt's affairs, especially after the citizens of this town spoke against him so strongly. There were signatures collected regarding the council reduction from six to four. People throughout the town expressed that they wanted to have six on council, it is going to be on the ballot to reduce the numbers from six to four, so that's the second time that the citizens requests were ignored. I also have a problem with the meeting for the candidates that was arranged in such short notice without verifying the availability of council members or citizens willing to run or are running. When another council member was contacted about this, he knew nothing about it. Moving along, Altavista has shopping center spaces available for rent beside One Stop strip mall, the Food Lion shopping center strip mall, the Walmart shopping center strip mall and the Tuscan Grill strip mall. What's going to make the remodeled shopping center in the Town of Hurt so special that people will want to move away from those well-established areas into this one in Hurt. Most Americans especially since the pandemic buy everything online versus brick-and-mortar stores. Who are the proposed retailers renters that are wanting to call our shopping center home, and what will be the duration of the leases? Again, I had the question about the anchor store for the shopping center that is going to make other businesses want to come and open, what is the cause and effect to the townspeople? What is the cause and effect to the townspeople, the cost to the townspeople if our mayor, Town Council, water consultants, and utility director do not get all our water lines at people's homes, and the meters done by the end of the year and reported as requested? The end of the year is only a couple of months away. Lastly, it was stated by the mayor last month that monies will be taken from the reserve to hire another full-time utility person. What is the timeline or plan for repaying this money to the reserve and where will the future money come from to continue this individual's employment and benefits? Mr. Knowles questioned for the water lines, you mean for the lead and copper reporting? Mr. Johnson replied well with any of these deadlines that have got to be made. It may not just be that I don't know what kind of deadlines the town is up against, but we've been told that Joe cannot complete paperwork and go around and survey everyone's property for whatever reason and what's going to be the consequences if these deadlines aren't met.

Wanda Dews stated I live at 121 East Spencer Road, talking about Mike Jones again, I don't know if you realize the kind of person you're dealing with. He gets on his Facebook page and has all this religious paraphernalia. Then he's going to turn right around and speak angry inflammatory comments about the candidates that are running for Town Council this fall. I think it is a sin and shame that y'all are going to bring that man back knowing how the town feels and stir up even more controversy than what you already got. The second thing is, is Mike Jones on speaker while y'all are having these meetings? Mayor Hodnett replied no.

Michael Blackstock stated I live at 106 Knollwood Drive. I am running for Town Council and I would appreciate your vote. I'd like to know who the promoter for the public forum was that's coming up on October 13 at Hurt Elementary School? I was at the last town council meeting and nothing was brought up about having a public forum for the council that is running. I guess my note was posted by Jason, our Town Chief. I would like to know, because I've had some comments directed by Mike Jones towards me, because I'm the only town council member that has previously run for council and I would like to know at this point is Mike Jones considered an employee for the town or whether he is donating his time, or is it considered a consultant. I don't believe a town employee would be engaged in politics or the town. From what he posted on Facebook, I would like to set the record clear that I agree with the mayor on the only properties in the Town of Hurt that have been sold previously, we don't have the money to show for it. It's all been used in the budgets. I do firmly believe that taxpayer money shouldn't be spent on the Staunton River Plaza. I believe that if we could get grants, or if the rent would pay for the upkeep, it would bring in money to the town and it would be beneficial for us to keep the Plaza. I also would like to know if you mentioned Gary that you'd had an offer, I would like to know who that offer was from and was it a legitimate offer, and how much was it for? You had stated that we had an offer on the plaza since the town purchased it. That's all I have to say, thanks.

Janet Neal stated I live at 105 Prospect Road my questions may sound redundant, but they still are important. One is I wanted to know how the idea of this Q&A forum came about, where did it come from, and were all the candidates canvas survey talked to about the time and date before it was set in stone to make sure they were available? I want to know who the moderator is going to be. The elephant in the room, Mike Jones, I want to know if he's going to be on speakerphone for all our meetings now. I assume not since we're live on Facebook now he can watch it, but will he be part of the closed session meetings for the council? Will he be involved in the closed session meetings from here on out with the council, thank you.

Steve Worley stated I live at 605 Spring Street. The letter that I received Friday by the Chief of Police about the forum that you are going to have October 13th from 6:00p-8:00pm, I will answer Mrs. Neals question, the guy that is going to be the moderator goes by the name of Will Pace, according to the letter that I received. It said that everyone in Town is invited to attend and we plan to livestream this event. I did some asking about whether the town council had any input on this. I think it was lightly discussed at one of the meetings. Nothing was said in concrete. Then last Friday 9/28, they used Town of Hurt letterhead, and it was dated 9/28/23. I know Jason has a lot on his plate, very busy, but it didn't take him any time to get these letters out, printed one day and delivered the same day. Evidently this is very important to Hurt and the town council. I haven't decided whether I'll attend or not, that is up in the air. If the town council had a meeting on it, and town council voted yea that we need to have this, and it was voted on by town council, then let's do it, I'll be there, but just because one person decides we are going to do this and sends the letters out today and it is going to be done on October 13th whether they can make it or not. I think it was kind of inconsiderate. Having said that, there were some comments on Facebook, and I am not speaking for any candidate but myself. I've been informed that three of the new town's candidates have stated they do not want the Plaza to be developed as it is being planned and that it should be sold to whoever wants it and whatever price they can get for it, this means that anything could come to this location. I have not made such a statement. It is just an outright lie. If this town wants the Staunton Plaza, have at it. The only thing that I have to say and this is my belief, and this is what I'll stand on, if you develop the Plaza and it brings in revenue for our town to

relieve tax pressure on the 1200 population that we've got, that's great. If you can do it by grants, that's great, but I don't think that Town Council of Hurt should tax these 1200 people to death so that we can have a nice Staunton Plaza, I am against that. If we can do it in a way that it does not cost the taxpayers blind, I am for that, so let's get that cleared up. I am not for selling it, I didn't have any say so in buying it, so far I haven't had any say so at all, so to print something like this on the Facebook page is uncalled for. There is no need in that kind of inclement. If I had said it, that is one thing, but I didn't say it. Do we really want these uniformed opinions of these politicians to run one of the best development opportunities that this town has had in years, this is your future panel square designed for your residents and their families. First of all I am not a politician, so that is something else that needs to be corrected. All I am is a citizen of Hurt that has an opinion different from town council, so that makes me the bad guy. Ask questions of these politicians who want to control the center piece of our town. Ask yourself have they asked your opinion on anything. We got a referendum that is coming up in November, I will be voting no. We keep town council at 6, so there is no question to how I will vote. If you got any question as to what I stand for and what I run for, simply ask me, but don't go by this junk on this Facebook page. Now you got your camera set up and everything is on Facebook, some Facebook is ok, I can deal with that, but trashing somebody on Facebook, you won't see me on Facebook making statements such as this. This is totally uncalled for, and this forward right here voted him back in last month against town peoples wish. It was very vocal at that meeting, that no we don't want him back, but here he is in less than 30 days he has the town tore all to pieces again. It is time this town council wake up to this situation because this isn't going to get any better, it is just going to get worse. He is not the only man that can write grants, he is not the only man who can give you advice about fixing Town Hall, he is not the only one. The other thing is, Wayside Park, when you leave our town limits going South there is a park right there on the right, today they had a ribbon cutting. They spent a lot of work on that park, Pittsylvania County should be proud of what they accomplished. Hurt was invited, I went, nobody from Hurt but me was there. That don't look good on our town. I understand that people got jobs, some are retired, so if they put forth the effort that will do the job that they have done in this park and we are free to use at no cost, we certainly can show up for a ribbon cutting. It took about an hour. I was the only one there, but yet I don't listen to what Hurt wants. I got my own opinions, my own agenda, that's what I'm running on, that is so far from the truth. My platform, if I had one, and again I am not a politician, my platform is to listen to the people of the Town of Hurt. Even if I don't agree with them, because I am obligated to listen to them and I am obligated to bring their needs and wants to town council and that's what I am going to do. That is about as simple as I can put it. Thank you for your time.

New Business

Public Works new Assistant- Mayor Hodnett stated we talked previously about funding, and we think we found money from the budget so that we don't have to use as much in reserves. What we are looking at doing is pulling the lawn mowing back into staff. Joe feels like if it is the two of them working together that they can surely find the time between the two to get the grass cut. Also, the 811 service that we are paying for the mark outs, where they come and do the digging around water lines and electric. The town is paying \$1,000 a month for the company to come in and do that. Joe has gotten familiar with it and working with the county so we would pull that back in house. Those two will give us about \$24,000-\$25,000 that we don't have to take from reserves to fund that new person coming in. That is one of the things that we are looking at there and the council supports that.

Trunk or Treat October 28th Staunton Plaza- Mayor Hodnett stated we want to remind everybody about the Trunk or Treat that is scheduled for October 28th at the Staunton Plaza, 4:00PM to whenever. Please mark that, and come down if you would like, we encourage all the kids in the community to come. We had 700 I think last year, and Patrick the guy with the Thunder Struck told me that New Prospect Church is going to move theirs down with us, I guess you guys get about 400-500 kids, don't you? Mrs. Mayhew replied at least. Mayor Hodnett stated it is going to be huge this year, but we are glad you are coming. Mrs. Mayhew stated I am sure Jason is glad too, because that traffic gets bad. Mrs. Worley asked who supplies the candy for all of this, does it come out of the town budget? Mayor Hodnett replied no, it is all donations. Mrs. Worley stated our church gives a lot of candy, we pick it up every Sunday, can you donate it down at Town Hall? Mayor Hodnett replied absolutely, we encourage all council members to donate at least 5 bags. We have a pretty good start but can never have enough. Mark your calendars and encourage all the kids to turn out. Mrs. Worley asked, are y'all going to let me in when I come down there? Mayor Hodnett replied you are in the parking lot, that's where we do it. Mrs. Worley stated I mean the donating park? Mayor Hodnett replied we will be glad to take your candy.

PD Stew Christmas for kids November 4th Pavilion at Town Hall-Mayor Hodnett asked Jason if he was taking orders now? Jason replied yes sir. Mayor Hodnett asked how much has been sold? Jason replied right now we are up to about 100, or a little shy of 100 quarts. We will try to presale as much as we can. We are aiming to sell 300 quarts and always try to hold back a little bit there at the end. We sell everything we have, so if anybody wants any. A resident asked if it was beef or chicken? Jason replied it is chicken. Mayor Hodnett stated so mark your calendars for that and preorder. Jason replied I have a sign-up sheet here in the back.

December 3rd Christmas at Town Hall & Christmas Dinner Date/location- Mayor Hodnett stated council, you guys typically have done a Christmas dinner, it is paid for by the council members, and we typically invite former mayors to come to that. Do we want to continue that this year? Mr. Poindexter stated I would say continue it, but looking at what you have on the agenda, it looks like those two events on the same day, that may be in my opinion crowded. Mayor Hodnett replied the December 3rd is Christmas at Town Hall, the Christmas dinner is a question, do we want to do it. We would have to say yes, we want to do it and decide on a time. Mr. Poindexter stated I certainly do think it ought not to be on the same day. Mayor Hodnett replied it will not be on the same day. That is the question for you guys, when do you want to deal with that? Mr. Poindexter stated maybe the following Sunday, the 10th. Mayor Hodnett asked do I have a volunteer to take that over and get it scheduled? Mr. Poindexter stated another thing, do we want to do the same thing that we have done the last two years, or do we want a different venue or program. I am fine with whatever the majority wants to do. Mayor Hodnett replied again, I'll ask for a volunteer? Mrs. Keesee stated I'll do it. Mayor Hodnett stated and the Christmas at Town Hall will be December 3rd, 4:00pm-6:00pm. Everybody is invited and please come because that truly is a great event. Mr. Majure asked what are some of the events that will be occurring? Mayor Hodnett replied like last year, we will have Santa Claus, the Grinch will be there again, all the same things we had last year. Mr. Majure asked if people were singing last year? Mayor Hodnett replied yes. Mrs. Keesee stated we had Hurt Elementary, we had the band and color guard. Mr. Majure asked if that was already underway. Mrs. Brumfield replied yes.

Forum for Town Candidates October 13th -Mayor Hodnett stated the forum for the political candidates is 6:00pm-8:00pm, Friday the 13th at Hurt Elementary School gym. The public is welcome to send questions into the Clerk at Town Hall and we will pass those along to Will Pace. He will be doing all the

questions, and it is entirely up to him as to what he asks. We are completely out of it, and he is the former mayor of Chatham. I'm sure all of you know him. Mr. Knowles asked if that would be broadcasted on Facebook as well? Mayor Hodnett replied yes. I've heard from a lot of residents asking about this. Arthur came down and volunteered to help with it and tried to promote it with some people in the town, would you like to say anything about that Arthur? Arthur replied this is my first time at the meeting and I've met several of my neighbors on Spring Street. I think getting the information out and getting the information out about the candidates is important. I disagree on some of the situations in terms, I think the questions should be what the community's asking not just the situation on what someone chooses to pick because they were former mayor. I would like to see a more open discussion and we didn't really have a chance to discuss it much as I was coming in on a different matter. I would like to volunteer and get more involved in the community and get things done. I think open communication and understanding what you want to say is important. I am available since I am retired. Mayor Hodnett replied we are certainly going to encourage the public to get involved with questions, no doubt about that.

Report from Legal Counsel – Attorney Eller reported that we have been working on the lease for the Solar projects at the key park. Back in August we granted this special use permits form and they submitted the lease for us to review and I went through it and marked it up and the council has looked at it. We are going to be working with a company to complete the lease and bring it back to the Council for final approval, hopefully by the work session meeting this month. Once we get that done, they will be ready to start working on the actual construction and getting ready to put it into effect, which apparently might take them as long as a year to get going. That will be the final thing that we need them to get done to start. I haven't heard anything from the Municipal Code company. I don't know if anybody else has, but I hadn't heard anything about how they're coming along with our convocation. I called the lady down there and I couldn't get her and left a message and asked her for a status report. It's been quite a while. Mr. Poindexter stated that is something I've been meaning to ask about and follow up on. I've just gotten busy and forgotten. That has been several months since we voted to go with that, and I haven't heard anything further. Mayor Hodnett replied we've talked to them on several occasions, and they keep putting it off with our legal people and are still going through everything. Mrs. Anderson stated I will follow up with them tomorrow. Attorney Eller stated well Luke Perdieu was our council contact before and after he resigned, I am not aware that anybody took it over. Mrs. Anderson replied I got that changed and that I guess I am handling it. Mr. Majure asked when was the last time we heard from them? Mrs. Anderson replied a month or so ago. Attorney Eller replied pretty soon I'll be hearing something. Mr. Majure asked if John could send an email when that occurred. Attorney Eller replied I will send out a report.

Reports from Staff

Treasurer –Ellen Brumfield reported that at the First National Bank we have \$275,579.55 minus \$139,217.19 and that is ARPA pending fund that will be claimed 2024. That leaves us in general operating funds a balance of \$136,362.36. Town council members you've had the opportunity to review the bank reconciliation for the month of August, any questions or concerns? No comment. I'll be passing this around for your signature so that we can record that and have that on record for your approval. Also, town council members you've received the check listing for September, the first of September-30th. You've reviewed it, any questions? No comment. I'll be passing this around for your signature so that we can have this on record for your approval.

Administrative - Kelsie Anderson reported that all real estate and personal property tax bills have been printed and folded. We are hoping to have those out by Friday. They are not due until December 5th, but we are giving residents an extra month to get those in and paid if they would like. Kathy sent me some new photos for the fall slideshow on the website. Once the real and personal property tax bills go out, Joe and I will be working on water billing, and they will go out on October the 17th.

Public Works – Joe Smith reported we are in the middle of water billing. I have read all of the meters and we have prepared the pre-billing. I was helping with folding taxes. I had 4 water breaks between the main line and the meter that we had to have repaired. I had one pressure relief valve that had to be installed and I'm working on cutting down some trees on Tanyard that fell down on the lady's fence again. I also went around and cut all the fire hydrants. Mayor Hodnett asked if Joe wanted to update them on the Davenport meeting? Joe replied I wasn't able to attend that, I had to go to the leak in the trailer park. I don't know what was mentioned. We're also working on RFP's for the lead and copper inventory project where the grant money is going to be going. We sent those out to VDH for review per their request and if they look good, we'll be sending them back and getting ready to put them out. We also notified WBE notifications and started out folder for that. Mayor Hodnett stated you guys got that \$250,000 grant for the state. Joe replied yeah, and that is what all of this is for, the RFP's and, we can hire a contractor so that they can pothole between the main and everybody's meter, and then a pothole after the meter about three feet so that we can see and take a picture of the service line. Some people were nice enough to let me know the line they have in the house, that was perfect and acceptable. There are still 3 quarters of the town that didn't give me anything. I will either go door to door or see what I can do, see if I can hire somebody with that grant money to go door to door and take a picture. We have until October 2024 to have it complete. Mr. Johnson stated I will help you knock. Mrs. Worley asked Joe if we take pictures of it, how can we send that to you? Joe replied to my email.

Police Department – Chief Lovelace

September 2023 Police Report

Calls for Service-

Civil Complaints- 2

Suspicious Person- 1

Public Service- 0

Vandalism/Destruction of Property- 0

All other offenses- 1

Suspicious Vehicle- 1

Mental Subject- 0

Alarms- 1

Assist Other Agencies (Emergency Services)- 1

Mutual Aid (LE)- 1

Traffic Stops- 0

Noise complaint- 0

Domestic assault- 2

Animal complaints- 0

Trespassing- 1

Automobile accident- 0

Theft from a building- 0

Theft from a vehicle- 0

Disabled vehicle- 0

Drug Offense- 0

Larceny- 0

Paper served- 1

Other

Miles Driven- 511

Training-

The Police new hire is continuing to learn, and help where needed.

Use of Force- 0

Department/Officer Complaints- 0

Department Updates-

Reminder of stew on 11-4-2022

HPD will be participating in Thunderstruck trunk or treat on October 28

HPD will be giving Halloween goodie bags to FCA & HES with safety tips for trick or treating.

Mr. Knowles asked what type of candy are you looking for? Jason replied what we do for the trunk or treat because the parents normally escort them, it can be chocolate, for the candy we give out to the schools that is not to be any type of peanut allergies, I don't want to deal with any of that. That is already taken care of, but for the trunk or treat, any candy. Mr. Knowles stated individually wrapped. Mrs. Worley stated nothing homemade.

Report from Mayor – Gary Hodnett reported that I don't really have anything that came up, since we were able to get everything on the agenda. I appreciate everybody coming, thank you. I encourage people to send questions in for the forum, encourage all of you guys to attend and be apart of it. I think that based on the comments from the people that come in and talk about it daily at town hall they're excited about hearing from you guys. That was part of the reason behind doing it. I think that most of council thinks this should be done every year, and you guys correct me if I am wrong, but that's what I am hearing from council. It gets everybody out there and a chance to talk to people. It'll be live streamed on Facebook. I've heard people state that they don't know these people or what they stand for. I urge you to attend and this is your opportunity. Mr. Neal asked before you adjourn are any of the questions that was asked tonight going to be answered, there were several questions asked, do you have any answers for them? Mayor Hodnett replied I just went over the forum, Will Pace is going to be handling it. What particular question are you looking for? Mr. Neal replied well there was several from Mr. Johnson and Mr. Blackstock. Mr. Johnson stated I had a bunch about scheduling, deadlines, and moneys for the shopping center. Mayor Hodnett replied I don't have those numbers in front of me but we will be doing as much grant work as we can possibly do it. We have a company that is talking to us about coming in one of the suites in the Spring. We're talking to a couple more. We haven't got squared away on the Winn Dixie side as to exactly what we're going to be doing there. We've worked with the Brownfield people kicking around ideas, they are doing renderings for the building, and we're talking about exactly what should be done. I can't give you a date of when they would be in. I'm hoping within the week or two week period because we talked about it two weeks ago and all that's paid for grant money. The Plaza is producing I think at about \$56,000 a year income level at this point. Everybody is paid up, and considering Winn Dixie we have two spaces left to rent. Mr. Johnson stated I think it is a fantastic idea to get it done right. Mrs. Johnson stated about the forum that is going to take place, Paul has had something in the works for a year, is the moderator going to make arrangements to speak to him beforehand so that he can record his answers or is he going to be just left out? Mayor Hodnett replied Paul and I went back and forth with text messages and you asked if you could make a statement and present it and that it will be read at the forum. Mr. Johnson stated that wasn't clarified, because I know you had said this is not a statement thing but I want people to understand where I am coming

from. Mr. Knowles asked if there would be a opportunity for him to participate electronically, either by Facebook or online? Mayor Hodnett asked Paul if that was something that would work for you? Mr. Johnson replied yea if we can do like a teams meeting. Mr. Knowles replied I don't know your situation is. Mr. Johnson replied well I don't Facebook. Mrs. Johnson stated his name is on my account, but he's never on it. Mr. Johnson stated I don't do social media that's why I wasn't aware of the things Mike Jones had said about me either until I heard it from Michael and Steve, I didn't know I got slammed. Mayor Hodnett replied we want you to be able to participate and make a statement. Mr. Johnson stated if there is anyway we can do a teams meeting, I can take my laptop. I've got Microsoft teams on my laptop and I would be happy to take time out to do that. Mayor Hodnett asked Jeremiah if he wanted to work on that? Mr. Knowles replied I will work on that, it is no problem getting a teams meeting, that's the easiest thing in the world. I'll just get him connected in and making sure everybody can hear him. Mayor Hodnett replied we will be using the schools system. Mr. Johnson stated that will work for me because I want people to know where I stand. Mayor Hodnett replied we want them to know too. Mrs. Mayhew stated I got a question about the Wayside thing today. I didn't know anything about that until I saw it on the news tonight, it wasn't very public, did you guys know about it? Mr. Mitchell replied I didn't hear about it. Mr. Richard replied never heard about it. Mrs. Mayhew stated if y'all knew about it, y'all certainly should have been there, somebody from town council. I saw it on the 6 o clock news. Mr. Poindexter replied I had no knowledge of it. There should have been an announcement of it. Mrs. Keesee stated the town should have been contacted directly. Mr. Poindexter replied to my knowledge, none of us knew anything about it. Mrs. Johnson asked another question that I asked, what will the penalty be if these deadlines aren't met by the end of the year? Joe replied next year, and that will be determined by the VDH. Mayor Hodnett replied and from what we have seen with it, it is kind of a moving target, it was backed up, moved forward, and backed up again. Joe replied but they have never changed that deadline, its got to be turned in then. They haven't given us what they said they are going to do, but its been mentioned of fines and things like that. Mr. Knowles stated and this is being pushed down by the federal government. Mrs. Neal stated Gary one of my questions was, that wasn't answered was will Mike Jones be involved and present at the closed session meetings? Mayor Hodnett replied no. Mrs. Johnson asked will he be spoken to about his use of social media and the way he speaks on behalf of the town as someone who is unemployed, doesn't live here, doesn't own property here, or pay taxes here, but then he will make statements like he's made publicly about something you don't know anything about. Mrs. Dews stated to me unless you hear from the horse's mouth keep your mouth shut. Mayor Hodnett replied I am not going to censor anybody, and I don't read it, he is not an employee of the town. Mrs. Dews asked what is his big interest here that he is got to influence voters coming up this fall with these negative comments. I mean I think yeah it is your responsibility and the council responsibility to take up this crap and stop it. Mr. Knowles stated Mike Jones is a citizen of the United States and he has freedom of speech. If you don't want to hear from him, stop listening. Mrs. Dews stated he friended me matter of fact just so I could get his comments. He post them, and pisses everybody off and then deletes them. Mayor Hodnett stated alright we are adjourned at 7:49pm.

Kelsie Anderson

Kelsie Anderson- Clerk

Gary Hodnett

Gary Hodnett-Mayor