

Town of Hurt, Virginia
Council Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2022

Hurt Town Council held its monthly business meeting on Tuesday, October 4th, 2022, at Town Hall. The meeting opened at 6:00 PM by Mayor Gary Hodnett with a quorum present.

Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Luke Perdieu, Mr. Gary Poindexter, Mrs. Shirley Barksdale-Hill, and Mr. Bob Majure; Via Phone Call Mrs. Kathy Keesee; Members absent: Mr. Donney Johnson

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, 8).

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

Council entered closed session at 6:05 PM and exited closed session at approximately 6:52 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: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill Second: Mr. Majure Passage: Unanimous

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Mr. Poindexter

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mayor Hodnett

Opening Remarks

Mayor Hodnett stated I don't have any opening remarks other than thanking everyone for coming, and if you would like to speak, please sign up. Mrs. Stone I know you are going to be talking about an addition to the agenda, so I will take care of that.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Hodnett asked do we have any additions to the agenda? No comment. Mayor Hodnett stated I am going to add two SUP applications that we have filled out, and Mrs. Stone, you will be asked to speak in just a few minutes. Right now, we're at the approval of the September 6th, 20th and 27th minutes and September expenditures. Any discussion about those or approve as presented? A motion was made to approve September 6th, 20th, and 27th meeting minutes as presented as well as expenditures.

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

Public Comment

Paul Johnson, 609 Lynn Street, Hurt: I just wanted to see if it was a follow up on the chicken ordinance. There are still roosters at the house next to me and at 611. There's also a lot of vehicles there with no tags or anything and car covers have come off of vehicles that either need to be tagged or recovered. Also, if anybody could give an update on all the vehicle break-ins that occurred in September. Mayor Hodnett replied thank you, anyone else? No comment.

General Business

Mayor Hodnett stated the first thing that I will say is we are looking at the ordinances and we do have some updates and some possible changes to that. It's in the works on the chickens.

Mayor Hodnett stated let's take care of the SUP's; Mrs. Stone, I can read yours. Mrs. Stone is applying for a special use permit in C-1 over at the plaza and requesting a special use permit in order to open a tournament center to be known as The Showdown. Mayor Hodnett stated from what I understand, that is to be known as what is called spades. Mrs. Stone stated it would be different tournaments such as spades, bridge, chess, bible books, bible jeopardy, and spelling bees; we are trying to reach all ages. Also, coat drives, canned food to help the homeless, anything we can do in the community. How it would work and start out is it would be \$25 per person for entry. It would be like a 3-round elimination, because you have to give them something for their money. Depending on how many people it is, there would be a set prize amount plus a trophy. Second place would get free entry to a future tournament. Then, once a month I would hold like a high-stakes tournament, and I added it up to be \$65 per entry, but then the prize amount would be like \$1,200 depending on how many entries I get. Up to \$1,000 is my goal. It would be like I had two tournaments for special events tournament, like one Allen's Reign, would be a spades tournament. It would be \$65 per person to enter. I'm hoping that the building will hold 64 people, so I would need 16 card tables. That would be \$65 per person, but like for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, all of them holidays I would charge less as long as they brought a canned food, turkey, or coat drive, whatever we are raising at that time, like backpacks for the school kids. It would always be something going; I would always have something to reach everybody. Mayor Hodnett asked does anybody on Council have any questions for Mrs. Stone? Mr. Majure asked do you have any experience running any businesses before? Mrs. Stone replied no sir, but I am very skilled in games; I love games. I know the rules; it has been planned out. I've done a lot of work and research. Mr. Perdieu asked do you plan on serving food and drinks? Mrs. Stone replied not right now; I would rather try and get established within the community as a reputable company and then just work my way up. I feel like it is just going to take off. I think it will be really good for the community and surrounding areas. People will come from all over and play because so many people love bridge and spades, and chess. I would eventually like to have foosball tables for kids to come in after school. If I'm allowed to serve drinks, then I'll serve drinks. The kids can come in a couple hours after school and hang out. It would be upscale – I wouldn't want any riffraff in there. I'll try to always have security since money would be involved. I'm trying to cover everything possible. Mr. Poindexter stated that would be one of my questions – what is your plan as far as building and parking lot security is concerned? That type of thing comes up anytime you're doing something new and different. Mrs. Stone stated I was looking to hire a security firm to have security there, because money is involved and anytime that's involved, you know. Mr. Perdieu stated I have a question for John, would this be considered gambling? I'm asking because I don't know. Mrs. Stone stated entertainment. Attorney Eller stated it's a lot of skill involved in bridge, card games, so it wouldn't be gambling. Mr. Poindexter stated games of skill. Mrs. Stone replied no gambling would be involved. I wouldn't allow anybody to bet on somebody's game. When it gets down to the last 4 or the last couple, that wouldn't be permitted – no gambling, no machines. This is strictly just game tournaments and because it is for cash you have to be 18 or over and then different things for school-aged kids or little kids. I would like to have a Christmas pageant for the community. We could always have something going, whether it's for the community or care, which I'm fond of, things like that and it could really help the community as well and give everybody a night out. It's not a lot to do in the

area. Attorney Eller stated well, let's talk about the process in a special use permit. First, the Council would refer to the Planning Commission, and you would appear before them, and they would have a hearing and advertise that you have made your application and have a hearing and that the public could speak. Then it would go to the Council and the Council would have a hearing as well. The cost of that is borne by you, the advertising and so forth. It's possible for the Council and the Planning Commission to have a joint hearing, but that would be up to the Council to decide how they want to do it and the Planning Commission. We're a good ways off from the actual approval and you starting your business, but this is where you start. Mayor Hodnett responded yeah, because Council is going to have to vote tonight to push it to Planning Commission. Mr. Perdieu asked we have to make a decision whether or not we want it to go to the next step, right? Mayor Hodnett replied yeah. Mrs. Stone stated please. Mr. Majure asked are there any other businesses that we can look at into comparison? Mrs. Stone replied there are no other businesses in the area like it. I have Googled and have not seen any in the state anywhere. It would be so fun. I want to make my own money and start my own business. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated I am trying to picture what it is going to look like. First of all you pay money to win money, and in my head that's gambling. What is it going to look like with kids in there, you got to be of age to play these games to win money. If you got a kid coming in there that is not of age, are you going to be doing ID checks, are you going to have a separate section for them? What does that look like? Mrs. Stone replied during the tournaments, bridge, unless I specify its for a teenage tournament, but for the most part it is for adults 18 and over. They have to show ID because I would have to send them a 1099, that would cover all of that. No one during a tournament will be under the age of 18 will be allowed in the building, no kids. ID's will be checked by security or by the door person, whoever I've assigned there, or by myself. Attorney Eller stated well that's one of the things that could come out of this special use process is the Planning Commission could recommend requirements of you like that – that there would be no underage people in or on the premises even. That's the kind of thing that comes from really discussing it. This is not really where it should get in depth because we got to go back and let the Planning Commission do their work and then the Council might once again discuss it with you. Mr. Perdieu stated we are just getting started, it's going to go a lot deeper than this. Mayor Hodnett stated well you guys have got to ask questions and decide if you want to move it forward. Mr. Perdieu stated we've got to figure out whether we think it's ok to go forward, and if it's even going to get any attraction; tonight, we are going to decide that. If we think it has potential then we will send it on to the Planning Commission and what they do is make sure that it's going to fit into the zoning and make sure that it is okay on the planning side of things, and then they make a recommendation back to us. We make the final decision, but what we do in between that time, we don't know a lot about it, so we have to learn about it so that we can maintain. Mrs. Stone stated I've been teaching myself a lot. Mr. Perdieu stated we need you to teach us; we don't know what we're doing either when it comes to that type of thing. We have to make sure we cover all our bases, so that you don't get in trouble. That's what we are doing here and as it continues to proceed. Mrs. Keesee asked I do question how many employees you're talking about hiring? Mrs. Stone replied probably 4 or 5 to start off with. Well, actually less than that, right now I have to do everything myself other than security and tournament monitors to where it is no cheating, arguing, or fighting. It doesn't matter who starts it, they will be out with no refund. I'll state that up front. Mike Jones asked, do you have any idea of the maximum cash you could estimate would be on premises at any given time? Mrs. Stone stated for a monthly tournament, which would be the highest one, I'm looking at \$4,000 to \$6,000 per night, considering it's a packed house. Mike Jones stated would you be opposed to requirements that you would have a drop safe with time delay?

That would help prevent robberies. Mrs. Stone responded that's a good idea; I've never thought of that. Mike stated one of the things with the kids is the fact that these games would be at night. Mrs. Stone responded events that I have for kids like Battle of Jeopardy, or teenage chess, or what have you, those would be done during the week, or on a Saturday during the day. Mike asked but any night time games? Mrs. Stone stated well I'm looking for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays; those will be open in the evenings after school for kids' events. Regular tournaments – going to try and reach everybody. Thursday would be one tournament, Friday evening one tournament, and then Saturday two tournaments. Then Sunday I won't hold anything, that's for church. Mike asked how late will you be staying open including public time versus closure time when it's just you guys cleaning up? Mrs. Stone responded each round is going to be about a 30-minute round. It's either 30 minutes, or 200 points for solo and 300 points for partners. In the event whatever comes first then the one with the highest points, they win. They get three rounds and once you've lost three times you're out of the tournament. It's over. Attorney Eller stated he's just asking what time you will close? Mrs. Stone stated between 9:00 PM and 10:00 PM. Attorney Eller stated and after you close are you still going to be there getting everything cleaned up? Mrs. Stone stated it shouldn't take me long to wipe down everything. Mayor Hodnett stated let's just say 11:00 PM. Mike asked will you be taking your cash out each night where you have multiple drops or where you have one big load going out? Mrs. Stone stated she hasn't really thought about that, but whatever is the safest or whatever you all recommend, I will abide by that. Mike stated those are the questions I would encourage you to think about because you're going to be one of the biggest cash cows in town if it's successful, and the same thing with your facility. I'm assuming you'd be renting space, so you need to look at the safety of the back door, lighting, parking, and also permission for the Hurt PD to enter your property at any time to assist with security of the town as well as suspicious situations. Things like that to think about. Mayor Hodnett asked do you guys want to vote on whether you want to send it to Planning Commission? Mr. Perdieu stated one thing I would like to see going forward is a business plan so we can have something in our hand and how you think it is going to run, and that's for any kind of business. I would like to see kind of an idea of how your business is going to operate. Mr. Majure stated I don't see any reason not to send it to Planning Commission and let them discuss it. Mr. Poindexter stated I feel the same way, I'm good with referring it to them. I agree with Luke; we need as much detail as possible in order to make an informed decision. Mrs. Keesee states she agrees with everything else everyone is saying. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill states I think we should get a lot more information. That's what I need to feel comfortable with this, especially since we have nothing to compare it with and since she is saying there is nothing else like it. Mr. Perdieu stated I look forward to seeing what the town citizens have to say – that probably has the biggest effect on my opinion. Mr. Poindexter stated community input will be a part of it. A motion was made to refer Mrs. Stone's SUP to the Planning Commission.

Motion: Mr. Perdieu

Second: Mr. Majure

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett stated alright Mrs. Stone what they are going to do is move it up to the Planning Commission, and I will call them and get that set up as quickly as we can. We will have to advertise the meeting two times in the paper. I will keep you posted of when that meeting will be and you can come back. You heard Luke – a business plan and any other information you can bring us. You can bring us the deposits (details about how you'd be handling that). We'll move forward from there and then it'll be up to the Planning Commission. They approve it, then it'll come back to council for secondary approval.

Mayor Hodnett stated the next one we have is T.A.'s Place. It is Community Alternatives of Virginia, DBA Blue Ridge Day Options – an adult day therapy/rehabilitation. Residents who need our services are currently unserved, and rather than transporting these individuals into Lynchburg, we want to serve them in their community. Specifically, we are a day support program that serves adults with special needs, specifically intellectual disabilities. Therapy piece of our business stems from providing activities and outings that are written into their personal ISP, Individual Service Plan. The plan is formatted by a team of professionals as well as their families and caregivers each year and then renewed with any changes annually henceforward. They are already set up in Bedford and Lynchburg and they don't want people to have to keep traveling to Bedford and Lynchburg to get this kind of therapy so they are looking at doing it here. Mrs. Keesee asked do you know how many people are involved in this right now? Mayor Hodnett responded I do not. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked if there is any reason that they couldn't be here tonight? Mayor Hodnett replied they are out of Chicago. Chicago. A motion was made to move the Blue Ridge Day Options SUP to the Planning Commission.

Motion: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill

Second: Mr. Poindexter

Passage: Unanimous

New Business

Crown Vic

Mayor Hodnett stated let's sell the Crown Vic. Chief Lovelace stated I know we are in discussion of a 3rd officer, and in a perfect world we only need 3 cars, but it's not a perfect world. If we are in an incident and we tear up 2 of our cars, then we are down to 1 for 3. We are already claiming it on insurance, we just need to put a battery in it and crank it up. If it gives us problems then we can just get rid of it. The car has got approximately 80,000 miles on it. It was a good reliable car. If we get a third officer, then we will need a fourth vehicle just because it's a specialty vehicle. Mr. Perdieu stated that the car is probably paid for. Chief Lovelace responded yeah, it's paid for, and to get rid of this car we will have to go back and look at the paperwork because it was purchased with grant money, so some of that money will have to go back. Mayor Hodnett stated I thought we had looked at that and didn't have a problem. Mayor Hodnett asked do we want to keep it? He makes a very good point. Mr. Perdieu stated I like the idea of putting a battery in it, burning the carbon out of it, and driving it around. It might need new tires and brakes, fresh inspection, new oil change, all that stuff. Mayor Hodnett stated that should be part of the process, get all of that done and then you guys drive it for a few weeks and let us know. Mayor Hodnett stated ok we will keep it.

Chicken Ordinances

Mayor Hodnett stated we had chatted about that at the last meeting. I think we read through them and there's some points in there that we may be able to utilize. John, I would ask you if there's anything on chickens or anything that you've been working on? Attorney Eller stated well, I have a chicken ordinance here in this pack of ordinances. These are all the ordinances in the Town Code that Shirley and I have looked at and we've made recommendations here to speed it up; some of them just need to update the reference to the Virginia code that supports them. Some are out of date as to how we actually operate, like in chapter one (administration), we have just a lot of things in there that are not the way we do it. Now we have named committees, we have different configurations of our committees, and they're not always named the same thing. Its up to the Council and Mayor to name and determine the committees. We don't have to go through all of it tonight, but it's for you to go over and hopefully we can have some good discussion next month. If you go to chapter four, the first ordinance section there is possible

chicken ordinance. This is a brand-new ordinance; it's not in the code, it's new. This is a proposed ordinance. The first one is 4-1; we had to do that because there's a definition of agriculture, which before included the keeping of fowl/domestic animals and there are places in the code, particularly in R-1 district, that agriculture is not allowed. In this case, we amended it so that the definition of agriculture doesn't include chickens. The next one is 4-6 and that lists by-right uses, which would mean without a special use permit. We just added number 8, the keeping of chickens, subject to regulations in 4-16.1; that's a brand-new section that has all the rules about chickens. Any of these can be modified, of course, as you choose. It gives you a framework for what you could do to keep the chickens under control and specify what kind of pens they have. In Altavista, roosters are not allowed; they have to be hens only, and you can have up to 6 – that's all you can have. If you read those regulations as keeping of chickens, you can change them. We can put them with the public hearing at the next meeting. If you want to make some changes, let me know what they what they are and I'll fix them. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated John up to 6, I thought it was up to 10, that's what I read earlier. Attorney Eller stated well that's what they have in Altavista. Mr. Majure stated that's interesting, it said up to 6 but the secure area could not exceed 120 squared feet, but they required 2 squared feet per chicken in a enclosed structure and an 8 square feet per chicken in the open one. If you went to those levels exactly, that would be 12 within 120 square feet. That would be 96 for the outdoor and then 24 for the enclosed. Mr. Perdieu stated you don't want to hit the minimum for the amount of room, you don't want them on top of each other. Attorney Eller stated It's saying that the whole thing can't be more than 120 and it can't be less than those specifications. It would be 48 square feet, the minimum for the outside and only 12 square feet on the inside. If you want to have a big chicken pen, you could have 120 square feet for the room. Those are just what Altavista has; you can modify anyway you see fit. Mr. Perdieu asked right now we require an SUP, the way our ordinance is? Attorney Eller replied it's just not permitted; it's not a permitted use, there is nothing about chickens in the R-1. Mr. Perdieu stated I thought it was permitted in R-1 if you had an SUP. It's not in the updated version; it's in the one you sent me about a month ago. Attorney Eller stated if you want to make it where you want a SUP, you can do that. Mr. Perdieu stated technically everyone in town that has chickens has to get an SUP. Attorney Eller stated but if we are going to make it allowed by-right, we can take it out of this. Mr. Perdieu stated violation of any provision of the section shall be a class 4 misdemeanor, and each day in violation after notification shall constitute a separate offense. How do we enforce that? Attorney Eller stated write them a ticket. Mr. Perdieu stated so this will fall under the police department. I am just trying to process how we do, because we had a issue on Lynn Street that has been brought up multiple times, which is why we are here. We also have a lot of people that have chickens, and nobody complains about them. Mayor Hodnett stated that doesn't mean that they are following the ordinance. Attorney Eller stated another thing that we could do is just say its legal, meaning no rules; it is up to Council what they want to do about it. Mr. Majure stated section A of the 4-16.1, I like the 30 feet from any dwelling other than the owner's and 20 feet from any property line and shall be kept in the rear yard lot. I like all parts of that section. Now 6, I think we can go higher if we want to; there's an argument for that, based on the 120 square feet rule. Does anybody want to go higher than that, and only female/no roosters. Mr. Perdieu stated I say we go to 12, and the only reason I say that because in paragraph 2 under B it says it shall be the duty of such owner to maintain the coop and pen at all times in a safe, clean and sanitary conditions free of excrement and other unsanitary or offensive substances, liquids, odors, and so as not to constitute a hazard to the health or safety of any person. Mayor Hodnett asked based on that, who is going to be on chicken patrol? Mr. Perdieu replied

it's just like everything else; we can't be on patrol for everything. I think we respond based off complaints. Mr. Poindexter stated well, certainly the way this is written I think it very appropriate that they are limited to the back yard, not the front or the side. The setback requirement is good; that reduces impingement on adjacent properties. I think it's pretty well thought through – certainly the no roosters because of the noise. It says they must be kept in an enclosed area; that is a big thing, because I think some of the concerns that have been voiced are about them being allowed to run at large. That should not be in town; if someone wants to run them at large, they need to be out in the country. Mr. Majure asked can we add any provisions to this that would specify that if there's multiple repeat offenses, meaning multiple nuisance calls to a specific property, that they then have to pay for the removal on their own? Well, we require that they obtain a yearly permit so we could just not give them the permit anymore. Attorney Eller stated yeah, that's how you can handle that, and of course if they are violating the ordinance they can be charged and have to pay a fine. Mayor Hodnett stated the only question I have is why wouldn't you give them once to clean it up, and then the second go-round you are done with them. If you fail to follow the ordinances, then the next time we show up the chickens go. Attorney Eller stated you can say repeat of offense will result in revocation of the permit. Mr. Poindexter stated that keeps it simple. I like that. I don't want to see it get into multiple rounds, like we've been through for years with grass ordinances and things like that. That's just ridiculous. Mr. Perdieu stated I was thinking about the permit; there is no cost for it. On the back of the permit, it's going to have all the regulations and when you sign, you are agreeing to all of these, so you can't say that you don't know, there's no excuse. Attorney Eller stated if the ordinances are passed, one will be required to obtain a permit and come into compliance with the ordinance within like days after the effective date. Kim Johnson stated I have no doubt Luke is a responsible owner, but to shed some light on what's next to us, I need you to understand the gravity of what we're describing here. He said he counted 44 chickens next door. Three or four of them are living in a medium sized dog cage, separated from the pen. The pen is right up against the back door of the house. Sometimes it's clean, sometimes it's not. There's a strong odor. We came home one day and there were seven of them on our carport defecating and doing what they do. They've been in our garden; they've been on his compass which is at the back of our lot. Mr. Johnson stated they are uphill and we are downhill. All the runoff comes down hill in our backyard when it rains. It seems entertaining, but when it's next door to you and there's 44 chickens, there's no grass in that backyard. The cage is just some kind of cheap little plastic screen that just falls over. The wings aren't clipped and they just fly right over the side. I have about \$200 worth of damage to my garden, because I called Mr. Hodnett last year about it, and the man cussed me out about it. Mayor Hodnett stated let's make a decision about what we are up against – it has gone on long enough. That's why I say 60 days; John put 60 in there. Attorney Eller asked are we going with 12? Council agreed with 12. A motion was made to refer the chicken ordinance as presented but with the changes of 12 birds, and adding that the repeat offense will result in revocation of the permit and a grandfather clause that allowed people that are currently housing birds to have 60 days to get into compliance and refer to the Planning Commission.

Motion: Mr. Perdieu

Second: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill

Passage: Unanimous

Equipment Storage R1

Mayor Hodnett stated Mike, this is towards you – storing equipment in R-1; I know we talked about it. How ready are you? Mike responded I will have it by Friday.

Municode

Mayor Hodnett stated Luke, last meeting, we talked about gender neutrality. Have you guys thought about that? Luke responded John and I talked to the representative from Municode over email, and she sent us some clarification. I forwarded you an email with a copy of the gender-neutral ordinance. I'll read you the highlights – the change in terms. What it does is, it says essentially, most code contains masculine pronouns; they are trying to work towards all genders are created equal. They are trying to mend code to include general neutral pronouns by eliminating gender-preference language within. They would replace he or she with the word they, not he/she. The biggest changes, which had to do with positions like councilman becomes a council person, policeman because police officer, or fireman becomes firefighter. Mayor Hodnett asked what Council thought? Mr. Majure stated I think it is a good idea for someone to update our wording; I think that makes us look more professional. Mr. Perdieu stated they do not use they unless they are avoiding he and she. Mayor Hodnett stated I try to stay out of the business but this one I can't; I think absolutely not. The rights that some people have are the ones that take away from us. Now you all do what you want to do, but please get me a list of the rules. Mr. Majure stated I don't think this has anything to do with us talking; it's the legal wording. Mayor Hodnett stated I don't think it's anything legal about it. I think it's somebody else suggesting to us what they think we should do. It's nothing legal there is it John? Attorney Eller stated it makes sense to do it gender neutral, but if we are not going to do gender neutral, then we will have to go back and amend most of the recent ordinances that we passed, because they already have he/she. Mr. Majure stated I like the consistency; I think we are spending \$350 of our time just talking about this, then we could just pass it. Mayor Hodnett stated let's put it up for vote, no need talking about it anymore. A motion was made to approve the arrangement with Municode for \$10,501 to include gender neutralization.

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mr. Perdieu

Passage: Unanimous

Report from Legal Counsel – Attorney Eller

We went over the chicken ordinances and the other ones; I'm done.

Reports from Staff

Treasurer – Ellen Brumfield

Ms. Brumfield reported that in the bank account at First National Bank is \$677,516.63; of that is APRA (\$526,606.00) and PD Fundraiser is (\$112.02). The total remaining in the FNB account is \$150,798.61. I would like to remind everyone of the Christmas tree lighting celebration Sunday, December 4 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. We still need volunteers. A letter was sent out to local churches that are within the town, as well as businesses. I wouldn't say we got a large response, but the responses that we did get have been very generous. We will have Mr. and Mrs. Santa here of course, balloon dude, face painting, gift bags for the children, hot chocolate bar, Christmas goodies (cookies), popcorn, Hurt Elementary School band, chorus, flags, and First Southern Baptist Church Praise Team. I would like to get some more participation if we can, but what it's looking like is we are going to have a really good celebration.

Administrative-

Clerk – Kelsie Sligh

Mayor Hodnett stated Kelsie is at her conference this week. Before she left, I asked her to look up how many people use PSN to pay online. We have 28% of the people paying online. Now realize we have another group of people who call in and pay their bill quarterly that don't have an account. That is huge that this many people are paying their water bill and taxes via their credit cards.

Public Works

Joseph Smith

Mr. Smith states he has done a lot of work this month with the DBP project. We had a meeting last week about the upcoming project and making sure we are advertising the MEB. We have had a few leaks in town that we had to get fixed. We have been working on the fire hydrants; almost all of them have been painted. There's one on Prospect Road and Cemetery Road – somebody must have tapped that, as it has a nice lean to it. We will have to bring somebody in to dig down and fix it. Also, with a new billing policy we have had a few deposits from renters, and for the security deposit a few people were shocked, but it seems like they are getting the message. We have had a few people who want to make payments on the security deposits. Mayor Hodnett stated that is a no.

Police Department -- September 2022 Monthly Report

Calls for Service

Civil Complaints - 1

Suspicious Person - 2

Public Service - 5

Vandalism/Destruction of Property - 0

All other offenses - 4

Suspicious Vehicle - 1

Mental Subject - 0

Alarms - 1

Assist Other Agencies (Emergency Services) - 0

Mutual Aid (LE) - 4

Traffic Stops - 1

Noise complaint - 0

Domestic assault - 2

Animal complaints - 0

Trespassing - 0

Automobile accident - 0

Theft from a building - 1

Theft from a vehicle - 3

Disabled vehicle - 1

Drug Offense - 1

Larceny - 1

Papered served - 2

Other

Miles Driven - 1,709

Training - Officer Sawyer attended Gang Busters.

Officer Sawyer attended (ARIDE).

Assist Other Town Departments - 0

Use of Force - 0

Department/Officer Complaints - 0

Department Updates

Reminder of stew on 11-5-2022

HPD will be participating in Thunderstruck's trunk-or-treat on October 29.

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

Public Safety – Mike Jones

Activities and Initiatives of Note

- 1) If a citizen complains about the lack of police coverage, please let them know that despite the lack of Town of Hurt police officers, we have an ACTIVE MUTUAL AID agreement with all of the police and sheriff agencies. Just don't let them think that our town is at the mercy of criminals.
- 2) If a citizen makes a crime or disorder complaint to you, please refer them to the police or me so we can make a written report. The written reports provide us with the documentation that we will need to justify additional grants and funding.
- 3) If you hear about a crime or incident, don't assume that the police or myself already knows about it. Please contact the Chief, Ofc. Sawyer or myself. Data is important to our police dept.
- 4) <https://vsp.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CrimeInVirginia2021.pdf>
- 5) RICHMOND, Va. (WDBJ) - An annual crime analysis report from Virginia State Police shows that violent crime in Virginia went up in 2021 compared with the year prior. State Police explain that violent crime includes murder, forcible sex offenses (rape, sodomy and sexual assault with an object per the FBI's updated rape definition), robbery and aggravated assault. The report states the violent crime rate in Virginia rose to 194.4 in 2021 (per 100,000 population) from 183 in 2020. According to the report, there were 16,823 violent crime offenses reported in 2021 compared to 15,713 reported in 2020, representing a 7.1% increase. Of the known weapons reported for violent crimes, guns were used in 82.1% of murders and 48.6% of robberies. Guns were also used in 38.7% of aggravated assault cases. Motor vehicle thefts and attempted thefts also increased 3.8% compared to 2020. In 2021, there were 11,638 motor vehicles reported stolen in 11,249 offenses. In 2021, 7,589 motor vehicles were recovered (police say some may have been stolen prior to 2021). Of all motor vehicles stolen, 35.4% were taken from homes. The reported value of all motor vehicles stolen was \$131,738,135.
- 6) Request Council to approve the proposed ordinance regarding accumulation of trash and indoor furniture on outdoor porches.
- 7) Weldon Cooper Center Training for Council Members, Mayor and staff.
- 8) https://www.vrsa.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/VRSA_OnlineUniversity.pdf
VRSA Upcoming Training
- 9) VA Dept of Purchase & Supply – Surplus Property Division - <https://dgs.virginia.gov/surplus/> ***check out the deals available to the Town of Hurt on state surplus property ***
<https://dgs.virginia.gov/office-of-surplus-property-management/government-entities/online-catalog/>
- 10) Prescription Benefit for Free - https://www.goodrx.com/discount-card?utm_campaign=127243741&utm_content=7699746781&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_term=kwd-32277910216&gclid=CjwKCAjws--ZBhAXEiwAv-RNLyIFxnPZk5N8N33-c9TMFSnhXY2yEohfkF5F3TUpg_VlwX7xcCHLROCFZkQAvD_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.dshttps://www.wellrx.com/discount-pharmacy-prices/?invitecode=GPM01&gclid=CjwKCAjws--ZBhAXEiwAv-RNL-BwE

11) 911 House Signs: <https://www.smartsign.com/horizontal-911-address-sign-with-house-number/sku-k2-3679>

<https://www.smartsign.com/>

Suggest we offer these reflective signs at a reduce price through this company.

12) Animal Issues – Recurrent Problem: Neither Pittsylvania County nor the Town of Hurt has a county-wide leash law. This means that in most areas, dogs, when equipped with an up-to-date dog tag and collar, are allowed to run free without a leash.

A dog shall be deemed “to run at large” while roaming, running or self-hunting off the property of its owner or custodian and not under its owner’s or custodian’s immediate control, including chasing motor vehicles on a highway.

Reports from Membership, Boards, and Commissions

Administrative: Kathy Keesee

Mrs. Keesee stated I talked to Ellen this afternoon about the things we have in the works. Next week, if I get a chance, Ellen, Joe, and I are going to go pumpkin hunting, get some hay bales, and maybe some corn. We're going to put it in front of the town sign and announce on November the first that we would like for citizens to come down there and take a picture. We could post them throughout the month of November. I thought it would be a good community-oriented thing to do. I do you know that last Christmas lots of people were taking pictures in front of the new sign. We're also going to try to get some pumpkins and other things to put in front of the Town Hall to replace the flowers that have done very well for the last five months but are beginning to see the end of time. I'll be sending approximately 15 pictures to Kelsie for her to post as a new slideshow next Monday, and we'll send her the additional ones when she gets back from her honeymoon, which will be October 25. The additional ones will be taken at the peak season, which is not supposed to be until the 17th or 18th of this month, so that's all I have for now. Thank you.

Community Development & Public Relations: Donney Johnson

Mr. Johnson was absent. Mayor Hodnett reported that community relations are excellent.

Finance: Gary Poindexter

Mr. Poindexter stated all in all the monthly report looks pretty good, a quarter of the way into the new fiscal year. I do have a couple of questions. Just as information – not to take issue with, but rather just to comprehend... On page 2, an item is \$13,700 below budget projection; did we anticipate anything further on that or is it once a year or still being worked on? Mayor Hodnett replied that typically comes as a lump sum, so I'll take a look at it. Mr. Poindexter stated that was a big gap – that's \$14,000 less income than projected. Next, the PD fundraising – that's a small account, but that negative 53% -- I just need to comprehend what the \$788 was; what happened? We budgeted \$1,500 and it's saying we are at \$2,288, so \$788 over, so I am not reading it right or not understanding it. Mayor Hodnett stated I think that was one of those things where something was added to it, not taken out, something with posting, something came in and that's what pushed it up. We'll have to go back and see exactly what that is. I thought you guys put some money in it and that's where it ended up being assigned. Chief Lovelace stated we bought all the stew and supplies out of it, so that may be what it is. Mr. Poindexter stated ok; the workers' compensation looks a little high this early in the FY but depending on the trend in that it will probably be resolved. Other than that, I don't have anything to take issue with this report.

Ms. Brumfield stated at the end of the year VRSA goes back and takes a look at the payroll. That's what hit us on that, because we did not have all the payroll that we had, and we are playing catch-up. Mayor Hodnett stated I was surprised you didn't mention the water system improvements. They show up as a negative 115%. It is simple; we are waiting to pay Peed and Bortz – we are waiting for them to finish a few more things and we will pay them, and it will take care of that.

Public Works & Planning/Zoning Commission: Bob Majure

Mr. Majure stated no update from the last meeting – thank you.

Report from Mayor – Gary Hodnett

I got a call last week, when I had my boys out walking them, and anybody that lives on Darrell Lane knows what a chore that is, so I wasn't really focused, but it was the Mayor from Buena Vista. They had been talking about switching over to Southern, and Southern had highly recommended the Town of Hurt to call and get a reference from. We got into the conversation, and this goes back to people hearing good things. The mayor actually said that he'd been hearing about Hurt and was glad to get to talk to us and wanted to know how we were collecting so much back taxes. He was very complimentary of what Southern had to say about our team here, so that's absolutely fantastic news. Mrs. Keesee stated and you can add to that not to mess with Kelsie. Mr. Poindexter stated it's all about a team that is on top of things and doesn't have to be told twice what to do – it's just done. It's about people. Secondly to that, people criticize us for buying that system. I understand that it was a lot of money but look at what we're getting for it. You know, there's no comparison to the old system and the old-old system and the old-old-old system. There is no comparison with the features or the capabilities that it has. It streamlines operations and it frees up time to work on things. Mayor Hodnett stated no doubt about it. I think it's really good when you get a call from another mayor and they're larger than you are, yet they're coming to you asking what do you guys do? It's a compliment to our staff. Attorney Eller stated we talked about this, a possibility of training about zoning law for BZ and Planning Commission. VCU has a course that they give, but it's not going to be until 2023. The other thing on zoning – the Altavista zoning person is Sharon Williams, and she is very experienced. The thing about the dogs that Mike was mentioning, in June of 2019, we incorporated the whole Pittsylvania County, animal/fowl ordinance into the Town Code. Ours is the same ordinance as Pittsylvania County. Another thing is the dog-controlled zone; we're very much aware of that and we tried to find a way to get the Town of Hurt named a dog-controlled zone. If we want to revive the effort, we can look at different things. If you did do what you're saying to get people to come down here and sign a petition or something to support the Council passing a resolution to ask for the designation from the Board of Supervisors, then maybe they would be more inclined to do something to back it up. That's it for me.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Kelsie Anderson
Kelsie Sligh, Clerk

Gary Hodnett
Gary Hodnett, Mayor