

***Town of Hurt
Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
for 15 March 2022***

16 March 2022

I. Call to order

Gary Boggs called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

II. Roll call

Jeremy Shelton conducted a roll call. The following members were present:

Glen Mitchell	Collin Adams
H. A. Merricks	Gary Boggs
Courtney Goins	Jeremy Shelton

III. Minutes from last meeting

The minutes were not available for the last meeting. H.A. Merricks made a motion to proceed with the meeting without the previous meeting minutes; 2nd by Glenn Mitchell. Motion passed 5-0.

IV. Open issues

No open issues.

V. New Business

Mr. Eller described the meeting and the public comment portion of the meeting per the Town Code. Mr. Jones (Deputy Town Manager) read the '301 Prospect Road Impact Study' dated 15 March 2022. Mr. Blackstock asked questions about the VDOT study; Mr. Jones directed Mr. Blackstock to the VDOT engineer for answers. H. A Merricks asked about traffic tickets written in the VDOT study location; no data was given by Mr. Jones. Bud Brown asked about accidents at the intersection of Mr. Blackstock's property; no data was given by Mr. Jones. Paul Johnson discussed traffic at John L. Hurt Elementary school and that VDOT needs to do a study at that location; Mr. Jones stated that we are discussing traffic at Mr. Blackstock's property, not Hurt Elementary School. Larry Morris stated there has been 1 accident near Mr. Blackstock's property that the Hurt Volunteer Fire Department has responded to in his memory, however it was due to inclement weather not traffic. Henry Tramontano

discussed speeding down Prospect Road. Collin Adam discussed a solution for Mr. Blackstock to enter and leave his property on Tanyard Road. Paul Johnson asked about Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Department helping enforce speed limits in the town; Mr. Jones stated that the Sheriff's Department serves as a support role to the Town of Hurt. Paul Johnson also mentioned revenue from speeding tickets helping generate revenue for the town to enable the town to hire more police officers; Mr. Jones corrected Mr. Johnson by stating that ticket revenue goes to the Commonwealth of Virginia, not the Town of Hurt. A citizen in attendance (name unknown) asked about having the State Police assist the Town; Mr. Jones stated that they will not help. Jeremy Shelton stated that is untrue; he witnessed the State Police running radar in the town limits this week and pulled over the vehicle in front of him. Mr. Jones then stated that it is not in their regular duties to assist the town. Nancy Wilson asked why Mr. Jones was not in attendance; he stated that he does not live in the area.

Mr. Blackstock then spoke. He discussed the history of the property, his purchase and renovations he has made. He described what he intended to do with the property and that not hazardous materials (large quantities of fuel) will not be stored on the property. He stated that normal fuel containers for generators and equipment will be kept on the property. He stated that we will store paint on the property. He stated that he has a bobcat, ladders and trash cans stored outside. He mentioned that he has three (3) full-time employees and one (1) part-time employee. He mentioned that they do not work at the property and that customers do not visit the office. He and his employees leave the property at approximately 8:00am and return at approximately 4:30pm. He stated that he has more vehicles than he does employees. He stated that he has had one (1) dump truck load of gravel placed in the rear of the building so he can park his vehicles behind the building however we have had such a wet winter that the base is not currently adequate. Mr. Boggs read a letter from an adjoining property owner. The property owner does not want a fence erected that would block her view of Prospect Road. Several persons in attendance asked Mr. Blackstock questions. Walter McCormick mentioned that his business was in the same building with two (2) other businesses.

The following individuals signed to speak and gave their opinions:

Derick Shelton – 414 Spring Street. Mr. Shelton spoke on the fact that Mr. Blackstock has performed projects for him in the past and he is in favor of the rezoning.

Paul Johnson – 609 Lynn Street. Mr. Johnson spoke on his support for Mr. Blackstock and he is in favor of the rezoning.

Nancy Wilson – 607 Spring Street. Ms. Wilson stated that Mr. Blackstock is her son and she is in support of the rezoning.

Henry Tramontano – 306 Prospect Road. Mr. Tramontano spoke of how he is happy that Mr. Blackstock has improved the athletics of the building and it is no longer “run down”. He is in favor of the rezoning.

Kenneth Brown – 607 Lynn Street. Mr. Brown spoke on his residence in the Town of Hurt and that he has served on Town Council in the past. He is in favor of the rezoning.

Judith Hedgpeth – 305 Prospect Road. Ms. Hedgpeth spoke of the improvements Mr. Blackstock has made to the property. She is in favor of the rezoning.

Jeffrey Blaesing – 10 Main Street. Mr. Blaesing spoke of the property he purchased from Stacy Compton. He used the building as his home and he runs his furniture business out of it. He also mentioned that he has apartments in the building. He is in favor of the rezoning as long as it is done per the law.

Karen Blaesing – 112 Knollwood Drive. Ms. Blaesing stated that Mr. Blackstock doesn't currently follow the town code so why should the town think he will now.

Mr. Eller then spoke on how the planning commission works in relation to the town council.

Each Planning Commission member gave their opinion on the issue at hand. The voting was as follows:

Jeremy Shelton	yes; recommend to council changing zoning from R-1 to C-1
Glenn Mitchell	no; do not recommend to council changing zoning from R-1 to C-1
H. A. Merricks	yes; recommend to council changing zoning from R-1 to C-1
Courtney Goins	yes; recommend to council changing zoning from R-1 to C-1
Collin Adams	yes; recommend to council changing zoning from R-1 to C-1

H.A. Merricks made a motion to recommend that Town Council change the zoning of the property in question from R-1 to C-1; Collin Adams 2nd. Motion passed 4-1.

Collin Adams made a motion to accept Mr. Blackstock's Special Use Permit as written without conditions; H. A. Merricks 2nd. Motion passed 5-0.

Jeremy Shelton amended the motion to accept Mr. Blackstock's Special Use Permit as written with conditions of no funeral homes or laundromat business's will be allowed to operate on the property; Collin Adams 2nd. The amended motion passed 5-0.

VI. Adjournment

Gary Boggs received a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm by H. A. Merricks; 2nd by Glenn Mitchell. The motion passed 5-0.

Minutes submitted by: Jeremy Shelton, PE – Secretary

