

Town of Hurt, Virginia
Council Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2022

Hurt Town Council held its monthly business meeting on Tuesday, September 6th, 2022, at Town Hall. The meeting opened at 7:00 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: Mr. Donney Johnson; Members absent: Mrs. Kathy Keese

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, 7).

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

Council entered closed session at 6:00 PM and exited closed session at approximately 6:50 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. Poindexter Passage: Unanimous

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Mr. Poindexter

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mayor Hodnett

Opening Remarks

Mayor Hodnett stated, Bob, we want to welcome you on board. As we welcome Bob on board, I've seen a lot of stuff in the paper and on Facebook about how we don't follow process and procedures. I want everybody to know that we do exactly that – our bylaws state that we should pick a person, a qualified person from the community' that's exactly what we did. The town has gotten in the last couple or three years, when there wasn't a qualified person available, they would take interview requests and have people apply for that position. We didn't see that as necessary for this position, since we have a person that had been involved with multiple meetings, voicing his opinion on topics and he served with us at two trash pickups and that's more than some council members have done. We appreciate that. We used that to pick a qualified person and he is certainly qualified, so welcome aboard. Thank you.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Hodnett stated moving on to the consent agenda, the approval of the August 2nd and the 11th minutes and the August expenditures. I'm assuming everybody's had a chance to read through them and take a look at them. Do I hear a motion to pass as presented?

A motion was to pass August 2nd and August 11th minutes and the August expenditures report as-is.

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

Mayor Hodnett asked, do we have any additions to tonight's agenda? No comment. I would like to add a couple things. Number one, 301 Prospect Road – Michael Blackstock is asking/requesting that will allow him to put up a 4x8 sign up there on Tanyard Rd. to advertise his son's heating and air cond. business. Secondly, Kim Johnson would like us to reevaluate our policy on chickens and the upkeep of chickens in the town. We'll go ahead and add those to the agenda for tonight.

Public Hearing

Mayor Hodnett stated we will move on to the opening of the public comments on the water cut-off policy that was advertised in the paper two times. Anyone like to speak on that? [pause] Alright, we have no takers there, so we will move on to the general public comment period.

General Public Comments

This is the citizens' time to speak about anything that you would like to speak on. Does anyone have anything they would like to chat about? No comments.

General Business

Mayor Hodnett stated this is new business in regards to the policy on water cut-offs that was advertised. Do we have any comments on these policies, any questions? Last meeting, John had it typed up and ready to go for us. Attorney Eller stated that is what the Public Hearing was about. Did you close that? Mayor Hodnett stated I did, I just didn't tell everybody. The public hearing is closed, and the public comments as well. Attorney Eller stated, let me let me expound on those ordinances that we had the public hearing about. Last month, I presented several ordinance amendments to the water ordinances that would carry out the water policy that was discussed by Council and then we have a policy as to how the billing is going to take place, and when cut-offs would take place. Also, the notices that would be required to be sent out before service is terminated. All that is set forth in this water policy and is supported by these amendments to the Town Code. If there's no comments from the public, and if the council is prepared to pass these, then someone might want to make a motion and adopt the water policy and the ordinances, or discuss them and change them. Mayor Hodnett asked do we have any discussion, or do you want to move ahead and make a motion to pass as presented? Mr. Perdieu stated I have no discussion.

A motion was made to pass the water ordinances as presented, along with the billing policy.

Motion: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill Second: Mr. Perdieu Passage: Unanimous

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, Gary you have been rolling right along, but coming out of closed, we didn't present the raises, motion to the raises or have you not got there yet? Mayor Hodnett responded, since you mention it, will be more than glad to take it up right now. The administrative changes that we talked about in closed, do I hear a motion to pass those as discussed?

A motion was made to pass the administrative changes as discussed in closed session.

Motion: Mr. Perdieu Second: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill Passage: Unanimous

Old Business

Mayor Hodnett stated, in old business we were looking at is an industrial M & T tax, water rates, and tapping/connection fees. We're going to move past that, because Joe will be discussing that in his time. I hope Council decided to really do some work on this, but since nobody grabbed it and did any work with it, I asked Joe and Tom to work on rates, tap fees, connection fees, and stuff like that. They're going to present that during Joe's report. One of the things that I'm going to ask is for finance to go back and look at these fees, and then give us an opinion on them. I think they're good and think they should be passed the way that they're presented, but I would like finance just to take a look at it. Mr. Poindexter asked, so you would like our committee to review what Joe and Tom present later this evening as a committee and bring a full recommendation back to Council? Mayor Hodnett responded right, and we will have a called meeting so that we will have them in place prior to October 1st.

Report from Legal Counsel (Attorney Eller)

Attorney Eller stated, one thing we've done now – just finished doing – is taking care of the changes to the water ordinances and billing policy. The other thing I have tonight is in connection with our continuing review and revisions of the Town Code for submission to Municode in the future. I have chapter seven, which is about traffic and motor vehicles, and chapter eight, which is the one about crimes in the town. I have got a package for everybody with all of those on there. We don't have to pass them tonight; they're there to be reviewed and expecting to have everything ready to potentially be passed in October, except the zoning and subdivision sections. Those have to go to public hearing, so we can present those in October and set up a public hearing for November and pass them then. Mayor Hodnett asked, all of these the Council has; they've had these copies for what, a month now? Attorney Eller responded, well these, I just brought them today. We've had some other ones that I've presented. Mayor Hodnett stated and we have passed everything up to these? Attorney Eller responded we haven't passed anything yet. I've presented them. I'll have to look; we may have passed some. We've done some zoning. We've done some things that we needed to do. Some of the changes in the zoning ordinance and one of them was the inspection warrant, which would help to make it so we can find out when people are violating the zoning ordinance. Those kinds of things we passed back in December, so we've passed some things. We have gone through each chapter and cleaned it out. Mayor Hodnett asked, the ones we've passed – you guys have submitted to Municode? Attorney Eller replied, we've submitted the whole code to them; it's been a couple of months now, hasn't it Luke? Mr. Perdieu responded yeah. Attorney Eller stated, they are going to take a long time. Mr. Perdieu stated, looking at this, it takes a lot longer than she told me originally. She told me it would; well, we probably got her this stuff about a month or two after what she said when she originally intended to have it up by the fall – which we are near the fall now, but she's only had it for a month and a half. Now she's saying years, I don't know what's changed. Attorney Eller stated, yeah, the way she is talking, they are going to screen all of it, like we're doing. Then we're going to have some meetings and I guess there'll be zoom meetings where they bring up some of the different ordinances that we have and say do you really want that, that kind of thing. Mayor Hodnett stated that'll be good, anything else John? Attorney Eller responded no.

Mayor Hodnett stated I kind of got ahead, going back on the two items that were added to the agenda. The sign at 301 Prospect Road for Michael Blackstone's business. That is still R1 with an SUP permit; as long as he adheres to all the proffers correct, John, that still zoned R1. These signs aren't permitted in

R1. Mr. Perdieu stated, we allowed him some sort of signage on his building in his SUP. Attorney Eller stated yeah, we will have to look at that. Mr. Perdieu stated we had discussed it at one point. Attorney Eller stated, well whatever it says, we have to go with. Mr. Perdieu stated we proffered out the business types, but I don't remember. Mayor Hodnett stated right, it can only be one business from there. Attorney Eller stated, we will just have to look and see what it says about the signs. Mr. Perdieu asked, did he submit it in writing? Mayor Hodnett replied no. Mr. Perdieu stated he needs to submit in writing what he wants and how he would construct it. Mayor Hodnett stated, he talked to Joe, and he was requesting a 4x8 sign, correct Joe? Joe stated yes, 4x8; he wants to hang it on the metal pole in the corner, that black metal pole, and if he can't get that, he wants a sign down by his other property.

Mayor Hodnett stated, which is R1, Sugar Hill. Joe stated, and then he asked about down by the church signs. Attorney Eller stated you can't have an off-premises sign. Joe stated these are the three things he asked for. Mr. Perdieu stated he needs to ask in writing; that's what we said in the SUP, going off my memory. Mayor Hodnett stated we will ask him to give it to us in writing and ask him to come to the next meeting and we will review the SUP permit. I don't remember a sign in it. Mr. Perdieu stated I thought we had limited the signage, or we discussed it. Mayor Hodnett stated, if there's anything in the SUP, it would be for the existing business there, which is Blackstock Construction, not Blackstock Heating and Air. Mr. Perdieu stated, I know we said it couldn't be two businesses there. Attorney Eller asked, is he going to move his stuff out? Mayor Hodnett responded, I don't know. Attorney Eller stated, we'll just have to see what he has to say. Mayor Hodnett responded yes. Next thing, the policy on chickens running loose, according to Kim. You know, she's been down here to talk to us before about her neighbors' chickens running over in their yard and it's continuing to go on and I guess we need to send a letter to the guy again. I don't know what we do if they continue to ignore the letters we send. John?

Attorney Eller asked, is this in an R1? Mayor Hodnett replied yes, it's on Lynn Street. Attorney Eller asked, anything in the zoning ordinance that says you can have chickens? Mayor Hodnett replied, yes it says you can have chickens, but they can't be free roaming. Attorney Eller stated right, I thought you had to keep them in a cage, couldn't have anything but hens, no roosters, and 6 maximum. Mayor Hodnett asked, but what do we do if we go past the point where you send a couple of letters out and you get no response? I mean, where do we go from there? Attorney Eller responded, zoning violation, cease and desist letter. Mayor Hodnett stated, and then if they don't? Attorney Eller stated come and get them. Rainy Clay stated, can I ask a question? Did John just say hens and no roosters, because somebody in the neighborhood has roosters – they crow all day long. Attorney Eller responded well, I think that's what we had in our ordinance, some rules about if you have chickens you have to keep them in a coop, you can only have a certain number and they can't be roosters, but I have to get that out and look at it. Mayor Hodnett stated yeah, so we'll review, take another hard look at it and send another letter out.

Reports from Staff

Treasurer – Ellen Brumfield

Brumfield reported that our general bank account currently has \$664,104.86, APRA Covid fund relief \$526,606, and PD has the children's Christmas fund from 2021, \$112.02. We have a total in general operating \$137,386.84. We also have a reserve fund set up for the Virginia Department of Health for our water project's phase one; we have to have \$8,569.69 set aside for the amount of coverage in reserve.

LGIP... in general we have \$178,295.66; water, we have \$298,890.34; PD, we have \$5,016.05. Christmas tree lighting, please mark your calendars. We're looking at Sunday, December 4 at four o'clock for that celebration, so we will need all the support we can get from Town Council as well as the community. This year we're going to try to get local businesses and local churches – hopefully they'll participate. Maybe they can provide some type of entertainment, refreshments, or a monetary donation that will be used to purchase things for the success of the event. Mayor Hodnett stated, just so you know we are asking the local churches and businesses to be sponsors. They can donate, they can set up a little sponsor tent, maybe they do hotdogs or something like that, to give away to the kids or stuff to be a participant in the Christmas event. Brumfield stated she is planning to attend the Virginia Risk Sharing Association; they have an educational forum on September 16. It's going to be in Williamsburg; it pertains to lawsuits, workmen's comp claims and mismanagement. Do I need to get Town Council to approve me going to that? Mayor Hodnett responded, I don't think so; this is continuing education and everything we've been talking about for months – you're good. Mr. Poindexter stated, that falls under the professional development line we put in the budget for things like that this year.

Administrative – Kelsie Sligh

Sligh reported that she received all reports back from Southern regarding all taxes. They are ready to go for November billing. Water billing has been steady, as we have collected 58% with still two weeks left to go for collecting. Lastly, Sligh stated: a few months ago, I mentioned applying for the VMCA scholarship. I was awarded that scholarship and will be attending the VMCA Conference October 4th - 7th. That's all I have.

Public Works – Joseph Smith

Smith stated, I want to pass these out; this is our water service hook-up recovery fees. Mayor Hodnett stated, this is what I asked Joe and Tom to take a look at. Joe stated, we're trying to raise the water hook-up and recovery fees because they're a little under par compared to what has to be done to hook up the connections. We have to get a contractor in to dig down so that we can put up a saddle. Saddles, lines, parts, we only had in place for \$1,000. On there you will see where we factored up, a 5-inch meter, the size factors one, the water connection fee would be \$2,200. If you go down to three quarters, it's one and a half. That is based on one and a half people. The sewer connection fee is the same principle for the tap sizes. Water capital recovery and sewer capital recovery – those are based on your recovery of depreciated assets, which is your pumps, stations, wells, pits, main lines, valves, and tanks. Your monthly water basic fees, which you charge for your 5-inch meter, your ¾-inch would be \$12 monthly, so then you would take care of your quarterly basis, which is like what we charge the houses (\$24), and it goes higher. They are actually paying us for the water, but the town is paying for the system. They are putting more stress on our system, so that's why they're higher. Mayor Hodnett stated, I would like to throw in one thing, Joe... when they were working on this, they brought it to my attention that one of the laws out there is it has to be fair and equitable, isn't it Tom? Tom responded, it has to be fair and reasonable, and he brought it up when he was giving the information, John did. Tom stated that Attorney Eller did say that whatever policy you set for billing has to be fair and equitable, or fair and reasonable, and so what we did basically was to take a look at what everybody else was doing.

Number one, and then once we did that, what is fair and equitable, and his sizing that he has listed on a 5/8-inch meter is an equivalency rate, as you see each one of those factors go up. With those factors being there, for a 10-inch meter per se, you've got to multiply 115 times, as that's how many homes you can actually hook up to a 10-inch meter. That's what it's there, it's fair, it's reasonable based on what you charge a one residential house is \$8 per month, and you're treating that 10 inch exactly the same as others. Right now, you're not treating it like that. Basically, if you have something come in 3,4,6,8,10-inch meter come in and want that water, you actually give them a deal while you're charging everybody else in the town a higher rate. Mayor Hodnett stated prior to this, like Staunton River Plastics for example, they will be charged a \$24 quarterly meter fee, because that's all we have. By doing it this way and putting in the equivalency factor, with that 4-inch meter that they've got, they're going to be paying \$600 per quarter instead of \$24 per quarter. Water was just running down the hill away from us. We're trying to catch it. Tom stated, the recovery that Joe spoke of, some folks call it availability, Campbell County calls it recovery, and I thought the way that they stated it makes it clean and understandable. The connection fee, Joe and I looked at the numbers to put a five eighths inch meter into our locality and that means on the same side of the road as the existing service pipe now. If it is on the opposite side of the road, the way the policy is written says that they're going to give you a check for the tap fee, the connection fee for that five eighths inch meter. If a bore or cut in the road needs to be done to get it to the other side of the road, you also have to pay for that; they cut that bore and pay for the pavement to go back over that road. The recovery is for your assets to stay where they are currently. In other words, you pay for it, everybody else in the town pays for that pump station that's sitting on the other side of the hill, all the pipes to get to wherever you're going to connect to – you're buying a new piece of the pie. That's what you're doing. Joe and I have discussed it from the standpoint of CIP in future capital that you're going to need. This is one way to fund a debt service as you go through the years you put it aside in your CIP fund. It's not to be used for anything operational. It goes back into repair, big ticket items that you may have, especially if you're going after loan applications for disinfection byproducts from having to put in a new section online. That's what you're using in that recovery fee for both water and sewer. There was a lot of discussion, good discussion, I think Joe got a little bit more educated on, you know, water rates and sewer rates and how they're set up. I was surprised to see Pittsylvania County has nothing that you can find. I think that's because you have the majority of things that are happening in Pittsylvania County being done by the towns – Gretna, Chatham, Hurt, Danville, and so while they are requesting an amount, I don't know how you can put in a water and sewer line for \$300 and \$400, respectively. That's what Gretna is charging for connection fees; again, the meter cost is \$300. Your service line goes from the main to the yard, that's anywhere from \$150 to \$300 depending on the type of materials bought; you buy copper, it's quite expensive. Most of new service line now is plastic, but we added up the numbers, water line is \$2,180 to actually buy all the parts right now, these need to be evaluated every other year to see if they need to go up any because of the cost of materials, and also the cost to install them. \$2,180 for water and \$2,499 for sewer. What you did have in your policy previously, which I think and I recommended to state there, it says that other things like for the cost of connection plus 15%. I like that, it covers you. I don't know if that's always been done here, but that would cover you for the actual cost of putting in a meter. Now, if somebody were to come in, you're not going to put it in for \$1,000. Mr. Majure asked, now \$2,180 – does that include the meter itself? Tom replied yes. The bottom line is folks that are coming in and asking for a tap, the other folks in town shouldn't have to pay that cost. I mean, if you go out and you dig a well, you can take a combined total that you see, you dig a well, or you dig to put in a septic tank, you're not going to get it done for that price. Mr. Majure asked, so when do we have a higher number? Tom replied I think you all are working

on all your ordinances and polices now, that's why the Town brought me in, to look and see everything we are doing well, and everything what we aren't doing, and to get it to well. Mr. Majure asked how long does it take someone to put in a 5/8-inch meter? Tom replied if somebody brought it in, Joe would call one of the firms that he has working for him to install it; once he schedules it, it's not going to take more than a day to do a water or sewer hookup. Mr. Majure asked, is it going to cost us more than this number? Tom states it shouldn't. Mr. Majure stated but if the cost of materials is only \$2,180? Tom stated, again it states in the policy plus 15%. Mayor Hodnett stated cost, plus 15% where it was before was \$1,000 plus 15%, now we've got these costs associated with it, plus additional costs, plus 15%. Tom states this will be to get you started, because you don't know the unknown until you get going, but at least you got your recovery in your hand, you've got your base to get him to be able to pay that guy to come in and dig the hole for you and order all the parts. That's the base part of it, then there has to be a wash up at the end.

Mr. Poindexter stated, from a finance standpoint, I like all of that to make sure the cost is covered, but I also like the improved contingency. Contingency has been an issue in the past with so many surprises and unknowns and what-ifs; there's no telling, there's no way to even quantify what we've been eating and for how many years. It's a lot of money, still a long way for the projects that we're trying to work on now, so contingency is important. Tom, I do have one other question for you on this, I guess this is something that I need to bring myself up to date with, because for whatever reason it did not get on my radar. That is a distinction between 5/8 and $\frac{3}{4}$; we're talking about an eighth inch difference, and for whatever reason I've been under the impression for years that the standard residential hookup was $\frac{3}{4}$. I didn't know that we were dealing with 5/8. Tom responded, yes, you've got 3/4 on the bottom of the setters that are tied from line to line; however, the meter that goes in the middle is 5/8. Mayor Hodnett stated all the new meters we did are 5/8. Tom stated, again, that was just the original standard with 5/8-inch meters – the smallest base they could make. With an AWWH standardized on it, there were a lot of municipalities back in the 60s and 70s that had bought 3/4 inch, and so when a lot of the bigger communities started redoing their systems, they replaced all of it, putting the $\frac{3}{4}$ x 5/8-inch in. The 3/4 is where you tie on both sides at the bottom of the setter; 5/8 is what sits in the meter center at the top. Joe stated, plus you're also losing money from the schools; they are 2-inch meters. The Dr's office, that's an inch and a half; the trailer park on Longview, that is a one-inch meter. There are certain meters in town that should be paying a higher meter fee. Plus, you have Family Dollar. Mr. Poindexter stated, so this will make it all proportional -- I like that. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked which school? Mayor Hodnett responded Faith Christian and Hurt Elementary. Joe stated, we are trying to change the billing cycle, so we can get it to match the fiscal year. We are going to have to bill at the end of December; November and December will go out January 1st so we can make that adjustment; there is no other way we would have gotten on schedule. Mr. Perdieu stated, it's a no brainer to get it to line up with the fiscal year. Joe stated, we came up with a plan; certain days we will bill out, certain days we will read, 30 days after that we are going to do our delinquent notices. Mayor Hodnett stated 30, 60, and then 90 days is the cut-off, but 10 days prior to a cut-off we've got to do a delinquency notice. Joe stated, 10 working days prior to the cut-off, we are to do a letter before we can cut off, by law. That's why we came up with the policy. Mayor Hodnett stated, the notes don't show here, but each of those colored days, the greens, the blues, the grays – when they click them, on the program it tells what they are going to do that day, like the cut-offs, the delinquencies, etc., so they've got it color coordinated; it's pretty cool.

Mr. Majure asked, so this is if we move to the new schedule? Joe replied yes. Mayor Hodnett stated, I thought we already decided we were moving to the new schedule. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated we did. Mr. Perdieu stated, we need to advertise that you are going to get an extra bill but only for two thirds of what you normally get. Mayor Hodnett stated, the November billing will be that. Mr. Poindexter stated, that will be a really important communications matter there; if it's closer to time for that, it's going to catch a lot of people by surprise when one bill is out of its usual range. If someone asks, why am I getting a bill this month out of the usual, well then, we can say here is why; we are trying to get it to sync with the FY. Mayor Hodnett stated we will be sure to talk to those people. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, we discussed at the last meeting to start notifying people in November. Mayor Hodnett stated we will explain it when we send out with the bills, no need to spend \$600 more to send out a separate mailing.

Police Department – Chief Lovelace

Calls for Service

Public Service - 1

Suspicious Vehicle - 1

Animal complaint - 3

Assist Other Agencies (Emergency Services) - 0

All other offenses - 1

Drug Offense - 3

Domestic - 1

Noise complaint - 1

Assist another agency - 1

Theft - 1

Disabled vehicle - 1

Disorderly Subject - 1

Breaking & Entering - 2

Traffic Stops - 7

Other

Miles Driven – 2,453

Training - Death and Homicide training for Sawyer and myself

Assist Other Town Departments - 0

Use of Force - 0

Department/Officer Complaints - 0

Department Updates

Fundraising stew will be held on November 5 for children in need at Christmas. Stew will be presold.

Public Safety – Mike Jones

In addition to supporting the Police Department in a variety of issues, I'm continuing the weed and junk patrol. I'm getting grudging compliance with overgrown vegetation by talking with people when giving notices. That's the way of enforcement we want to do. It's slower than hitting someone with ordinance violations, and sometimes being a little patient works a little better. Submitted an ordinance request for an accumulation ordinance. One of the problems we have are old refrigerators, couches that belong inside that are on porches, etc. That's an ordinance that most cities and towns have, because when you

look at our existing ordinance, it's not as tight as I think it should be, such as when someone has a couch and it's full of mold and rats. I'm working with trailer parks; they are significantly in violation of terms of structure and I'm one step before calling the county building official, so it's the slow grind of regulatory work. Maintaining work and relationships with West Piedmont Planning District, they are very interested in working with us and future initiatives that they have. It's never happened with the Town of Hurt before, so having that relationship will be very beneficial. Otherwise, I'm assisting the mayor on projects of economic development, and other general things. The mayor is busy, and I'm pleased to be able to help him with some of the tasks that he has, and any councilmember as well.

Reports from Membership, Boards, and Commissions

Administrative: Kathy Keesee - Mrs. Keesee was absent, no report.

Community Development & Public Relations: Donney Johnson Mr. Johnson asked, where are we at with the traffic camera in the school zone? Chief Lovelace replied, "I am waiting for an email back from them, so I'd be happy to email them tomorrow. What we are waiting on is signage for the side streets, so that we don't have the same thing that other jurisdictions have.

Finance: Gary Poindexter Mr. Poindexter reported, I did review the monthly report and I do appreciate the staff and mayor's work on the corrections with the coding that was brought up last month; it looks very good now. It appears that we are where we should be two months into the fiscal year. Good work on the collections – I like that. Not a lot else for finance immediately, but I want to back up to your earlier agenda item on M & T tax. This is something that we need to figure out a way to pursue and to have at some point in the future. It's going to be difficult to nail that in with the economic development that we currently have. The concern is constantly there; on this hand we need more money for various things, including personnel in the police department and/or otherwise. On the other hand, it's very difficult to pay for that. Most towns that are our size have M & T tax that generates at least several hundred thousand dollars a year from local industry. Most of them, though not all of them, and if that revenue stream were in place here, we would be having a different conversation about police, public works and town manager and all the things that should have been done many years ago. Now I'm just throwing that out; there's nothing we can really do tonight. I don't know how we can do it, it's something I really, really regret not getting on my radar during my administration, and I'm sorry that my predecessors didn't either. However, we can identify that as one of our biggest financial problems, and why we're so different to other towns our size. They have that source to do things with, so what do we have to tax – peoples' houses and cars, decals and cigarettes and meals. We're limited, but we have a catch-22. We've actually had complaints that we have too many people at town hall when, in reality, we don't have enough. There are finally things getting done here that we've needed to do for decades, and we need more, but where do you get the money? M & T is the way to go if you can do it, but we have limitations on that, so there's a real concern. Mr. Majure asked what is our current limitation? Mr. Poindexter stated, an M & T Tax typically, if that were already in place, before any new industry came in, it would have been part of the negotiation in the incentive package to attract that industry – they would have been aware of it, and would have agreed to it. We have a new industry getting ready to open and we can't spring up an oh-by-the-way change after the fact as an M & T tax on a project like that. That wasn't part of the negotiation with SRIFFA when we landed that project. The same thing would apply

for other projects that may be in the works in the foreseeable future, so we could certainly develop one and it would apply to anything subsequent going forward. I think we need to do that, but that's the difficulty of doing that here with the first industry. It's just water under the bridge. Mr. Majure asked what about the grandfather clause? Mr. Poindexter replied it's not so much grandfather clause per se. Mr. Majure stated what I'm asking is that we're suggesting not to cause businesses to leave the town based on it imposing a new M & T tax, and if we were just to give them some sort of clause to not impose it on them, are there other localities that do similar provisions?

Attorney Eller responded, sure, Altavista has machinery and tool tax; so does Campbell County. The Commissioner of Revenue calculates it, and it is a very complicated formula. They calculate it and Altavista charges their tax, and the county charges their tax; they've done that for decades. In Hurt and particularly in the SVMPP, you've got the SRIFFA and that is the deal you made there. Hurt doesn't get a very big percentage of taxes off that property, and I don't know why Pittsylvania County doesn't have an M & T tax on it; maybe they will want to do one too – that's a big decision. Maybe that will help get an advantage. Mr. Poindexter stated, I thought Pittsylvania County had an M & T tax. Attorney Eller responded, I would be surprised if they didn't. Mayor Hodnett stated, it's not listed on their website. Mr. Poindexter stated, that's a good question then, as I was under the impression that they did. I know our terms with SRIFFA when we formed it was that we get 4% of the revenue from all those taxes that they take in collectively, which will include M & T tax; that's not a very big share. Mr. Perdieu asked, so if we add an M & T tax, you're talking about adding it to new incoming industry or are you saying it would be a blanket for everything existing and new? Mayor Hodnett stated it would have to be for new stuff coming in, because if you take any other way, you would have to look at Staunton River Plastics and say, hey we are imposing an M & T tax and oh yeah by the way you've got a 15-year grace period on it, but it will kick in year 16 something like that. Or it is just for new businesses coming in that are not currently under negotiation. Mr. Poindexter stated, you've got to draw those lines somewhere and you've got to draw them carefully. Mr. Perdieu stated, the longer we wait the more we are going to miss out on potential. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated get that going as soon as we can. Mr. Perdieu asked, aren't taxes always negotiable if they come in and say, hey we want to put an industry in here. Mayor Hodnett responded they will negotiate with the state before they negotiate with us. The state is going to make a deal and make an arrangement with them that will have an adverse effect on us; the state's not going to give up 40% of taxes without the County, the Town, and everybody else involved giving their pint of blood, but you've got to have something to negotiate. We don't have anything. Mr. Poindexter stated, that's a problem. We have got to have another revenue stream here to do the things that we're going to do that we desperately need to do, or we're either going to be a flatline or a linear regression. Attorney Eller stated, you're going to get 4% of it, if you get the tax put in, that is the deal. Mayor Hodnett stated, under the current deal. Attorney Eller stated with the SRIFFA. Mr. Poindexter stated, well there may need to be some renegotiation on some of that. I'd have to look at how it merges with SRIFFA. I was thinking about the M & T tax for the town as a separate entity. Attorney Eller stated no, it's not. Mr. Poindexter stated, it may not be possible, so we'll have to review the details. Attorney Eller stated, that's the first place you've got to look – SRIFFA. Mr. Poindexter stated, anyway that's my commentary.

Public Works and Planning/Zoning Commission: Bob Majure

Mayor Hodnett stated, since Collin resigned, I have appointed Bob as chairman of the public works committee. One of the first things he did was ride around with Joe to look at the tower, pump station, the work being done in Altavista, plus any and everything else that he could uncover. If you would like to make any comments or anything you want to work on. Mr. Majure stated, yes, I appreciate you showing me just a small part of what we looked at, but I will continue to work with you to learn more. Definitely eye opening to understand where infrastructure stands. I do believe there are some simple things, easier things to do, and some that could improve the lives of the people – maintaining the infrastructure and also improving the infrastructure. I would like to build a presentation for you all to present that to everyone, so I will be doing that. Mike Jones stated he wanted to make a comment on that. I would like to resurrect one comment that was made back in the spring about the fire hydrants. We had discussed putting reflective orange sticks beside each one. Now that summer's come, we've got some of our hydrants buried beneath brush and that's a low cost, high value project that we could do. Perhaps getting community service hours from the courts, or even town staff. The reason why we do that is sometimes in the middle of the night, it's hard to locate fire hydrants. These poles are like the old bicycle reflectors that are orange and they have the silver at the top and they're six feet tall, so even if the hydrant is buried in weeds, the Fire Department can see it. Time is life in a fire, and that's a small thing I think we should move on quickly. Mr. Majure asked, is that something you think we have enough in the budget for? Mike Jones stated those sticks are like \$8 a piece, plus time, do we know how many hydrants we have? Tom Fore replied 70. Mayor Hodnett stated, it's one of those things you just have to do, and Joe forgot to mention something. Joe has purchased the town new flags because our flags are very ratty and the poles are even rattier, so he got us new poles, new flags, and that includes a new flag out front. Mr. Poindexter stated, speaking of flags, where are we with our new town flag? There was one at the SVMP for a while and then I didn't hear anything else about it. Mayor Hodnett stated, we're going to get several town flags made up, including a PD flag for the Police Department. They've got a logo downstairs on the table that they're going to use for the trunk-or-treat, and it really looks smart. We want to get that flag made up and we're ordering a Virginia State flag, so our pole out here will carry the national flag, the state flag, and it will carry the town and PD flags.

Mr. Perdieu stated, I looked at the ordinances about chickens and I can't find anything on them. It states that if they are making loud noises, then the police can do something about it. Mayor Hodnett asked, Shirley when you were looking through the ordinances was there anything on chickens? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, I don't remember anything, but I'll go back and review it.

Report from Mayor

Mayor Hodnett stated, Ellen mentioned we were going to send out sponsor letters for December's Christmas event at Town Hall – we will keep you posted on that. We've got the Christmas dinner scheduled like last year at First Southern Baptist Church, which went over well.

We set Monday, December 12th at 5:30 PM. We'd like Judith to go ahead and cater that as she did last year. Mrs. Brumfield said it's Tuesday the 12th. Mayor Hodnett stated, Tuesday the 12th, excuse me. Any pros or cons to that? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated she was not impressed with the food, and she is picky. Mayor Hodnett stated, I think everybody else was very complimentary of it. Mr. Perdieu stated the 13th is a Tuesday. Attorney Eller stated, well the 13th is the Altavista Council Meeting. Mayor Hodnett stated, well Monday the 12th maybe. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked, can we get somebody else? Mr. Perdieu asked, who would you like to recommend? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated, a friend of mine who runs a catering business. Mayor Hodnett asked, are you going to mention their name? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated in case they say no, no. Mayor Hodnett stated, well, Judith was very well received, I thought the food was excellent, and the price wasn't bad at all. Anyway, we've got that scheduled.

Next, continuing what we started several meetings ago, I would like to read what our Treasurer does for the town. She oversees all financial transactions, bank deposits into Hurt's accounts, loading deposits into general ledger – Southern Software system, reconciliation of bank accounts with general ledger in Southern Software monthly, proofs all invoices for payment, monitors cash flow, transfers funds when necessary from the various accounts, cash drawer – balance it and keep sufficient cash on hand, updates to Employee Handbook, maintains employees' files, tax withholding forms, I-9 US Department of Justice, etc., employees' enrollments in: Anthem Medical and Dental Plans, Virginia Retirement Program, Life Insurance, Disability, medical Coverage for Cobra and Medicare Part D annual filing with government agencies, notify employees with the mandatory Federal information for Cobra and Medicare Part D, post current State and Federal posters (keep up to date and visible for employees), process payroll bi-weekly, report payroll: Federal, State, Social Security, Medicare each pay period, track attendance leave for employees, calculate all employees' benefit deductions for payroll, employees' deductions transfer into VRS accounts, set employees' payroll into ACH transfers each pay period, set employer's contributions into ACH file transfers for VRS and Mission Square accounts, report Quarterly: Federal, State, Social Security, Medicare, and VA Employment Commission Reports, file Workmen's Compensation Claims with VRSA, schedule drug screenings for employment, on-the-job injuries and reasonable suspicion / probable cause, annual VRSA (Virginia Risk Sharing Association) renewals, annual budget (review spending trends, cost increases and implement the necessary changes for the town's upcoming fiscal year), allocation of funds assure the correct general ledger accounts are being used, Federal and State census reporting, calculate rate increases and break down correct amounts into the proper GL accounts, create tracking and calculating excel spreadsheets for various vendors, grant spending – report and verify correct amounts spent and distributed into the correct GL accounts, ARPA (Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds) tracking and reporting the funds according to the Federal regulations, assist with water and tax billings – the mailing and collection of payments, support VDH Loan tracking expenses and employee wages, end-of-year reporting and processing 1099s, W-2s, W-3s, 1096 and VA-6, organize and/or support the town's community events, process councilmembers' annual payroll and manage the active and terminated members within the Southern Software system as necessary for reporting purposes, update the Planning Commission plan document, and function as Notary Public appointed by the Governor.

Alright, if that's it, I only have two things left. One, I'd like the finance committee to evaluate the water and wastewater fees that Joe was talking about; just put your eye on it. Also, I would like to assign Bob Majure and Luke Perdieu to do a feasibility study for a third police officer, and take a very careful look at the Safer America plan that's currently going through Congress to see what kind of money we might could pick up for a third officer. Mr. Poindexter stated, I think that is a priority. Any kind of external funding sources that we can use to make that more feasible – that needs to be at or near to the top of the list. Not only regular public safety concerns that are always there, but when you have new industry coming and you're trying to attract more, they're going to expect that. Mayor Hodnett asked, could you guys look at having that ready by the end of November and say the first meeting in December? That should give you plenty of time to get a feel for what Congress is going to do. Also, Gary on the water and sewer stuff, you can probably have that by the next meeting, couldn't you? Mr. Poindexter stated, I think so. As of right now, the only day I know that I cannot meet is the 29th of this month, I have to work that evening. I would rather not wait; that's kind of last-minute coming up on the next council meeting, so sometime the week of the 19th would be better. Mayor Hodnett stated, just have a called meeting to take care of that and be done with it. Mr. Poindexter asked, now are you talking about a finance called meeting or a meeting with the full council? Mayor Hodnett stated, whatever you want to do, either way you want to handle it. Mr. Majure asked, are we also going to discuss the M & T tax? Mr. Perdieu stated, the water shouldn't take that long; the M & T tax we need to get that rolling. Mr. Poindexter stated, if we are planning on acting on anything before the 4th of October then we might want to have a called meeting with the full council. What about the 20th, the 3rd Tuesday? Council agreed. Regular time at 7:00 PM a called meeting. Mayor Hodnett stated, since we're going to have you guys come up with something, it's a good time to call in on what you found. Mr. Majure stated, we talked about the hydrants; I would like to make a motion that we allocate money, \$8 - \$10 per device, so \$1,000 out of the enterprise fund to identify the hydrants with the six-foot-tall identification reflectors.

Motion: Mr. Majure

Second: Mr. Perdieu

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett stated, and one last thing here in closing, and in open since we do have Taylor here with us, would like to put the public record out there about our grant that we were awarded with the VRA and VDH on the 75/25 split. The VRA will be assuming 75% of the loan, and the Town of Hurt will be on the hook for 25% of it. That is a huge number, the loan is about \$1.634 million, and the Town of Hurt's contribution to that will be right about \$400,000. Taylor, I will get you the exact numbers; we would like to get that out there because that is huge for this town. It will save us over 7 years about \$700,000 versus us having to finance 75%. We do appreciate the state looking favorable on us with that. Mr. Perdieu stated and we appreciate the mayor being willing to work with them and renegotiating; that's part of the value.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Kelsie Sligh

Kelsie Sligh, Clerk

Gary Hodnett

Gary Hodnett, Mayor