

Town of Hurt Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2020

Hurt, Virginia

The Town of Hurt councilmembers held a meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at Hurt Town Hall. The meeting opened 6:00 PM by Interim Mayor Gary Hodnett with a quorum present.

Roll Call

Members present were Mrs. Kathy Keesee, Mr. Jeff Bowling, Mr. Collin Adams, Mrs. Rainy Clay, Mr. Steve Watson, and Mrs. Shirley Barksdale-Hill.

A motion was made to enter closed session to discuss personnel, prospective business, and real estate, as authorized by VA FOIA § 2.2-3711 A (1)(3)(5).

Motion: Mr. Watson

Second: Mr. Adams

Passage: unanimous

Council entered closed session at 6:02 PM and concluded at 7:08 PM.

A Motion was made that only personnel, and prospective business matters were discussed during closed session, as required by VA FOIA § 2.2-3712 D.

Motion: Mr. Watson

Second: Mr. Adams

Passage: unanimous

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Mrs. Keesee

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Interim Mayor Gary Hodnett

Outcomes from Closed Session

There was nothing from closed session coming out to be presented in open.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the minutes from called meeting held September 23, 2020.

Motion: Mrs. Keesee

Second: Mrs. Clay

Passage: unanimous

Mayor

Mayor Hodnett reported that CARES Act Funding about (\$15,000) has been authorized for new website development and Care Bags. About 140 people who were put on the waiting list when we ran out of county care bags, will be called.

There will be a CARES Act Funding meeting on Monday to answer questions and discuss about vouchers, for the community and businesses.

Hearing of Citizens / Public Comment

Mrs. Tommy McCune stated that she came to see what was going on in Hurt and see who is making all the wonderful decisions. She has been in Hurt for many years and will come back to more meetings. She was introduced to everyone in the room.

Legal

Attorney John Eller had nothing to report.

Administrative Committee

Chair Rainy Clay reported that we will be conducting interviews tomorrow starting at 10:00am.

Mrs. Clay reported that she called Miss Utility to ask questions about marking utility lines and was told that she would get a call back which has not happened yet. She suggested we ask Altavista. Mayor Hodnett talked to the County representative and was given three different companies to contact and he will call tomorrow. Because we have such a limited amount of calls it is not easy to get a contract person. We will be using the service of Reggie from the county for short-term back up, until we find a long-term person.

Finance Committee

Mr. Watson reported that a citizen on Darrell Lane had a high water bill and was asking for relief. We have a formular to go by to make adjustments. Mr. Watson stated the formula uses an average of four bills plus 15% over their cost. We used the same method for everyone else and it came out to be a \$12.00 reduction. They did have a small inflatable pool and a possible toilet leak.

Mr. Watson reported that New Prospect had asked for three additional trashcans which would bring the total to five. He talked to Mr. Ed Keesee who does the upkeep and read a letter from Mrs. Brown stating that the church is open to the public with programs to keep children off the streets, help people pay bills, give backpack lunches to school children, annual teacher appreciation meals, help Fire Department, and the Town of Hurt is the beneficiary. Mr. Watson recommend that we allow them to have the five trashcans at no extra cost. Mayor Hodnett want a contract stating that we are not liable if damage to their pavement if caused by the trash truck. Mr. Watson stated that they had commercial grade pavement installed in that area. Attorney John Eller will draw up the contract. Mr. Adams and Mr. Watson recused themselves from voting because they both are members of New Prospect Baptist Church.

Motion was made that we allow the New Prospect Baptist Church to have extra trash cans at no extra cost.

Motion: Mrs. Clay Second: Mrs. Keesee 4 – Yea 2 – Recused Passed

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill purposed that anyone doing business with the Town of Hurt should be in good standing with the Town and not in violation of any Town ordinances. Attorney Eller will draw up to be placed in contracts, and on solicited bids. Chief Mike Jones suggested that it be placed on the website, which is very common practice for businesses. It will be voted on after drawn up by attorney.

Public Safety

Chief Mike Jones reported that they were continuing to work on town nuisances per ordinance. Plans to place radar speed enforcement policy on Facebook. 1 to 5 miles per hour is discretionary and most get a warning. Over 5 miles per hour should issue a summons with no exceptions. Notify community by Facebook, Website, and placing signs with the words "Speed Zone Ahead – Radar Enforced" that speed is being monitored. Signs will be placed at the beginning and the end to encourage people to slow down.

The bad accident on Hurt Rd was speed related.

DUI road checks on selected dates will be coordinated with the Sheriff and VA State Police. We will notify the community the same as speeding.

Police personnel had one qualified and five not qualified applicants. The one will be interviewed soon.

Corporal Lovelace completed two training classes. Intox recertification and Verbal De-Escalation and train the trainer for verbal de-escalation.

Calls for service were complaints on speeding on Spring St, and Dogwood Lane, complaints about ATV's on the roadway have all but stopped, several verbal disputes in town, petty larceny on Ricky Van Shelton Dr., vandalism on Prospect Rd., and first day of school went well with Corporal Lovelace greeting parents and children, and helping with traffic flow.

Chief Jones will be giving a crime prevention and school security presentation to Faith Christian Academy in the next two weeks.

As part of our efforts to combat illegal drug abuse, the VA State Police/ VA National Guard will be flying over wooded areas of the town to search for marijuana being grown. This is a routine part of their Drug Interdiction Program.

Norfolk and Southern was contacted about graffiti in the underpass. A request for painting and lighting has been made.

VDOT will be contacted about Prospect Rd and Hurt Rd intersection due to its dangerousness. We will request a traffic safety study.

Police Mutual Aid continues to fill in when we have no officer on duty.

Corporal Lovelace reported automated speed radar sign reminds good drivers they are speeding and to slow down. Virginia Law is changing, do not want police enforcement for loud mufflers, broken taillights, smell of marijuana, and some other violations.

A company called nano-septic has devices to put on door handles, counters, and other locations to help fight COVID, along with everyday sanitation.

The boat issue has been resolved.

Public Works

Mr. Hodges reported that Walter McCormick want the Town to reimburse him \$414.53 for a resetter part he used at his wife's beauty shop for a water pop off valve problem. He bought it from a vendor at a tradeshow.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked if we will be buying one for everyone who has this problem, or will we allow each person to repair their own and sent the bills to the Town? Would also like to know options for this type of repair.

Attorney Eller stated that The Town of Altavista complete repairs for the citizens and also that their need to be a receipt to show the costs.

Motion was made to reimburse Walter McCormick for the repairs when a receipt is submitted to the Town.

Motion: Mr. Adams Second: Mr. Watson 3 – Yea 3 – Na Mayor Hodnett voted: Yea Passed

Mayor Hodnett stated that we will make an ordinance with guidelines for anyone who touches the meters.

Mr. Bowling reported that parking on Prospect Rd has become a problem when cars are on both sides of the road, especially during yard sales. Prospect has on-street parking and there have been several accidents. Difficult for fire trucks to get through also. Attorney Eller suggest we contact VDOT to regulate parking. Mr. Bowling motioned that we do not allow on-street parking if they have driveways.

There was no second to the motion.

Saturday was a once a year 100-mile yard sale.

Chief Jones suggested we contact VDOT to stripe the sideways and if over the white line can ticket.

Community Development

Mrs. Keesee reported that Civic Plus website is approved for installation with a total of \$8,000. \$6,000 for development and \$2,000 to install. We are using Cares Act Funding for this project. This will cost \$2,000 per year and the project has to be finished by December 15, 2020. This a custom design that is user friendly for citizens.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill reported that the old website was \$300.00 per year with very poor, unfriendly, outdated service.

Mayor's Report

The Honorable Mayor Gary Hodnett reported the meters on Dogwood Lane will have a vault meter added to stop reading individual meters, also we can start collecting water deposits. There will remain a meter at each home. Badger meter system can control water and help prevent over usage. These will only be used on problem accounts. We will only read water at the vault meter.

The owner will be notified what we are doing and that he is responsible for bills from the vault readings. A motion was made to install vault meter.

Motion: Mr. Adams

Second: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill

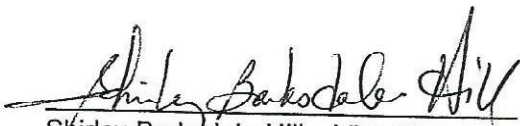
Passage: unanimous

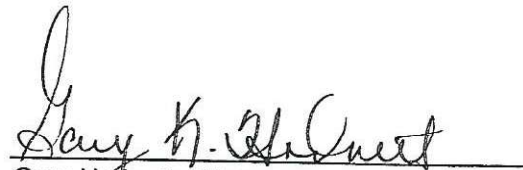
Mayor Hodnett reported that the vault will cost \$4,000 and the Badger meters will show a substantial increase in water bills.

Mr. Hodges reported that a citizen's water bill jumped to \$1,100 and discovered that the meter was bad, and we need to adjust water bill. The meter was replaced.

Mrs. Barksdale suggested we wipe out the bill and use previous bill than write an ordinance for broken meter adjustments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.


Shirley Barksdale-Hill – Vice-Mayor


Gary Hodnett – Mayor