

## Town of Hurt Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2020

Hurt, Virginia

The Town of Hurt council held its regular scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at Hurt town Hall. The meeting opened at 6:00 PM by Mayor Hodnett with a quorum present.

### **Roll Call**

Members present were Mr. Watson, Mr. Adams, Mr. Bowling, Mrs. Clay, Mrs. Barksdale-Hill, and Mrs. Keesee.

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: Mrs. Clay                      Passage: unanimous

Council entered closed session at 6:03 PM and concluded at 6:55 PM.

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

Motion: Mr. Watson                      Second: Mrs. Clay                      Passage: unanimous

### **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation: Mr. Watson

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Interim Mayor Hodnett

### **Outcomes from Closed Session**

Based on closed session there is nothing from closed coming out to be presented in open.

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made to approve June 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

Motion: Mrs. Clay                      Second: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill                      Passage: unanimous

### **Hearing of Citizens / Public Comment**

Ms. Karen Cook at 200 Dogwood Lane had inquiries about an easement of property at her location. A gentleman is trying to purchase the property and there is a disagreement about the 15 feet of right of way.

Mr. Eller reported that Kent & Kent is handling the purchase for the other gentleman from Deutsche Bank and Ms. Cook needs to contact the bank or Trustee for completion. The Town of Hurt is issuing a resolution to vacate the right of way to allow the parties involved to complete the transactions.

### **Legal**

Nothing more to report.

### **Administrative**



Nothing to report.

### **Public Safety**

Chief Jones reported that the new uniforms are in and will be rolled out next week. Corporal Lovelace is in Field Officer Training School. He will be able to train everyone else who comes in. He has continued to step up and is growing well. Chief Jones stated that it is nice to be a part of a town on the move.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked about the school zone equipment?

Chief Jones sent two contracts from two companies and will resend.

### **Public Works**

Mr. Adams reported that a meeting was held on Thursday, with Mayor Hodnett, Mr. Hodges and Peed & Bortz to discuss our water project. The details of problems were discussed, along with possible solutions.

The Mayor stated he will have the consent letter notarized, mail to Jennifer Coleman, then to Mr. Oliver. Finally, we will receive the letter for the Town of Hurt to introduce our plan within 15 days.

Collin stated that we are ahead of the process with a plan already being discussed with Peed & Bortz. No word about funding yet.

The Mayor stated that we should hear about funding up front.

Mr. Adams stated new trash pickup went well. The Alavista truck was very quiet.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill reported that we received several calls about various trash can concerns, along with a shortage of cans. The shortage was caused by required wheels not arriving on time. We are using a few of the old cans until the new wheels arrive. Two new cans were stolen.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked about a new water contract with Altavista?

Mr. Eller stated that if Altavista initiated a new water contract he could update.

Mr. Watson asked about requirements from Matt Rowe for new businesses coming to town?

Mr. Adams asked if the town could require perspective business to buy water from the town?

Mr. Eller stated that we have a mandatory hookup policy for residence.

Mr. Watson stated that if treated water is needed then they would have to buy from the town.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill reported that Susan McCullough needed medical information to state the most common illness in the Town of Hurt, to complete the Brownfield Grant request. She will follow up with the Health Department, as suggested by Mr. Eller.

### **Administration**

Mrs. Clay called Mr. Wharf to inform him that we are not hiring anyone else at this time.

Chief Jones reported that after a closer look, Mr. Wharf is not a viable candidate.

### **Community Development**

Mrs. Keesee reported that the town website, from her son's assessment is obsolete, hard to use, antiquated, outdated, and you can not make usable. She suggests that she look at 3 website companies in this area and get proposals with cost to bring back to Council.

Mr. Watson recommended a developer that has helped with First Piedmont Company and will get contact information.

Mr. Adams suggested we go back to sending letters to property owners for more nuisances than just grass cutting, especially the property across from the school with the leaning barge.



Mrs. Clay to get pictures of barge for next meeting.

**Finance**

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill suggested that we pursue DMV-STOP to collect delinquent taxes.

Mr. Eller reported that it is already in place.

Mayor Hodnett reported that it was never activated, and all else is in place.

**Public Works**

Nothing to report.

**Mayors Report**

Mayor Hodnett reported that Barracuda backup is due to expire and we can get \$15,000 Care Grant money, to replace with recovery system and get laptops for Council members. Backup service for complete recovery has a 75% discount right now.

Chief Jones stated that we could use this protection from ransomware.

Mayor Hodnett proposed to Council that he would negotiate the \$475 monthly fee to approximately \$150 for offsite recovery if we approved.

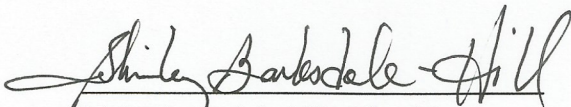
Mr. Watson and Mrs. Barksdale-Hill encouraged him to try to comeback with \$200.00 or less for monthly fee.

Mayor Hodnett reported that he is waiting to hear from Les Adams regarding discount water billing for certain level incomes. This will allow us to pursue taxation based on property being condemned.

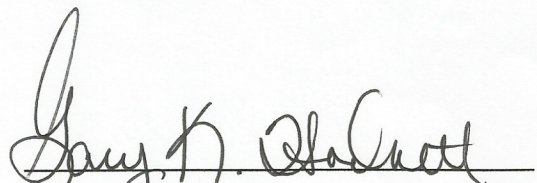
Mr. Eller stated that inoperable vehicles must have both state inspection and tags expired to be considered inoperable or a town could decide to have one or the other to be considered inoperable.

Mayor Hodnett reported that Southern Software is up and running and Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated running very well and easy to use. We will be training on PSN (Payment System Network). Citizens will be able to complete bill payments on the PSN site. This is also important for the website to be easy to use. Three quotes are available for the police car repair. The insurance has already paid.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.



Shirley Barksdale-Hill - Vice-Mayor



Gary Hodnett - Mayor