

Hurt, Virginia

January 3, 2017

Council held its scheduled monthly meeting Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at Town Hall in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. with a quorum present.

Roll Call

Members present were: Neal, Johnson, Bivens, Blackstock, Clay, and Adams.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: given by Chief Rowland

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mayor Poindexter

State of the Town

Mayor Poindexter gave a brief history of the Town of Hurt and noted there has been a period of decline following the closure of Burlington nearly 10 years ago. With 2016, the eve of the town's golden anniversary, the town started seeing some rays of hope including: rebranding of the old Burlington site, plans for a senior living facility, an arena, a new free standing retail store, and some improvements to the Staunton Plaza. Town Hall also made some positive changes by adding notary services, credit card payment options, an official town website, a Facebook page, and a new computer system with enterprise level email that provides much needed security. He feels it is a matter of time before the Governor or his successor visits Hurt bearing good news for the area. Economic development remains our primary focus. This year is the anniversary of the Town of Hurt, and with that comes a time to reflect, honor and celebrate. Mayor Poindexter said he looks forward to working with everyone in striving to make the next 50 years even better than the first.

With the start of each new year, it is customary to appoint a Vice-Mayor. Mayor Poindexter asked for nominations from Council.

A motion was made to nominate Mr. Norman Bivens as Vice- Mayor.

Motion: Mr. Johnson Second: Mr. Blackstock Passage: unanimous

Also, with a new year there are appointments to the Planning Commission. Mayor Poindexter asked for recommendations and shared Mr. Bivens has expressed interest to continue as Council Representative.

A motion was made to re-elect Mr. Bivens to represent Council on the Commission.

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

Committee assignments were passed out to all Council members.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the December reports and meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: Mr. Bivens Second: Mr. Johnson Passage: unanimous

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Guest Speakers and Citizen Comments

Mrs. Laurie Moran, President of Danville/Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce: The Town of Hurt has been a member in the past. But, due to a period of economic downturn the town dropped its membership. The Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization that works with the members to improve the economic environment and economic prosperity of the region. The chamber provides a foundation of education, job placement, recruitment and job retention of the workforce. Being a member would give the town an extension for business development.

- It provides advocacy. The chamber feels legislators should know what is important for local communities.
- Something new for the chamber is tourism, and someone will be at the February council meeting to speak on this.
- Dues are \$275, based on the town's number of full-time employees.
- The chamber offers 100 different programs to participate in.

Mr. David Smitherman, Pittsylvania County Administrator, was not available.

Mrs. Dixie Poindexter, First Lady of Hurt, volunteered to form and chair a citizen committee to coordinate the town's 50th anniversary celebrations. She has several ideas and would like to collaborate with Pittsylvania County since 2017 is their (250-year) anniversary also. Ideas and information can be submitted to the clerk, who would in turn forward them to committee members.

Mr. Bivens asked if committee members had already been selected. Mrs. Poindexter stated she had spoken with and chosen 6 people: Mr. Mike Hudson, Mrs. Kathy Keesee, Mrs. Brande Arthur, Mr. Ralph Woods, Mrs. Rainy Clay, and Mr. Jason Lovelace.

A motion was made to endorse the formation of the anniversary committee, made up of these individuals and chaired by Mrs. Poindexter.

Motion: Mr. Neal Second: Mr. Johnson Passage: unanimous

Committee and Council Members Reports

Budget and Finance: none

Economic Development: none

Human Resources, Legal & Police: none

Public Works & Relations: Mr. Bivens shared with council he has had several inquiries about Clement Hill. He asked for thoughts about contacting the current owner to see if they may be interested in selling, donating, or partnering with the town to fix the property up and having it be like Avoca is to Altavista and the Lavelette House is to Gretna.

Council agreed that any such possibility should be looked into.

Attorney's Report

Three draft ordinance amendments to change junk vehicle, weed, and noise violations from misdemeanor to civil penalty were presented for review at Chief Rowland's request. A public hearing is not required because the changes are not to zoning ordinances.

Mr. Eller asked council to review the drafts and revisit the matter at its March meeting, since he will be absent from the February meeting.

Business Office Report

None

Police Report

For the month of December there were 101 calls for service, consisting of 16% traffic stops and resulting in three summonses being issued. For the year of 2016 there were 1251 calls for service, 15% of which were traffic stops with 64 summonses issued. A new flag was purchased to commemorate the town's 50th anniversary. Chief Rowland advised the Pittsylvania County GIS listed the tax value for Clement Hill at \$87,200 for both homes and land.

Public Works Report

Mr. Hodges reported there had been another major water leak 2 weeks ago at Dogwood Trailer Park. He left the hospital and asked Altavista Public Works to assist. The service line had blown completely apart, resulting in a rate of water loss estimated at 60 gallons per minute. The repair was completed.

Mr. Matt Rowe, Pittsylvania County Economic Development Director, met with WDBJ7 earlier today because the Samet Group went worldwide advertising the Southern Virginia Multimodal Park. A flyer was provided to council showing the layout of the property and explaining the construction of buildings that Samet Group provides.

Mr. Blackstock asked if there is an exact dollar amount of delinquent taxes after Council voted to write off balances prior to 2013. Mrs. Nichols advised she is currently working on getting those figures.

Mayor's Report

There was further discussion about joining the Danville/Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce. A motion was made to approve the membership and dues payment.

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

The employee handbook needs to be reviewed, primarily for compensatory time accrual. A meeting date for Human Resources, Legal and Police was set for Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Poindexter, Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Nichols met with ITG (Integrated Technology Group) regarding ongoing issues with the current accounting software. The group is actively looking to move to a more user friendly and cost effective software. Another meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

The results of the citizen survey that was mailed with the December water billing is being compiled. A report will be provided soon for analysis.

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It is time to renew the West Piedmont Planning District Hazard Mitigation Agreement. Attorney Eller advised after looking at the sample agreement, to change the word “model” to Town of Hurt and have it certified.

A motion was made to have Mr. Eller draft the agreement changing the word “model” to Town of Hurt, have it certified and mail back.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

(SIGNED)

Susan Nichols, Clerk

(SIGNED)

Gary Poindexter, Mayor