

Hurt, Virginia

July 5, 2016

Hurt Town Council held its scheduled monthly meeting Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at the Hurt Town Hall in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. and a quorum was declared present.

Members present: Hines, Mitchell, Blackstock, Bivens, Johnson
Absent: Neal

A motion was made to enter closed session to discuss prospective business and real estate pertaining to economic development, per VA FOIA Secs. 2.2-3711 (A) (3, 5).

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

Closed session began at 6:06 p.m., and concluded at 6:51 p.m.

A motion was made to certify that only prospective business and real estate pertaining to Economic Development (Secs. 2.2-3711(A) (3, 5)) were discussed.

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

A second motion was made to secure the services of a professional forester regarding the potential sale and removal of timber at Key Industrial Park.

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

Council recessed at 6:55 p.m. and reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Hines, Mitchell, Blackstock, Bivens, Johnson
Absent: Neal

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Mr. Mitchell

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Poindexter

Consent Agenda: accounting reports and meeting minutes

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

Hearing of Citizens and/or Guest Speakers

Mayor Poindexter stated the meeting was in joint session with the Planning Commission. The purpose was to add "Special Events and Exhibitions" to the list of authorized uses under Section 4-82 in the Code of the Town of Hurt, specifically for properties zoned C1, and to extend the town noise ordinance, per Section 8-79, by one hour for such events. Mr. David Vaughan of the Planning Commission recommended that Council approve the changes as written and with applicants not having to present to Council repeatedly. Mayor Poindexter advised that this was not what was originally presented to Council, and that perhaps there had been a communication breakdown.

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The public hearing opened at 7:07 p.m.

Mr. John Christman of 304 School Rd. stated that he and his wife, Sarah, have lived in town for eight months, and that he is concerned about speeding on School Road. Councilman Johnson asked if there were certain times of day when this occurs more/less. Mr. Christman indicated the occurrences are mostly on evenings and weekends, usually involving the same vehicles. There were no other speakers. No comments or questions were presented in reference to the proposed zoning and noise ordinance changes.

The public hearing closed at 7:11 p.m.

Mayor Poindexter pointed out that the amendment is worded to require an application be submitted, with no fee or public hearing, and be reviewed by Council prior to each event. This is to ensure that correct procedures are being followed and that any concerns such as public safety are being properly addressed in preparation for each event.

A motion was made to approve the proposed amendment to the Code of the Town of Hurt, Section 4-82, as written and to approve an amendment to the Noise Ordinance, Section 8-79, extending it from 11:00 p.m. to midnight on approved event dates.

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

Mayor Poindexter thanked and congratulated Mr. Walter McCormick, stating he was ready to hold the event.

Ms. Frieda Mattox of 310 Darrell Lane asked if the Town has 24/7 police coverage and if not, when are the officers on duty. Mayor Poindexter advised that the Town is not large enough nor does it have the tax base to support around-the-clock coverage. Currently, the town police schedule is set to provide the most coverage during peak times and high risk periods, and when town officers are not on duty, the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office provides supplementary coverage. Ms. Mattox was concerned due to a problem during the previous week with the Pittsylvania County Dispatch when she tried to call in an automobile accident on East Hurt Rd. She also inquired as to the possibility of a speed bump being installed on Darrell Lane, due to speeding. Chief Rowland responded that he patrols Darrell Lane on a regular basis. He also explained that visual speed estimating (which the Police Department is trained in) and running radar have proven that speed may not be as it appears. He concluded by reassuring Mrs. Mattox that he will have someone on Darrell Lane more often to run radar and he will also contact VDOT about adding some rumble strips.

Mr. Paul Meadows, CEO of Integrated Technology Group (ITG), submitted an itemized proposal for Council to review and he wanted to be available to answer any questions they may have. There had been some revisions from the previous proposal because of the addition of two computers and the addition of email accounts. Mr. Meadows shared there were companies that offer software at reduced rates for non-profit organizations and he felt that the Town would qualify. If this is the case, this would reduce the final amount on the proposal. Mayor Poindexter asked if the amount on the current proposal would be a worse case figure. Mr. Meadows advised that it was.

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Motion was made to proceed in contracting with ITG to replace and upgrade the town's computers and server, up to a limit of \$16,000, and also authorizing the clerk and mayor to explore software purchase options from other sources that may offer better prices.

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

Committee and Councilmen's Reports

Budget and Finance: None

Economic Development: None

Human Resources, Legal and Police: None

Public Works and Relations: None

Attorney's Report

Mrs. Susan Nichols has been assigned to be the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) officer. The FOIA "Statement of Rights and Responsibilities" (SSR) has been posted on the bulletin board inside Town Hall.

The Treasurer's bond had been signed by Mrs. Nichols and is complete.

Business Office Report

Mrs. Nichols shared there is an active water account that was delinquent in the amount of \$600. The account had two different addresses that were incorrectly entered. This was discovered when Mr. Hodges was turning off water for non-payment. The person hasn't made a payment on the account since it was opened. Attorney Eller and Council advised to remove any late fees and interest due to it being a clerical error by town staff, and to send a certified letter allowing 60 days for payment of the balance in full. It was also decided that Mrs. Nichols can make the decision to set up a payment plan if necessary for collection of this balance – with the understanding that if such is done in this case, then there is to be consistency in the handling of other similar situations in the future.

Workman Oil requested a refund of half of the amount they paid for their 2015 business license due to the business being sold at the end of June. The refund was issued.

However, upon further checking, the company that purchased the business (Fuel USA) only paid \$30 for their 2015 business license (second half of the year). Fuel USA was contacted and has sent a letter stating that someone on town staff advised them at the time that the amount they would owe was \$30, which is incorrect. Attorney Eller advised that Fuel USA purchased an existing business, not a new one, and thus needs to be billed for the correct amount, less the \$30 already paid.

Police Report

Chief Rowland reported there were 94 calls for service in June, 5% of which were traffic stops, with two summonses being issued. Officer Lovelace stopped a vehicle on Sunday that had been stolen, resulting in recovery of the vehicle. The new Tasers have been delivered and are in use. Chief Rowland commended Mr. Hodges and Officer Lovelace for putting up the new sign at the Roosevelt Mattox Park near Town Hall. Lastly, the inmate workforce is scheduled to do litter control in Hurt every two months.

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Public Works

Mr. Ed Hodges shared he had received several complaints about pressure on the Town's water line causing problems. He rebuilt the pressure reducing valve located in the water vault at the underpass two weeks ago and the pressure returned to normal. Now, pressure at the fire hydrant located next to Town Hall is 160 psi. Also, when the repair was done, he noted (including pictures presented to Council), how the aged galvanized pipe has deteriorated to the point that it could blow out at any time. If the line were to blow with that amount of pressure on it, then the town could lose the water tank before the water could be shut off. Mr. Hodges has received a quote from Moore's, and is expecting one from Southern Air within the week, but expressed an urgency to get repairs done.

A motion was made to hold on a decision until the Southern Air quote is received, to not exceed the Moore's quote amount, and to go with the contractor that offers the best price and time frame for completion of the work.

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

Mr. Hodges also requested a meeting with the Public Works Committee. A meeting was planned for Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Poindexter asked for ideas Re: updating the inside of Town Hall (such as painting, etc.). He reminded everyone that Council will soon need to form a committee to gather ideas and develop plans for the town's upcoming 50th Anniversary next year (2017).

Lastly, the Mayor announced plans to consult a professional forester about selling timber and clearing/grading some sites at Key Industrial Park to make them more accessible and presentable for future marketability.

Ms. Lillian Gillespie of 503 Darrell Lane, commented that there were 5 sites slated for clearing and grading several years ago with financial assistance from the Tobacco Commission, but that those plans were put on hold due to access issues from Pocket Rd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Susan Nichols, Clerk

Gary Poindexter, Mayor