

Council held its scheduled monthly meeting Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at Town Hall in Council Chambers. The meeting opened at 6:03 with all members present.

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

Motion: Watson Second: Johnson Passage: Unanimous

Closed session began at 6:04 p.m. and concluded at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made to certify that only matters pertaining to personnel were discussed during closed session, as required by VA FOIA Sec. 2.2-3712 (D).

Motion: Bivens Second: Clay Passage: Unanimous

The open meeting resumed at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Neal gave an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Poindexter.

**Consent Agenda**

A motion was made to approve April accounting reports and previous meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: Watson Second: Johnson Passage: Unanimous

**Announcements, Appointments, Resignations**

SRRIFA – Council needs to select two members and one alternate to represent the town on the SRRIFA Board of Directors. A motion was made to appoint Mayor Poindexter and Vice Mayor Bivens as members, with Councilmember Watson as the alternate.

Motion: Neal Second: Clay Passage: Unanimous

Mr Ed Hodges has accepted a position with the Town of Altavista and has submitted his resignation from the Town of Hurt. A motion was made to accept his resignation.

Motion: Clay Second: Neal Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Poindexter thanked Mr Hodges for his time with the town.

A motion was made to secure temporary and/or part time assistance as needed and to advertise the open position.

Motion: Adams Second: Neal Passage: Unanimous

**Hearing of Citizens/Guest Speakers**

Sidney Shelton spoke on behalf of his mother, Blanche Fugate. (Ms. Fugate’s address is 107 Roark St.). Trees had fallen, and her neighbor (James Johnson) had been in the 20’ right of way to cut them. Mr. Shelton asked that the town keep the right of way.

Karen Cook (200 Dogwood Lane) wants the easement between her land and adjoining property owned by the Boswell family. She reported that all of the Boswell children had approved this vacation of right of way.

Mr Eller explained the process, and if council agreed to the vacation, Mrs. Cook would need to have the land surveyed.

Mrs. Cook also expressed her appreciation for the 3-way stop sign and the mirror at the underpass.

James Johnson (205 Riverview Road) reported that his land is bordered on three sides by a right of way. He would like to file application for vacation of these rights of way so that he can get his half portion and all adjoining landowners each would get their part.

Jason Lovelace (patrolman) requested a pay increase for the town police. He read a prepared statement referencing that previous town police have not stayed longer than four years. While his intention is to remain with the town, he would like to see the Hurt police salaries brought in line with those of similar towns.

Winston McCormick (McCormick’s Services) thanked Mr. Hodges for his help with the town and for his own business.

**Council Members’/Committees’ Reports**

- Planning & Zoning Commission: None
- Economic Development: None
- Human Resources, Legal, & Police: None
- Budget and Finance: None
- Public Works & Relations: None

**Attorney’s Report**

Mr. Eller explained the statutory tax exemptions. Qualifying exemptions are such that the town and county mirror each other. The exception is for emergency personnel who are killed in the line of duty. This is a voluntary exemption (allowed by the state) that the town has decided to adopt. The county does not include this tax exemption at this time.

A motion was made to advertise for public hearing both the statutory tax exemptions and the proposed budget at the same time. Mr Neal asked if anyone has ever applied for any of these tax exemptions. There is no record of anyone applying.

Motion: Johnson                      Second: Bivens                      Passage: Unanimous

**Administrative Office Report**

No report. Mrs. Frazier was absent due to illness.

**Police Report**

Chief Rowland provided Council with a standard monthly report on call volume and department activity.

**Public Works Report**

Mr. Hodges reported that a water sampling station, required by VDH, was installed on Prospect Road. He then thanked citizens and council and said he had enjoyed his time with the town.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Poindexter and Council set calendar dates for the necessary scheduled public hearings and advertisements. They are: May 24 for the public hearing for the proposed budget, June 5 (regularly scheduled meeting) for the preliminary approval of the budget, and June 19 for the final approval. Final approval needs to be in place by July 1.

The July meeting, originally scheduled for July 3, was changed to July 9 due to the Independence Day holiday week.

Hurt, Virginia

May 1, 2018

A motion was made to endorse/proclaim Business Appreciation Week (June 4-8) along with the county and the Danville-Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce.

Motion: Bivens

Second: Johnson

Passage: Unanimous

Bridge Lighting Agreement: Mr. Eller and Mayor Poindexter will contact Brian Casto, VDOT engineer, to identify which lights will belong to Hurt and which to Altavista. This will provide the insight needed, as VDOT will be maintaining the lighting and invoicing each town for its respective portion.

Mr. Hodges pointed out that the Boy Scout sign between the underpass and the bridge will soon be taken down by VDOT as work continues on the bridge replacement. Councilmembers Clay and Watson suggested that it be given back to the troop it originated with.

Since Mrs. Frazier has had citizen inquiries about town code being made available on the town website, Mr. Eller has looked into Municode Services doing recodification and transferring our code book onto the website. While this works well for many localities including Altavista, Mr. Eller suggested looking at several companies for quotes.

After researching VML and VACORP for liability and workman’s comp insurance, Mayor Poindexter has worked with VML in gaining a savings of approximately \$3,000.

Council perused the proposed budget for fiscal year 2018-19. Mayor Poindexter pointed out that the garbage fee would not be taken well since the county is also beginning a fee this year. The county fee is for the landfill maintenance, while the town fee would be to pay for the collection of the town’s garbage and, like our water system, would operate as an enterprise fund, paying for itself.

Councilmember Watson reported that he favors the proposed budget. He suggested that employee salaries be looked at further once a budget is passed.

A motion was made to advertise the budget as drafted, including the insurance changes, with the understanding that the insurance savings would be allocated toward HR in the coming months as salary scales are developed.

Motion: Watson

Second: Johnson

Passage: Four/Two

Favor: Adams, Bivens, Johnson, Watson

Opposed: Clay, Neal

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

*Dixie S. Poindexter*  
Dixie S. Poindexter, Volunteer

*Gary Poindexter*  
Gary Poindexter, Mayor