

Council held its regular scheduled monthly meeting Tuesday, November 6, 2018, in council chambers at Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Roll Call

Members present were Watson, Clay, Adams, Bivens, Johnson, and Neal.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Neal

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Poindexter.

Consent Agenda

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

Motion: Clay

Second: Johnson

Passage: unanimous

Guest Speakers, Presentations and Citizen Feedback

Mr. Dennis Janiak and Mr. Brian Moore, Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 1607 in Lynchburg shared the Town of Hurt is now a Purple Heart Community. It is also on the Purple Heart Community website and is listed on the Purple Heart Trail. Signs were presented, to be located at each entrance into town. Each member of council and the mayor were presented with a Purple Heart coin. Mayor Poindexter remarked, “what could be a more fitting time for this because of Veterans Day coming up?”

Mr. Ray Archer from Gretna, suggested some ideas about the “old Klopman site,” stating that it needs some cleanup and a for sale sign at the road so anyone that may be interested in putting a business there would know who to contact. He added that he had attended meetings about a feasibility study that was done, and that everyone needs to be open minded about any potential businesses, including a chicken plant. “We need jobs! Young people are not staying here because there are no jobs.” Mayor Poindexter advised that the SRRIFA is moving forward and there are a number of things going on behind the scenes. All he can say at this point is that the focus is now being geared toward logistics.

Mr. Larry Morris spoke about the condition of the KIP land. He had been to the property to hunt and was surprised by what he saw since the contractor had been in to remove dirt. He added there are concerns about DEQ getting involved. Mayor Poindexter responded that there is wording in the contract with the construction company that repair of any damage to the road or property as a result of their activity is the company’s responsibility.

Council Members’ and/or Committee Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission: None

Economic Development: Mr. Bivens said the tractor pull was successful. Mr. Walter McCormick promoted it as a Town of Hurt event. He would like to see a banner with the Town of Hurt supporting the event or perhaps setting up a tent and cooking hot dogs for the pullers.

Due to having to relocate for employment, Mr. Bivens read his letter of resignation from council effective January 1, 2019.

Human Resources, Legal & Police: Mr. Johnson advised he had contacted manpower about bringing in an accountant to work on collecting delinquent tax accounts. A motion was made to proceed with getting someone to work on these accounts as soon as possible, and authorizing the mayor to coordinate details such as timing.

Motion: Watson Second: Johnson Passage: Unanimous

Budget & Finance: None

Public Works & Relations: None

Town Attorney's Report

Attorney Eller advised the survey and paperwork is being worked on for the right-of-way vacation for Mr. James Johnson of Riverview Road.

Poplar, Roark, and East Spencer roads are still being researched to have VDOT take over maintenance of these streets. All agreed to continue discussion to the December meeting.

Administrative Office Report

None

Police Report

There were 178 calls for service last month which resulted in two summonses and 12% were traffic stops.

Chief Rowland shared he had spoken to Chief Wilkes from the Town of Gretna about their purchase of police cars from the Missouri Highway Patrol (average mileage is 55,000 miles), and that they have been pleased. He also spoke to USDA; their grant will pay 35% towards purchase of used cars. Additional costs for two vehicles are: lights (\$1,058), Console (\$975), Cages (\$1,200), and Radios (\$4,000). Total cost for two cars would be around \$24,303, plus travel to pick up. Chief Rowland suggested selling the Charger and Impala to offset some of the cost of the newer vehicles. The blue book value to the Charger is \$13,000 and the Impala is \$1,200 – \$1,300.

Mr. Larry Morris asked if SUV's had been looked at. The fire department just purchased one from Canada and had to only add lights cheaper than one can be purchased locally.

Mayor Poindexter said the discussion should be continued to a committee level meeting.

Lastly, Chief Rowland advised any phone calls coming from the town office is being identified as "Altavista." Mayor Poindexter said this was an issue early on with the new system, but he thought it had been resolved. He plans to discuss further with IT servicer.

Public Works Report

Mr. Hodges said the last few water tests for HAA5's and THM's have come up high.

Mr. Bernard Proctor from VDH is aware but has not gotten back to him on this yet.

The week after Thanksgiving, the company contracted to exercise valves is supposed to be in town to begin work. Mr. Hodges indicated he has already located most valves.

Fire hydrants are scheduled for flushing on Friday, November 9, 2018 by HVFD.

Poplar Street resurfacing is scheduled for December.

Mayor’s Report

Tree lighting event is scheduled for Sunday, December 2, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.

The Council & Staff Christmas Dinner is scheduled for Friday, December 7, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at J.T.’s at the Lavallette House in Gretna.

The January 2019 council meeting falls on New Year’s Day. Everyone agreed to reschedule it for Monday, January 7, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

The Pittsylvania County Mass Transit Survey is on both the Town of Hurt and Pittsylvania County websites, or paper copies can be picked up at Town Hall.

Broadband is now available. A tower has been installed in Grit. In February or March another tower is planned for installation atop the Hurt water tank.

VDOT bridge update: a contractor will soon be chosen and will decide when to close the bridge between Hurt and Altavista. Currently, a March 2019 time frame is anticipated.

Mayor Poindexter said we need to look at Pittsylvania County’s Public Libraries idea to have a library in town. Mr. Watson questioned why it is needed when there is one just across the river in the Town of Altavista.

Chief Rowland shared the election results: Mr. Watson- 274, Mr. Jeff Saunders- 282, and write-ins- 38 (Tom Garrett-2, Marty Mattox- 2, Vernet Bulerin-Coles- 2, Mary Beth Laney- 2, and Kathy Ward-2; numerous others with 1).

Mr. Glenn Mitchell of Darrell Lane reported an incident over the previous week with a neighbor’s pit bull dog and could have easily been bitten. He wanted to know if the town can implement a leash law. Attorney Eller will review the current ordinances.

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

Motion: Bivens Second: Clay Passage: unanimous

Closed session began at 8:45 p.m. and concluded at 9:07 p.m.

A motion was made to certify only prospective business was discussed in closed session, as required by VA FOIA § 2.2-3712 (D).

Motion: Watson Second: Clay Passage: unanimous

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9:08 p.m.

Susan Frazier

Susan Frazier, Clerk

Gary Poindexter

Gary Poindexter, Mayor