

**Town Council of Hurt, Virginia
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2019**

Council held its monthly business meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., at the town hall in council chambers. All members were present.

Mayor Poindexter convened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance after Chief Rowland led an invocation. The mayor then welcomed Mr. Jeff Saunders to council in his opening remarks about the New Year beginning a new term of the council. The 2019 state-of-the-town address was postponed until next month pending further information.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the accounting reports and previous meeting minutes as presented. Motion: Watson Second: Clay Passage: Unanimous

Appointments

Vice-Mayor: A motion was made to elect Mr. Steve Watson as Vice-Mayor for 2019. Motion: Clay Second: Bivens Passage: Unanimous

Planning Commission: Mr. H. A. Merricks and Mr. Glenn Mitchell have expressed interest in remaining on the Planning Commission for another term. A motion was made to approve these re-appointments. Motion: Watson Second: Saunders Passage: Unanimous

A motion was made to approve Mr. Collin Adams as council representative to the Planning Commission. Motion: Clay Second: Bivens Passage: Unanimous

Council Vacancy: Mr. Donney Johnson has expressed interest in filling the vacancy on council until a required special election is held in November. A motion was made to appoint Mr. Johnson fill this vacancy. Motion: Clay Second: Watson Passage: Unanimous
There was some discussion. Mr. Saunders asked about write-ins from the November 2018 election who were willing to fill this vacancy and how it may look to the public not to ask one of them.
Mr. Watson expressed the need for continuity and experience at this time.
Mr. Eller advised that Mr. Bivens should submit a letter stating that he is 'retiring' from council as of May 31, 2019 (or reflecting the date that he knows when he will leave).
Mr. Bivens's move will result in yet another vacant seat, and there will be two seats to fill in the November 2019 special election.

SRRIFA: Mr. Watson will be replacing Mr. Bivens on the SRRIFA Board of Directors. Mr. Adams volunteered to fill Mr. Watson's position as alternate. A motion was made to appoint Mr. Adams as the SRRIFA Board alternate. Motion: Watson Second: Bivens Passage: Unanimous

Hearing of Citizens/Guest Speakers

None

Council Members' and Committees' Reports

Planning & Zoning: No Items

Economic Development: Mr. Bivens reported that Samet Corporation, Developer of the Southern Virginia Multimodal Park, is responsible for making the right-of-way and road passable from SVMP to the town.

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Mr. Eller advised that this issue needs the strong support of the SRRIFA, especially if Samet isn't forthcoming (as Mr. Hodges reported). There is an existing 80' right-of-way.

HR, Legal, and Police: No Items

Budget & Finance: No Items

Public Works & Relations: Mr. Watson reported that the contract with County Waste states that 3.5% is the most that they can increase this year, but amounts could increase more next year. First Piedmont may also want to bid at that time.

Town Attorney's Report

Mr. Eller reported on the issue of an animal (dog) under immediate control of its owner vs. roaming free. Pittsylvania County has ten defined areas in which a neighborhood has its own designated dog control zone. Mr. Eller is working with Mr. Vaden Hunt to determine if the Town of Hurt can also become one of those areas and thereby have dog ordinances enforced by county animal control officers. Gretna has an ordinance that prohibits a dog from defecating on another's property.

The resolution to vacate the town rights-of-way as requested Mr. James Johnson is complete and only needs the mayor's signature.

DEQ permits and issues (regarding the grading of the KIP land) are the responsibility of Crews Construction, not the town.

Administrative Office Report

No report; clerk absent on sick leave

Public Works Report

Mr. Hodges reported that outside contractors had begun valve maintenance/repair work on the town water system. He also advised that he and Mayor Poindexter have met with Mr. Bernie Proctor from VDH concerning water testing results, and no public notifications are required at this time.

Mr. Hodges informed Council that a water and sewer treatment bill received from Altavista which was far outside normal range and in error had since been corrected.

Lastly, he has thus far obtained two quotes for roof replacement on the town hall and the gazebo. They are from Blackstock Construction and J's.

Police Report

Chief Rowland presented council with report for December 2018 and for the year 2018.

December: 152 calls, 16% traffic stops with 10 summonses

2018: 1,853 calls, 24% traffic stops with 121 summonses

Recently ordered police cars are due the end of February.

The police department will need to upgrade computer software, at an annual cost of \$3,000, which is already a budget line item.

He also gave council members a copy of the "Resolution of Governing Body of Town of Hurt", form VA PN 150 (Rev. 07-06-98), a copy of which is attached to these minutes. This is to be completed so he and the USDA representative can submit the grant form for the police cars. Mr. Eller advised he had investigated the wording 'debt instruments' on the form and approved that this does indeed refer to a grant. A motion was made to adopt the resolution as presented.

Motion: Watson Second: Bivens Passage: Unanimous

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Later in the meeting, Chief Rowland reported that someone living outside the town had inquired about permission to take his dogs to the KIP land to run. All council members agreed to decline the request. Mr. Watson indicated concern over too much liability. Mr. Eller advised that no one needs to be there for that very reason, and suggested that the land be posted. Current hunting permits expire June 30, 2019.

Mayor's Report

The SRRIFA Board of Directors' organizational meeting appears likely for the first week of February. County officials have not yet communicated an exact date and time.

There may be zoning maps forthcoming for all three towns on the county GIS site.

Mayor Poindexter is in discussion with the accounting software company to see what is involved in going to a June tax billing option, similar to that of Pittsylvania County.

He asked council members for their ideas and to identify priorities for the New Year.

Mrs. Clay suggested a town picnic, perhaps in late summer.

Mr. Adams suggested that council determine five top items to work on and address each until complete. He sees town cleanup as a major concern. Mr. Saunders agreed with the cleanup issue.

Mayor Poindexter reminded members to come to the February meeting dressed to have an updated photo taken for the bulletin board and website.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:03.

Dixie S. Poindexter
Dixie S. Poindexter, Volunteer

Gary Poindexter
Gary Poindexter, Mayor