

Hurt Town Council held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at Hurt Town Hall in Council Chambers. The meeting opened at 7 p.m. with a quorum present.

Roll Call

Members present: Saunders, Johnson, Bivens, Watson, and Adams

Absent: Clay

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Watson

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mayor Poindexter

State-of-the-Town Address

Mayor Poindexter spoke about the forward motion and progress of the Town of Hurt over the past year. Some of the progressive steps forward are with the American flags that are now placed on Prospect Road on all major holidays; the Town of Hurt is now a Purple Heart Community, the improvements to our fire department, and the purchase of three new police cars that was enabled by an anonymous donation to the town. There have also been updates to billing procedures to improve efficiency at the town office. We will now see transportation improvements with the new bridge being built between the towns of Hurt and Altavista; Pittsylvania County is working on updating Wayside Park, and there will be a regional bus service coming to our area. In terms of infrastructure, there have been numerous repairs and upgrades but there are still more upgrades that need to take place. Cleanup of the town is very important to bring in industry, and economic development remains a top priority while trying to move forward.

Last year a premier brokerage and investment firm was enlisted by Pittsylvania County to promote the SVMP site nationally and globally. There is interest in the site. It has also received designation as a Federal Opportunity Zone and a State Enterprise Zone. 2019 will bring the new SRRIFA, which will hold its first meeting Friday, February 8. It is the first RIFA in Virginia to have four localities as members. There is \$100,000 in grant funding from the state to move improvements at the industrial park forward. Lastly, due to relocation, Mr. Norman Bivens will be stepping down from his council seat. Mayor Poindexter said, "His shoes will be very difficult to fill."

Consent Agenda

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

Motion: Watson Second: Johnson Passage: unanimous

Appointments/Resignations

Mr. Norman Bivens will be resigning due to relocation. If anyone is interested or knows anyone who may be interested in a temporary appointment to his council seat, please let the mayor know.

Guest Speakers

Mr. Scott Wickham, CPA/CFE from Robinson, Farmer, and Cox presented the audit report for 2018. He found the town finances in good standing with no issues. Controls and documentation are improving. The health of the town is good if there are no major expenditures for repairs or improvements to the aging water system.

Citizen Recognitions/Public Comments

Ms. Kathy Ward of Dogwood Lane feels that the election was not handled correctly. She wanted to know how someone who was not on the ballot is still serving on council. She voiced that Town Hall has a great staff and should be kept at all costs. Mayor Poindexter thanked Ms. Ward for her comments and feedback. He also explained how things were handled with the outcome of the election and why Mr. Johnson has remained.

Mr. Walter McCormick from McCormick's Riverside Arena thanked Mr. Bivens for everything he has done for him and the town.

Reports from Staff

Administrative/Clerk-Treasurer: None

Chief of Police: Chief Rowland advised there were 200 calls for service, 20% were traffic stops resulting in 13 summonses being issued. He attempted to find out the status of the police cars on order, but was unable to speak with anyone before the meeting. He also followed up on litter control, which is still not available from the county. Lastly, he asked for prayers for Officer Lovelace and his family for the loss of Rachel's stepfather.

Public Works: Mr. Hodges advised that AT&T will be adding a new antenna on the water tower. All information and paperwork have been forwarded to Attorney Eller. There is one valve that was broken during the valve work in January that needs to be replaced. McCormick's Service gave a quote of \$4,429.97 to do the repair. Also, a new valve needs to be installed outside the water vault to allow isolation of the business area of town incase a repair needs to be done so the entire town does not lose water. McCormick's Service provided a quote of \$4,492.91 for installation. Nichols Bobcat provided quotes, but the work will be scheduled out due to his current work load.

A motion was made to approve \$9,000 for valve work.

Motion: Bivens Second: Adams Passage: unanimous

Mr. Hodges advised work still needs to be done to the pressure reducing valves. This can be done during the new budget year.

Report from Legal Counsel

None

Reports from Membership

Budget & Finance: None

Economic Development/Planning Commission: Mr. Bivens suggested getting in touch with the Samet group and working on the access right-of-way from SVMP to the town’s Key Industrial Park land. He also suggested the town setting up a tent and cooking hamburgers and hotdogs for the drivers and staff at the McCormick’s Riverside Arena Tractor Pull. That event should have the town’s support.

Human Resources/Legal/Police: None

Public Works & Relations: None

Mayor Poindexter:

There has been a question regarding what needs to be done by the town to allow an Uncle Billy’s Day fireworks display at McCormick’s Riverside Arena. There is a provision in place which requires a resolution from council or mayor and proof of insurance to allow this. After discussion, it was agreed by council to have Attorney Eller draft a resolution and have Mayor Poindexter sign it.

Mayor Poindexter advised there will be budget meeting date(s) announced soon and there will also need to be committee meetings scheduled.

It was suggested to have a Town Clean-Up Day. Mr. Saunders asked if anyone has checked on the Adopt-A-Highway program, he has heard this can be a tax deduction.

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

Motion: Bivens Second: Watson Passage: unanimous

Closed session began at 8:49 p.m. and concluded at 9:07 p.m.

A motion was made to certify that only real estate acquisition was discussed during closed session, as required by VA FOIA Sec. 2.2-3712 (D).

Motion: Watson Second: Johnson Passage: unanimous

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

Susan Frazier

Susan Frazier, Clerk

Gary Poindexter

Gary Poindexter, Mayor