

Hurt, Virginia

April 24, 2019

Hurt Town Council held a called meeting, including its annual budget workshop, on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, at Town Hall in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. and a quorum was present.

**Roll Call**

Members present were: Adams, Clay, Watson, Johnson, and Doss.

Absent: Saunders

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation: given by Vice-Mayor Watson

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mayor Poindexter

**Agenda Items**

Mr. Jeff Gordon from Integrated Technology Group (ITG) spoke about the town's need to have archived email with additional security features. An example would be if an employee was being terminated and deleted his/her emails and then a FOIA request came in for some information that had been there but could no longer be retrieved. This could cause a lawsuit. The town's current email platform does not have the back-up and securities needed for FOIA compliance. He also presented a quote for the email service as well as a laptop for the mayor's office. The cost for a laptop, software, and email service upgrade (13 accounts) was \$5,659. The monthly managed service agreement would increase by \$124 to \$984.

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

Motion: Clay                      Second: Watson                      Passage: unanimous

Closed session began at 6:09 p.m. and concluded at 6:45 p.m.

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

Motion: Watson                      Second: Clay                      Passage: unanimous

Mayor Poindexter announced that during closed session, council agreed to appoint Mrs. Shirley Barksdale-Hill to Jeff Saunders's vacated council seat, effective May 1 and upon her swearing in. A motion was made to make this appointment.

Motion: Watson                      Second: Johnson                      Passage: unanimous

Vice-Mayor Watson reported that he had attended the last Board of Supervisors work session to discuss what options the Town of Hurt may have to implement a leash-law type dog ordinance inside the town limits. He spoke with County Animal Control Officer Susan Dillon, and was informed that the county would need to hire another animal control officer to enforce such an ordinance in the town but did not have the funding to do so. The Board of Supervisors will not support designation of the town as one of the county's leash-law zones to due to the limited resources available for enforcement. Officer Dillon advised that animal control works well with the town police department and they would continue to assist with calls from the town as much as possible. This matter is continued to the May meeting for further discussion.

Chief Rowland updated council on the purchase of the new police cars. They are on the schedule to begin preparation next week and have a tentative delivery time near the end of May.

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Chief Rowland also advised the state is no longer accepting police reports on the Daypro system. This could affect 599 funds for PD assistance. He presented a quote from ID Networks for a service agreement of \$3,000. All police information can be transferred over with this system, it is also hosted, can have up to 10 users, and has tech support and can be installed in 2-3 weeks.

Mayor Poindexter asked if this would qualify for use of PDDR funds in lieu of general funds. Chief Rowland indicated he believes so but will verify.

A motion was made to proceed with purchase using PDDR funds, pending verification, and to authorize the mayor to determine which funds based on the PDDR fund use requirements.

Motion: Watson            Second: Doss            Passage: unanimous

Mayor Poindexter shared the next SRRIFA meeting will be held at Hurt Town Hall on Friday, May 17, 2019, at noon. Also, Poplar Street has been surface treated.

Mr. Hodges advised that a resolution is needed to attach to the water works grant application. There was some additional discussion regarding this and Attorney Eller will contact Ms. Susan Milner from Virginia Department of Health to see what documentation is needed.

Attorney Eller said he presented the offer of \$1,454 per month previously discussed for the cell tower lease agreement. AT&T wants more 5 year escalators, go back to \$1,000 per month and cancellation with a 30 day notice. Council requested a counteroffer of \$1,250 per month, 10% increase in one year, and go back to a one year cancellation notice.

The budget workshop for Fiscal Year 2019-20 presents with several challenges, repairs and upgrades. There are several proposed rate increases to offset these costs. Also, there are a few new line items.

- Real Estate Tax Rate: \$0.175/\$100
- Mobile Home Tax Rate: \$ 0.175/\$100
- Personal Property Tax Rate: \$3.50/\$100
- Auto Decals: \$37 each
- Cell Tower Lease: \$1,250/month, pending negotiations
- Water Rate: +7% (pending rate study by consulting firm)
- Salary increases: Public Works & Police 2% and Clerk-Treasurer 3%
- Addition of part-time clerical assistant position: \$12,000
- Addition of leaf collection service: \$4,640
- Increase to buildings and grounds budget for new roofs on town hall & gazebo

Council agrees with the budget proposal with the exception of leaf collection. If something needs to be cut, then that should be looked at and possibly postponed.

There being no further business, council adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

*Susan Frazier*  
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Susan Frazier, Clerk

*Gary Poindexter*  
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Gary Poindexter, Mayor