

Hurt, Virginia

May 7, 2019

Town Council held its monthly business meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at Town Hall in Council Chambers. The meeting opened at 6:05 p.m. with a quorum present.

**Roll Call**

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

Note: Barksdale-Hill arrived at approximately 6:30.

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

Motion: Clay                                      Second: Adams                                      Passage: Unanimous

Closed session began at 6:07 p.m. and concluded at 7:41 p.m.

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

Motion: Adams                                      Second: Clay                                      Passage: Unanimous

There were no outcomes to report from the closed session.

There was a brief recess at 7:42, and the meeting reconvened at 7:50. An invocation was given by Chief Rowland and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Poindexter.

In brief opening remarks Mayor Poindexter welcomed two new Councilmembers, Shirley Barksdale-Hill and Randy Doss, thanking them for their willingness to serve.

**Consent Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion: Watson                                      Second: Johnson                                      Passage: Unanimous

**Hearing of Guest Speakers**

Mr. Patrick Brown and Mr. Tracy Bradwell of Thunderstruck Fastpitch gave an update on the progress of their organization. In addition to helping with softball skills, they and the other adults who help them offer guidance to young people and “build adults”. Currently, they have four teams and will begin a 5<sup>th</sup> team in July. In addition, they are looking to expand into baseball. The cost to have a child enrolled in their program is \$50 a month. Thunderstruck will sponsor an “Anti-Bully and Anti-Suicide Day” on August 24, 2019. They asked if they could use the town hall parking lot and grounds if necessary. The council unanimously agreed they could.

Mr. Scott Francis and Mr. Jeff Gordon of ITG gave a presentation on IT upgrades council is purchasing. They gave each member a descriptive information packet. The Dell laptop comes with a three year warranty. Included in the considered purchase is a fully FOIA-compliant email platform with required archiving and improved anti-virus/anti-SPAM features. Continual updates of Office 365 will also be included. Cell boosters to help with poor reception inside town hall are also available for approximately \$3,000.00 more. An antenna for this would be attached to the south end of the building. The

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Managed Service Agreement (MSA) is up for renewal in September, and these new purchases will be in addition to the MSA. Currently, the server, firewall, and Cisco appear in good condition. Therefore, ITG does not anticipate a big increase in the MSA.

### **Public Comments**

Gary Hodnett spoke about the condition of the Staunton Plaza grounds. He reported that in his work, he often speaks with executives of companies. He has sent them pictures of the plaza. They have told him that it has the appearance of an abandoned community in a large city, and the fact that it has gotten in this condition is seen as acceptable to council. He also stated that council needs to focus on industrial and commercial sites such as the plaza and SVMP rather than on residential properties.

### **Reports from Staff**

Clerk-Treasurer: No report (absent due to illness)

Police: Chief Rowland advised there were 223 calls for service in the month of April, 22% of which were traffic stops, resulting in 13 summonses being issued. Chief also gave an update on new RMS PD software installation – one month, ITG tie in. On June 5, the staff will host Business Appreciation Week for local business owners. This will be a Meet & Greet at Roosevelt Mattox Park gazebo from 9:00 –11:00 a.m. Memorial Day is coming up and we need to remember the reason for the day and take time to remember and pray for families of those who did not return.

Public Works: Mr. Hodges reported a conversation he had with Scotty Wilkerson from Utility Services. Mr. Wilkerson says that our water tank is not up to OSHA standards due to the design of the catwalk around it. Climbers need to unhook their harness to enter the area. It needs a gate and a swing gate. AT&T says the town would be liable for not having this. Mr. Eller stated that if only needed and used by AT&T, then installing it needs to be their responsibility. Mr. Eller will check the original contract with AT&T.

### **Attorney's Report**

It is not feasible to have the town designated as one of Pittsylvania County's "leash-law zones," as county officials have indicated they do not have enough available manpower to effectively enforce such a zone in the town. Hurt is not in a financial position to hire its own animal warden or reimburse the county for the cost of another one to cover the town territory. Therefore, Mr. Eller suggested that the town adopt the same dog ordinance as the county. This would allow county animal wardens to serve our area on an as-needed basis and avoid confusion in the enforcement of two different local policies. Mr. Adams asked what the difference is between the county and town ordinances. Mr. Eller said they are already basically the same but are structured differently. A motion was made to advertise for a public hearing on adopting the county's animal control ordinance.

Motion: Watson

Second: Johnson

Passage: Unanimous

**Reports from Membership**

*Budget & Finance:* None

*Economic Development/Planning Commission:* None

*Human Resources/Legal/Police:* Mr. Johnson asked if we can only target commercial and industrial sectors under certain property maintenance codes, with a focus on Main Street, and also whether drone flyovers could be used to help assess the condition of properties in question.

*Public Works:* Mr. Adams indicated he would like to hold a public works committee meeting and will get with the committee members to decide on a date.

*Mayor:* After further consideration and feedback since the April 24<sup>th</sup> budget workshop, Mayor Poindexter presented "Draft B" of the proposed FY 2019-20 budget. He pointed out that the only changes from the original "Draft A" are to remove the leaf collection line item, thereby eliminating a need to pull money from reserves to balance the budget, and then reallocating the small remaining difference to IT for anticipated extra costs there. Mr. Adams asked what the real estate taxes looked like to the average person. After explaining how real estate taxes are computed based on county valuation data and that each cent of increase in the town's rate yields almost \$7,000 in projected tax revenue for the town, Mayor Poindexter asked councilmembers for any further ideas they may have concerning the proposed budget. After minimal discussion, a motion was made to advertise for public hearing the "Draft B" proposed budget.

Motion: Watson                      Second: Clay                      Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Poindexter then asked council their thought on the IT improvement/upgrade package that had been presented by and discussed with ITG earlier in the meeting. A motion was made to approve purchase of the approximately \$8,495 package.

Motion: Johnson                      Second: Watson                      Passage: Unanimous

The mayor advised that the utility rate study is still underway and progressing.

The next SRRIFA meeting is scheduled for noon on May 17 at town hall.

Due to the July 4 holiday, council agreed to reschedule the July 2 meeting to July 16.

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

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

*Gary Poindexter*  
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Gary Poindexter, Mayor