

Hurt, Virginia

August 20, 2019

Town Council held its monthly business meeting Tuesday, August 20, 2019, at Town Hall in Council Chambers. The meeting opened at 7:01 p.m. with a quorum present.

Roll Call

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

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Watson

Pledge of Allegiance: led by Mayor Poindexter

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Frazier advised the minutes for July 16, 2019 & July 29, 2019 was not ready due to preparing water bills. She said those minutes as well as up to date financials would be ready by the September 3, 2019 meeting. A motion was made to approve minutes for July 30, 2019 and end of fiscal year 2019 financials as presented.

Motion: Adams Second: Johnson Passage: unanimous

Welcome/Opening Remarks

Mayor Poindexter welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for participating in local government.

Hearing of Citizens

Mayor Poindexter reminded everyone there is a three minute time for each person to speak with a total time for the combined time of 30 minutes.

Ms. Gloria Worley of Spring Street shared her love of a beautiful yard. She pointed out the “old Dalton House beside the school” needs additional work.

Ms. Debra Sirockman, owner of Virginia Found Goods on Pocket Road, expressed her continued interest in purchasing about 5 acres from the town to expand her business.

Mr. Robert Payne of School Road, felt the ordinances of the town should continue to be enforced on such properties as the one across from Hurt School.

Mr. Bud Brown of Lynn Street was concerned about property maintenance and the current ordinances the town has, the water system and the need for upgrades, and the continued sewer systems failures in our town. He feels the town needs to seek out grant writers. “We are being left out of any county support but Mr. Elton Blackstock is genuinely concerned about our area.”

Ms. Sandy Short of Prospect Road, said she is concerned about the property at the corner of School Road and Prospect Road.

Mr. Bob Haynes of High Street noted he said he has spoken to council before about the condition of the properties in town. He feels “we need another Mr. Hurt,” noting that he would visit with the citizens and provide paint to help.

Mr. Derek Shelton of Spring Street, thanked the Mayor and Council for their efforts and hard work. He does feel that properties in town need to be cleaned up.

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Mr. Matt Gibson of School Road stated that he had received a letter from the town about “collection of filth” according to the current ordinance, but he was very offended by getting this letter and feels there could be a better way to have handled it.

Mr. Larry Stark of Lynn Street, expressed concerns about how the storm damage from the storm on May 31 was handled by the town. He said more should have been done by Council and Mayor, and that Pittsylvania County did not help either.

Reports from Staff

Clerk: Mrs. Frazier shared water bills have been sent out and collection has started. She advised the auditor will be at Town Hall Wednesday, August 28, 2019.

Chief of Police: Chief Rowland said there were 109 calls for service, 13% were traffic stops resulting in 1 summons. Letters have been mailed out for ordinance violations. There was a four-page list presented for council to review. He advised he has received several phone calls regarding them. He shared the quote for removing the lettering from the old police cars: \$250 each for the Impala and the Crown Victoria, \$350 for the Charger. Quote for lettering the new police cars would be \$900 per car.

Mr. Watson felt smaller lettering would be more appropriate due to costs of putting it on and later removing it. Mr. Adams said council would like to see additional lettering ideas. Chief Rowland asked when the cars should be taken to have the lettering removed from the old cars. Council agreed to proceed immediately. Rowland also noted that an anonymous person has come forward to pay for the towns of Altavista, Brookneal and Hurt to have pink badges to wear in October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Public Works: Mr. Hodges updated council that the sinkhole behind Town Hall had to have a temporary repair done, but money needs to be set aside for a more permanent fix. Several water leaks were found during water meter reading that had to be fixed. Wisecarver (tree surgeon) was in town over the past week for tree trimming on Roark Street and the road behind Town Hall that goes to Faith Christian Academy.

Legal Counsel Reports

Attorney Eller shared there are no updates or any further contact from/with AT&T. The corral has to be fixed before a lease agreement can be done. He reported the master list of rates & fees is being worked on and should be presented at the next council meeting.

Membership/Committees Reports

Administration: Mr. Johnson advised the committee met last Thursday, August 15 to review applications and this coming Thursday, August 22 interviews will be conducted.

Economic Development: None

Finance: None

Planning & Zoning Commission: None

Public Works: None

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Poindexter asked for retroactive approval to transfer \$45,000 from LGIP Reserves to the FNB Operating Fund with the intent to move the funds back by the end of the year. The transfer is to give added cushion during the start of the new fiscal year. A motion was made to approve the transfer as requested.

Motion: Watson Second: Barksdale-Hill Passage: unanimous

Ms. Sirockman’s request to purchase approximately five acres of land from the Town of Hurt was discussed. After discussion, Council agreed the first step is to get an appraisal.

The town’s IT/Managed Services Agreement is coming up for renewal in September. Mayor Poindexter has met with and received a quote from TekaByte. Mr. Watson suggested a month to month agreement with ITG until we can get an updated quote from them and compare.

There was much discussion about the proposed utility rate structure and different possible scenarios. Mayor Poindexter expressed the importance of making a decision in a timely matter. He said more “homework” needs to be done and this issue revisited in two weeks at the next Council meeting.

A motion was made to enter closed session to discuss personnel, prospective business, and real estate matters, as authorized by VA FOIA Sec. 2.2-3711 A (1)(3)(5).

Motion: Watson Second: Johnson Passage: unanimous

Closed session began at 8:43 p.m. and concluded at 9:48 p.m.

Mr. Adams left the meeting at approximately 9:40 p.m.

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

Motion: Watson Second: Clay Passage: unanimous

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Susan Frazier

Susan Frazier, Clerk

Gary Poindexter

Gary Poindexter, Mayor