Town of Hurt
Minutes
December 17, 2024

Business Meeting Call to Order Roll Call

Roll Call:

Steve, Paul, Wanda, Bob and Gary P.

- Gary Hodnett initiates the work session for the town of Hurt, calling it to order.
- Gary Hodnett mentions the schedule for the work session set for December 17 at 6:01 PM.
- Gary Hodnett asks for a motion to move into a closed session for specific reasons.

Motion for Closed Session

- Gary Poindexter confirms the need for a motion and lists the sections of code of Virginia 1950 that justify the closed session details the reasons for the closed session, including personnel matters, real estate discussions, and prospective business.

- Gary Hodnett asks for a second to the motion to close the session. Motion is seconded and approved unanimously. Gary confirms the motion to close the session has been seconded.
- The open session is officially closed at 6:04 PM.

Meeting is reopened.

The meeting discussed the progress of the Pivot Energy solar farm and the water treatment plant, with construction set to begin soon.
A real estate tax billing error was addressed, with a motion to extend the tax deadline to January 16, 2025, without penalties.
Upcoming town events were planned, including a March 8 cleanup and potential summer events.

The need for new council appointments and budget planning for the next fiscal year was highlighted.

The group also discussed the status of veterans' tax exemptions and the capital improvement plan, noting delays due to state approvals.

Finally, the need for new town shirts for public works staff was proposed.

Action Items

- Extend the due date for real estate tax payments to January 16th, 2023, with no interest or penalties.
- Coordinate with First United Methodist Church to use their facility for the March 8th road cleanup event.

- Reach out to Thunderstruck to confirm the date for the annual Halloween trunk-or-treat event.
- Begin work on the budget spreadsheet for the upcoming year.
- Order town shirts for Paul and Joe to wear when representing the town.

Pivot Energy Solar Farm and Water Treatment Plant Updates

- Gary Hodnett announces that the easement for the Pivot Energy Solar Farm is going through, and engineers have completed their final checks.
- Construction on the solar farm is set to begin once Dominion reviews the final proposal.
- The water treatment plant is also moving forward, with Bob Williamson providing updates.
- A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night 5-8pm to discuss the solar farm and address any questions from the community.

Real Estate Tax Billing Issue

- Gary Poindexter raises a concern about incorrect real estate tax bills, which were billed at the old rate of 22 cents per $100 of assessed value instead of the new rate of 13 cents.
- Some residents have already paid taxes unaware of the error and will need refunds or credits.
- Gary Poindexter suggests extending the tax deadline to the end of the month to avoid late penalties.
- Gary Hodnett confirms that new tax bills will be issued to reflect the correct tax rate and that refunds will be processed by December 31.

Proposed Tax Deadline Extension

- Gary Hodnett mentions that a new tax bill with a letter of explanation will be sent to all residents.
- The new tax bill will have a due date of January 16, 2025, with no interest or penalties before that date.
- Gary Poindexter makes a motion to extend the due date on real estate taxes to January 16, 2025, which is seconded and approved by the group.

Upcoming Town Events

- Bob Majure proposes scheduling the Hurt Road cleanup for March 8, with March 15 as the rain date.
- The cleanup will tentatively start at 9am start time at the Hurt United Methodist Church, pending their approval.
- Discussion about the Memorial Day event, with consideration given to alternative dates like Fourth of July.
- Gary Hodnett suggests organizing a summer kids' night with movies and activities to engage the community. Jason gave his support for doing something like this for the kids.
- Trunk or Treat was discussed working with Thunder Struck for this event.

Christmas Event and Future Planning

- The group discusses the success of the recent Christmas event and plans for next year's event.

- Bob Majure suggests working with the Alta Vista community to coordinate events to avoid competition.
- The Christmas parade is scheduled for the second Sunday in December, with the Christmas event following on the same day.
- The group agrees to revisit the topic in the January work session for further planning.

Annual Reorganization and Budget Planning

- Gary Poindexter reminds the group about the upcoming January meeting for annual reorganization and the need to consider appointments and vacancies.
- The budget process will begin soon, with Gary Poindexter starting work on the spreadsheet to prepare for the first half of January.
- The group acknowledges the need to start planning for next year's budget and the various expenses and projects that will require funding.

Veterans' Tax Exemptions and Other Updates

- Gary Hodnett explains that veterans' tax exemptions did not come through from the county, causing confusion and delays.
- The group discusses the various exemptions available, including those for fire departments and military personnel.
- Bob Majure inquires about the status of checks mailed to vendors, and Gary Hodnett confirms they will be written and mailed soon.
- The group also discusses the capital improvement plan and the status of the water system project, which is expected to be completed in the fall of 2025.

Police Memorandum and Lease Agreement

- Gary Hodnett presents a police memorandum summarizing the lease agreement for a new project.
- The lease will start immediately, with the town taking possession of the property for a period of 10 years.
- The group discusses the details of the lease and the need to finalize the agreement before moving forward.

The meeting adjourns at 7:38 PM.