

TOWN OF HURT 2025

MEETING MINUTES

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Date: February 4, 2025

Time: 6PM

Meeting called to order by: MAYOR GARY HODNETT

IN ATTENDANCE

- Jimmy Harding, Alice Bond, Bob Majure and Gary Poindexter, Paul Johnson, Steve Worley, establishing a quorum.

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHING QUORUM

- Gary Hodnett calls the Hurt Town Council meeting scheduled for February 4 to order at 6:05 PM.
- Gary Hodnett confirms the presence of Steve, Paul, Jimmy, Alice, Bob, and Gary P. establishing a quorum.
- Gary Hodnett inquires if there is a motion to move into a closed session.
- Gary Poindexter mentions real estate and prospective business as reasons for the closed session and personnel.

MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

- Gary Poindexter moves that the council convene a closed session in accordance with Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended.
- The reasons for the closed session include personnel discussions, real estate considerations, and prospective business.
- Specific sections of the Code of Virginia cited include 2.2-3711.81 for personnel matters and 2.2-3711.83 for real estate.
- The need for a closed session is justified to protect negotiating strategies and prevent harm to prospective business discussions.

SECONDING THE MOTION AND VOTING

- Bob Majure seconds the motion for the closed session.
- Gary Hodnett calls for individual votes on the motion.
- Gary P, Bob, Alice, Jimmy, Paul, and Steve all vote in favor of the closed session.
- The motion is passed, and the council moves into a closed session at 6:10 PM.

ACTION ITEMS

- Convene a closed session to discuss personnel, real estate, and prospective business matters.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION AND INVOCATION

- Mayor Hodnett motions to return and certify a closed session.
- Bob makes a motion for the certification of the closed meeting, citing the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.
- Gary Hodnett calls for a second, which is given by Jimmy. Each member Steve, Paul, Jimmy, Alice, Bob, and Gary approve.

Gary Poindexter leads the invocation, thanking God for community, life, health, liberty, and the men and women who serve and protect.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Lead by Mayor Hodnett

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES AND AGENDA

- Gary Hodnett mentions that the meeting minutes have been emailed and asks if anyone has reviewed them.
- Alice Bond brings up the Staunton River Regional Industrial Facility, noting some wording issues.
- a detailed review will be done in the work session.
- Gary Hodnett asks if there are any additions to the agenda, and Bob mentions the budget.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

- The budget discussion begins, with Bob and Gary P. identifying specific issues such as negative expenses in the insurance and cellular communications sections. Gary Hodnett and Gary P discuss the possibility of coding issues affecting the budget numbers.
- Bob points out a negative expenditure in the River Trail technical support section, which is attributed to increased support needs.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE AND PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

- Gary Hodnett moves on to new business, mentioning ongoing work with the county and the Danville Regional Foundation.
- Gary Hodnett updates the council on the water treatment plant, noting that funding will come from the state and Staunton River Plastics.
- Gary Hodnett thanks Representative Ziere and Mulchi for including the water treatment plant funding in the budget amendment.
- Shannon reports on the last quarter's building expenses and collections, noting that 96% of the \$114,641.85 has been collected.
- Joe provides a public works report, mentioning various repairs and service line issues.

DISCUSSION ON DISABLED RESIDENT'S WATER BILL

- Joe discusses a specific case involving a disabled resident with high water bills, seeking guidance on how to handle the situation.
- Joe explains the resident's disability and the challenges in finding the leak.
- Gary Hodnett and other council members discuss the possibility of a payment plan or other assistance for the disabled resident.
- John Eller suggests creating a contract to ensure the resident can honor any payment agreements.
- The council debates the legal and ethical considerations of providing water to disabled residents, including the need for proof of disability and income.
- Mayor suggests applying with the General Assembly to be able to provide relief for low-income families.
- Our Representative has to present the information to the state. It will take about 3 yrs. to complete.
- Jimmy Harding will give suggestions of places for the veteran to contact.

PROPOSAL FOR GRADUATE OF MERIT SPONSORSHIP

- Jason presents a proposal to sponsor a graduate of merit from Pittsylvania County and provide a scholarship of \$250.
- Jason explains the significance of recognizing the best and brightest students and the potential benefits for the town.
- The council discusses the funding source for the sponsorship and scholarship, with suggestions to use police department funds or other available resources.
- Jason agrees to look into the feasibility of using Moose Lodge funds for the sponsorship.

TOWN CODE REVIEW AND LETTER OF INTENT WITH BALICO

- John announces the completion of the town code review and the need for the council to review the 259 pages and approve the final draft.
- Gary Hodnett asks for volunteers to read and review the code, with John agreeing to take on the task.
- Bob presents a revised Letter of Intent with Balico, highlighting the additional funds for financially disadvantaged consumers and fire department support.
- The council unanimously approves the revised Letter of Intent, noting the benefits for the town and county.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS AND WEBSITE UPDATES

- Bob motions to recognize Shannon's work and propose a \$1 raise, effective immediately, with a potential additional increase after a three-month evaluation.
- The motion is seconded and approved by the council.
- Paul raises the issue of updating the town website, including correcting officer information and other details.
- Gary Hodnett and other council members discuss the importance of maintaining an accurate and up-to-date website for public relations and business attraction.

FINAL COMMENTS

- Paul thanks the council and staff for their efforts during the snowstorm and recent events.
- Gary Poindexter emphasizes the importance of maintaining a current and accurate website for the town's benefit.
- The council discusses the need for a personnel panel to handle website updates and other tasks.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

- meeting is adjourned at 8:02 PM.
 - Next Meeting March 4, 2025