TOWN OF HURT 2025 MEETING MINUTES

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Date:	May 6, 2025
Time:	6:03PM
Meeting called to order by:	MAYOR GARY HODNETT

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Majure, Gary Poindexter, Jimmy Harding, Steve Worley, Alice Bond, & Paul Johnson

MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

- Mayor called for a motion to move into closed session.
- Gary Poindexter moves that the council convene a closed session in accordance with Virginia Freedom of Information Act as amended.

- A. Real Estate, Prospective Business (as necessary) (Authorization: § 2.2-3711 A (1) (3) (5) as applicable)
- Alice and Bob second the motion for the closed session.
- Mayor Hodnett calls for individual votes on the motion.
- Council members: Gary P., Bob M., Alice B., Jimmy H., Paul J., and Steve W. all voted in favor of the closed session.
- The motion is passed, and the council moves into a closed session.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION AND INVOCATION

- Mayor Hodnett calls for motion to return and certify a closed session.
- Councilman Majure makes a motion for the certification of the closed meeting, citing the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.
- Mayor Hodnett calls for a second, each council member: Worley, Johnson, Harding, Bond, Majure, and Poindexter approve.
- Councilman Poindexter leads the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Lead by Mayor Hodnett

CONSENT AGENGA AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

- April Expenditures
- The council approves the consent agenda, including April expenditures and minutes, with a motion to move an item to a later position on the agenda.
- April 1,2025 Business Meeting minutes
- The council moves on to reports from staff, including updates from the treasurer, public works, and the police department.
- The council discusses the importance of addressing public comments and ensuring that all concerns are addressed in a timely manner.

REVIEW OF EXPENDITURES

Gary Poindexter asked when monthly reports will be clean up. Mayor doesn't have time to complete the task.

The council discusses the ongoing cleanup of monthly reports and the importance of accurate financial tracking.

Mayor gave budget information.

Gary P. made a motion to approve the expenditures with understanding of clean up needing to be made.

Jimmy H. seconded the motion, and all council members approved.

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES AND AGENDA

Bob Majure made a motion to approve the minutes.

Jimmy Harding seconded the motion, and all council members approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2025-2026 Budget
    - Paying more for water than what's being billed.
    - Town has a water loss problem. Joe Smith mentions the difficulty of tracking water loss and the need for better data.
    - Joe Smith discusses the challenges of tracking water usage, especially for fire department activities.
    - Had lines tested but nothing was found.
    - Joe Smith discusses the challenges of tracking water usage, especially for fire department activities.
    - Gary Hodnett and Gary Poindexter discuss the need for realistic water usage estimates and the impact on budgeting.
- State Water Mandate Update
    - The council discusses the importance of maintaining infrastructure and ensuring that all projects are completed in a timely manner.

    - Gary Poindexter asked about maintenance on the waterlines.
    - System improvements were discussed
    - Continue discussion on the budget Thursday, May 8, 2025
- No Parking Signs and Traffic Concerns
    - Jason Lovelace discusses the issue of faded no parking signs and the increase in car riders at the school, leading to traffic congestion.
    - Steve Worley mentions the inconvenience to residents on Spring Street due to the morning traffic.
    - Jason Lovelace explains the need to enforce the no parking signs to maintain safety and order.
    - Gary Hodnett highlights the potential liability if the no parking signs are ignored, and accidents occur.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

- Treasurer- Shannon Race:
    - gave councilmembers check listing for April, collected signatures

- Clerk-Shannon Race:
    - implementation of electronic billing for utilities and updates to customer records. updating records still digitizing
    - processing a lot of checks.
    - discussed using eVA System for Phase II
- Public Works- Joe Smith:
    - 504 Smith Ln received new meter
    - Working with engineers
    - New Prospect Church disconnected one of the water lines
    - discussed solar panel approval for town resident
- Police Department-Chief Lovelace:
    - discussed no parking signs by school
    - received litter grant in the amount of $2085.00
    - discussed electrical quotes for the plaza lights
    - VDot is doing an engineer study on Spring St.
    - mentions sending letters to property owners about grass maintenance.
- Attorney-John Eller:
    - Municode should be ready on May 30, 2025
    - Index is still being completed
    - Hoping to pass maybe in June
    - $10,500 has been paid, $2,637 left to pay
    - Recurring cost
    - Maintenance services

ITEMS ARISING SUBSEQUENT TO NOTICE

Paul Johnson made a motion to fix the plaza lights. Bob Majure seconded the motion. All council members voted in favor.

MEETING CONTINUED:

- Gary Poindexter outlines the need for accurate water usage estimates and the impact on budgeting.
- Gary Hodnett suggests continuing the meeting to finalize the budget, considering the complexity of the issues
- Bob Majure proposes having a dedicated budget meeting to address all the details.
- meeting is continued at 8:07 pm, to Thursday May 8, 2025, 6pm.

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

Meeting Call to Order and Roll Call

- Gary Hodnett calls the May 6 meeting of the hurt town council to order at 604 PM.
- Roll call confirms a quorum: Steve, Paul, Jimmy, Alice, Bob, Gary.
- Gary Hodnett mentions a piece of business from the previous meeting involving Ella Goodman's fence damage.
- Discussion on cutting down trees on Town property, and to repair Ella Goodman's fence.

Discussion on Ella Goodman's Fence Issue

- Gary Hodnett mentions no quotes have been received yet.
- Paul Johnson recalls McGill cutting down trees in the past.
- Bob Majure agrees to take care of the issue.
- Gary Hodnett plans to contact a professional to arrange the tree cutting and fence repair.

Jordan Parker's Concerns on Car Rider System

- Jordan Parker addresses concerns from parents about recent changes in the car rider system at Hurt Elementary School.
- Jordan Parker explains the long-standing efficiency and speed of the car rider system.
- On April 27, a Facebook post by the chief of police about new parking signs caused confusion and disruption.

- Jordan Parker contacted town officials and VDOT to address the issue, leading to a resolution involving the removal of signs and placement of cones.
- Jordan Parker expresses frustration over the lack of communication and coordination between the town and the school.
- Jordan Parker requests that future changes involving the school be communicated through him directly.
- Jordan Parker emphasizes the need for transparency and cooperation to avoid similar disruptions in the future.
- Bob Majure suggests a work session to discuss the issue further.

Budget Discussion and Initial Proposals

- Gary Hodnett and Gary Poindexter discuss the budget, including the general fund and enterprise fund.
- Gary Poindexter explains the general fund's purpose and the enterprise fund's self-supporting nature.
- Discussion on the proposed tax rates, including a two-cent increase on the real estate tax rate.
- Gary Poindexter highlights the decline in cigarette tax revenue and its impact on the budget.

Review of Revenue and Expenditure Projections

- Gary Poindexter reviews the projected revenue and expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Discussion on the accuracy of valuation data and its impact on personal property tax estimates.
- Gary Poindexter explains the allocation of personal property tax between the general fund and the enterprise fund.
- Bob Majure questions the accuracy of the railroad rolling stock tax estimate.

Operational and Professional Services Costs

- Gary Poindexter reviews operational costs for the administrative office, including insurance and office supplies.
- Discussion on the potential purchase of a letter folder to streamline office operations.
- Review of professional services costs, including auditing and legal fees.
- Gary Poindexter explains the allocation of these costs between the general fund and the enterprise fund.

Public Works and Police Department Budgets

- Review of the public works budget, including street maintenance and garbage collection.
- Discussion on the potential cost of upgrading streetlights to LEDs.
- Review of the police department's budget, including operational costs and capital reserves.
- Gary Poindexter explains the importance of setting aside funds for future police car purchases.

Fire Department and Community Development Budgets

- Review of the fire department's budget, including state funds and equipment maintenance.
- Discussion on the community development budget, including economic development projects and infrastructure improvements.
- Gary Hodnett and Gary Poindexter debate the allocation of funds for various projects.
- Decision to move on to the water and wastewater budget without finalizing the community development budget.

Water and Wastewater Budget Review

- Gary Poindexter reviews the water and wastewater budget, including revenue projections and operational costs.
- Discussion on the accuracy of water volume estimates and the impact on revenue.
- Review of the capital budget for water and wastewater projects, including debt service and consulting fees.
- Gary Hodnett and Gary Poindexter discuss the importance of accurate budgeting to ensure long-term sustainability.

Infrastructure Development and Expenses

- Gary Hodnett discusses the need to apply money for infrastructure development, water, or other necessary expenses and then get reimbursed by the state.
- Gary Poindexter and Gary Hodnett discuss the process of paying expenses upfront and then seeking reimbursement, highlighting the current large expenses like railroad licensing and permitting.
- Paul Johnson inquired about the terms of state reimbursement, and Gary Hodnett explains that the state typically pays back within 30 days after receiving the receipt.
- Gary Poindexter mentions the need for system repair and maintenance due to frequent repairs and breakages in the 40+ year-old water system.

Lost Water and Maintenance Issues

- Gary Hodnett reports a significant loss of $19,512 in water that was purchased but not billed due to leaks and other issues.
- Gary Poindexter and Gary Hodnett discuss specific examples of water loss, such as a leak at Prospect Church that was discovered after a trash truck caved the road in.
- Jimmy Harding and Gary Poindexter discuss the total water expenditures and the need to maintain capital reserves, which are currently at $13,000 and $27,000 respectively.
- Gary Poindexter explains the difficulty of increasing the volumetric rate to balance the budget and the need to find other places to trim expenses.

Solar Farm and General Fund Impact

- Jimmy Harding asks if the solar farm could help alleviate some of the financial burdens, but Gary Poindexter clarifies that it would only help the general fund, not the water and wastewater enterprise fund.
- Gary Hodnett mentions the constant need for repair work and the financial strain of paying invoices upfront, with a significant debt to service in the future.
- Gary Poindexter emphasizes the importance of maintaining reserves for future financing and the need for a higher volumetric rate to cover expenses.
- Bob Majure suggests getting engineers to look at preventative measures for water main issues, and Gary Hodnett agrees, noting the importance of spending money proactively.

Rate Adjustments and Financial Strain

- Paul Johnson and Gary Poindexter discuss the potential impact of increasing the volumetric rate to $19 per 1000 gallons and the quarterly base charge to $26.
- Gary Poindexter explains the financial strain of the current situation, with the need to make hard decisions and face criticism from the public.
- Gary Hodnett highlights the trend of decreasing water usage and the impact of higher rates on volume sales, making it difficult to balance the budget.
- Steve Worley suggests maintaining the current rate of $19 per 1000 gallons to avoid further financial strain, but Gary Poindexter and Gary Hodnett emphasize the need for a higher rate to cover expenses.

Proposed Budget and Financial Projections

- Gary Poindexter presents a proposed budget draft, showing a slight increase from the previous year, and emphasizes the need to find a compromise on rate adjustments.
- Bob Majure confirms the accuracy of the proposed budget numbers and the need to advertise the budget for public review.
- Gary Hodnett suggests continuing the meeting to the next week to allow time for further refinement of the budget and rate adjustments.

Meeting Continued

- The group agrees to continue the meeting on the 13th at 6 PM to finalize the budget and rate adjustments, with a focus on balancing the needs of the water system and the financial impact on the community.

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

Meeting Call to Order

Mayor Hodnett called the meeting to order at 6 pm. All council members present.

- Gary Poindexter explained the proposed budget to the new council members.
    - Draft budget was balanced from both funds
    - Water and wastewater are funded by Enterprise/ Water
    - Taxes cover all general expenses
    - This is to be advertised for hearing the first week in June
    - Journal needs to have notice published in it
- Mobile home tax $0.15 per $100.00
- PPTRA rates are still being waited on
- License Fee - $42.00
- Personal Property Tax – stay the same
- Real Estate Tax $0.02 increase
- Water Rate - $19 per 1000 gallons, base rate $26.00
- Bob Majure made motion to make changes & put into June for discussion
- Paul Johnson seconded and all voted in favor

POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANT

- Jason explained Byrne grant information
  - It changes every year
  - Used for police department items
  - Will look up how much it is for the upcoming year
- Department operating expense
  - When we have an expense that doesn't meet the criteria for the other budget lines then I will put it under this expense line.

950 GALLON LEAK PER MINUTE

- Altavista called us to let Joe know there was a leak
- Toomey brough in to repair pump station on 5/13/2025.
- Joe has a good relationship with Toomey, so he came right away to make the repair.
- It's possible to find these leaks on a regular basis. The system is 40 years old.

HEART FELT THANKS

- Mayor thanked the council for their dedication to the town.
- Encouraged them to keep up the good work

Motion to move into closed Session

- Gary Poindexter made motion to move into closed session stating Virginia code for personnel and economic development.
- Jimmy Harding seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously.
- Meeting was moved into closed session.

Motion to Return and Certify

Gary Poindexter made a motion to return and certify. Stating the Virginia code for Personnel and Economic Development.

Bob seconded the motion, all council members voted unanimously.

Treasurer Position

- Mayor asked for a motion to make the offer to Marissa Padilla $50K with a 90-day probation period.
- Gary Poindexter made the motion to offer Marissa Padilla the position of treasurer.
- Bob Majure seconded the motion, and all council members voted in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:46 pm.