TOWN OF HURT 2026 MEETING MINUTES

MONTHLY WORK SESSION CONTINUED MEETING

Date: March 18, 2026	Location: TOWN HALL 533 POCKET RD. HURT, VA
Time:	6PM
Meeting called to order by:	MAYOR GARY HODNETT

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE ESTABLISHING A QUORUM
Jimmy Harding, Alice Bond, Vice Mayor Bob Majure, Gary Poindexter
TOWN STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:
Shannon Race, Town Clerk
John Eller, Town Attorney

CALL TO RECONVENE

Mayor Hodnett calls for a motion to reconvene at 6:03 pm and presided.

Council Action Councilman Poindexter made the motion to reconvene the work session continued from March 17, 2026, to today March 18, 2026, at 6:04 pm seconded by Vice Mayor Majure. Town Council voted in favor 4-0 and reconvened the Monthly Work session from March 17, 2026.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Hodnett requests a motion to move into closed session.

- Council Member Poindexter moved that the Hurt Town Council convene a closed session in accordance with Virginia Freedom of Information Act as amended. Siting Authorization: § 2.2-3711 A (29) Contract negotiation.
- Council Member Harding seconds the motion for the closed session.
- Clerk calls for individual votes on the motion with Hurt Town Council voting 4-0 in favor of the closed session.
- The motion is passed, and the Hurt Town Council moves into a closed session at 6:05 PM.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

- Mayor Hodnett calls for motions to return and certify a closed session.
- Council Member Poindexter makes a motion for the certification of the closed meeting, citing the Virginia Freedom of Information Act **(Requirement: VA FOIA § 2.2-3712 (D))**
- Mayor Hodnett calls for a second, which is given by Council Member Harding, council voted 4-0 in favor and approves the certification of the closed session.

METAL DETECTING WAS DISCUSSED BY COUNCIL

Mayor told the council that a gentleman came into the office today requesting to do metal detecting in the town. He reminded them that if they let one person detect metal then they would have to let all those who requested do it.

Councilman Poindexter mentioned this topic had been discussed before and it was decided not to be allowed due to potential liabilities and other circumstances. He couldn't remember all the reasons why.

Councilman Harding pointed out all the digging that was taking place all over when it first became popular. He also pointed out the large number of people who were digging.

Town council concluded that it should not be allowed.

LAWN MOWING CONTRACTOR

Mark Kidd has offered to contract mowing for the town of Hurt this year.
Mayor expanded on the 15 areas that public works must keep mowed, how much work load the two public works guys are under now, and the fact of even more will be put on them.
Vice Mayor looked at a previous budget, and the cost for this service was $12,600 in FY2023-2024.

Council discussed the possibility of needing Mr. Kidd's help due to all the construction that is about to take place in the town of Hurt. Council decided to inquire about the cost for both hourly and contractual labor and having him on retainer for as needed services.

BUDGET PREPARATION

Councilman Poindexter passed out a data sheet to council and employees listing general information that is needed to get started on the FY 2026-2027 budget.

- Health insurance costs
- Plaza income
- Tax Valuation Data
- Current Expenditures
- IT Department costs
- LGIP Balances
- Public Works Capital Improvement amounts
- Public Works general fund
- VRSA insurance cost
- PD Line items
- Escalator clauses

Councilman Poindexter pointed out the differences in working staff pay raises by fiscal year vs calendar year. It produces different figures when you try to split the fiscal year to give a calendrical raise. The split method calculated $44,148.10 whereas the FY calculates at $44,168.80. There is a $20.70 difference. The proposed solution is to begin this upcoming FY budget cycle and have annual staff raises to coincide with the fiscal year. It was agreed among councilmembers that it's best to work pay raises by fiscal year.

Clerk pointed out the difficulty in keeping leave time straight when everyone has a different start and stop date. She explained how the process is much simpler when using the fiscal year for start and stop dates for all employees no matter the hire date. Each employee earns monthly rate based off the date of hire however, not the fiscal year. Our Southern Software Program is designed to keep up with the leave adequately when processed by the fiscal year and everyone being on the same schedule start and stop dates. She also explained that county allowed the employee to carry over each fiscal year the full number of hours earned per year of service. The employee must have the number of hours down to one year of leave by June 30. It was preferred the hours be down by the last payroll of the fiscal year. Sometimes, an employee was only allowed to go 2 weeks into the next fiscal year, depending on what was happening in the department at the end of the then current fiscal year.

Council members Bond and Johnson pointed out the employee handbook will have to be revised to define these changes.

Councilman Poindexter's final item was requesting an End-Of-Year-Fiscal-Report with a target date of mid-July.

PLAZA LEASE CONTRACTS

The tenants are requesting new contracts as the old contracts have expired. Length of contracts were discussed. Special provisions that may need to be added. A template already exists but needs to be revisited. No definitive action taken yet.

Audio Visual Quote

Vice Mayor stated the quote for being able to Live Stream with better equipment was about $6,000 for what he had looked at on the internet. He wants to ask the Audio-Visual Group in Lynchburg for a quote to see what it would cost for a one button push permanent system.

- Camera that would zoom in when someone was talking.
- Microphones hanging from the ceiling.
- The system would stay hooked up versus being set up before each meeting.
- This is a one and done purchase. Not an annual fee.

SECURITY CAMERAS FOR WATER STATIONS

The council discussed a future need for security cameras for water stations. Mayor stated especially for the new water treatment plant due to the fact they have become targets for various individuals. We have had break-ins there in the past. All council members agree to investigate this as well.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Hodnett adjourned this meeting at 7:30 pm.