HURT TOWN COUNCIL 2026
MEETING MINUTES

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Date: May 5, 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

Alice Bond

Gary Poindexter

Jimmy Harding

Paul Johnson

Steve Worley

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Vice Mayor Majure due to work emergency

TOWN STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Shannon Race, Clerk
Paul Watlington, Public Works Assistant
Bob Williamson, Water Plant Operator
Jason Lovelace, Chief of police
Tristan Markins, Officer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hodnett called meeting to order at 6:05 pm and presided.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Hodnett requests a motion to move into closed session.

- Councilman Poindexter moves that the council convene a closed session in accordance with Virginia Freedom of Information Act as amended. Siting Authorization: § 2.2-3711 A (1) Personnel, (3) Real Estate, (5) Prospective Business, (8) Legal Counsel.
- Councilman Harding seconds the motion for the closed session clerk calls for individual votes on the motion with Hurt Town Council voting 5-0 in favor of the closed session. The motion is passed, and the Hurt Town Council moves into a closed session at 6:06 PM.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

- Mayor Hodnett calls for motions to return and certify a closed session.
- Councilman 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 Councilman Harding, council voted 5-0 in favor and approves the certification of the closed session.
- Councilman Worley leads the invocation.

RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Hurt PD raised scholarship money by donations and fund raisers to the sum of $1,000. This allowed $500 to be awarded to two young ladies from Faith Christian Academy. Applications were submitted and reviewed by the Hurt Police Department Community Relation Committee. Applicants had to attend one of the two schools in town or be a resident of the town.

Chief Lovelace gave a history on each girl's accomplishments and told them they are going to go far in life. Good luck in their career paths.

1. Reese Ayers, 4.0 GPA, Faith Christian Academy, Liberty University College
2. Natalie Foster, 3.87 GPA, Faith Christian Academy, Liberty University College

Chief expressed the importance of the PD fund raisers helping us to be able to invest in our youth.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. April Expenditures
2. April 7th & 21st Meeting & Workshop Minutes.
3. Additions to the Agenda
    a. Floc camera discussion
    b. PD Scholarships presentation

Council Member Bond made a motion, to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Councilman Harding, and the Hurt Town Council voted in favor 5-0, and approved the May 5, 2026, Consent Agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lillian Gillespie, from Darrell Lane, spoke on the importance of having the camera system in the town. Stated that she supports Jason in his decision to keep the camera system working to help provide the citizens with more protection. A grant was used to pay for this system. Our citizens' protection should be the primary goal.

Bethany Colbert spoke on behalf of the Floc camera system. She explained a situation that her daughter had just gone through on March 10, 2026, with her car being shot at. A bullet went through her car and narrowly missed the girl. Bethany stated had the cameras been turned on and not shut off, the assailants would have been off the road by now because their path crossed on of the town's camera. Life 360 is how she was able to locate her daughter.

Susan McCormick from the Hair Show stated she supports the Floc camera system. She described a couple of instances where the cameras would have helped to locate perpetrators. She showed council photos of when her building was graffitied.
Susan also talked about an instance last week when a missing 78 yr. old elderly Altavista resident crossed the bridge, and the situation could have been serious. Our cameras were off.

Officer Tristan Markins read a letter received from Donney Johnson that was given to the mayor. Donny stated in his letter that everyone but one person who he spoke to about the town's camera system agrees the camera system was a good thing to have.

Mayor Hodnett urged all the council members to make sure all cell phone mailboxes are not full so residents can leave them messages.

Councilman Worley explained there was a threat of lawsuits with the Floc camera system, so he voted to turn them off. He has since spoken with town citizens and law officers about the system. He talked about how fast a missing person was located because of the cameras. He voted to turn them off but now that he understands the system better, he will be voting to turn them back on.

Councilman Harding said he never voted to turn them off and he will be voting to turn them back on. He has talked with Lynchburg and Pittsylvania County police about the systems. They are 100% for the cameras and so is he.

Councilman Johnson said they are a wonderful thing but are not without fault. He talked about an issue a gentleman had with tags on his new truck. The tags had a warrant against it. DMV gave him that tag. He had to stop driving the truck because he constantly got pulled over every time he went by a camera. Police told the man he must fix the problem, but he doesn't know how. He still doesn't like the system, but he was put on council to vote the will of the people. He also will vote to restore the camera system.

Councilman Poindexter voted to turn the cameras off due to a cyber security issue. He has spoken with several authorities since then. He thanked the people who came out to speak on the issue. He made the motion to turn the cameras back on effective immediately.

Councilmember Bond stated for the record, she voted to keep them on.

COUNCIL ACTIONS TAKEN

Councilman Poindexter made a motion to turn the Floc cameras back on immediately or as soon as Chief Lovelace can turn them on second by Councilman Harding with Hurt Town Council voting 5-0 in favor of turning the Floc Cameras back on. The motion was passed.

Mayor stated he felt council had absolutely righted a wrong with the Floc camera system. It should never have been turned off. He thanked them for their votes.

New Business

1. State Mandate Construction Consent Order – we are working on this. Expected to start working on it in 120 days. We are continuing to move forward so the town will begin to see construction on the water system.

2. Plaza Update – Mayor tried to get in touch with the contractor doing the work, but he was unable to reach him before the meeting. He will be reaching out to him in the next couple of days. He will give an update as soon as he has a start date either in a meeting or Facebook update.

TOWN STAFF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- **Treasurer** – on vacation, check listing was given to council members for review.
- **Clerk- Shannon Race** is helping council with budget numbers
- Helping resolve various issues
- Taking in payments
- Preparing data for tax processing
- Told council that Washington County has changed their tax due date to November 5 to make it easier for the town people since everyone else has a tax due date of December 5. The treasurer suggested I mention it to council for some consideration.
- **Public Works- Paul Watlington** mentioned that only one resident is currently turned off for nonpayment, first time we have had all other accounts paid in full. Everyone else is current with their water bill.
- Bacti testing next week
- Monthly annual reports are coming up
  *Councilman Johnson stated 604 & 607 Lynn St water pressure has gone down. Asked public works to take a look at the issue.
- **Water Plant Operator - Bob Williamson** Cleaning, straightening the plant, things look good over there.
- **Police Department- Chief Lovelace** went over the police report.
  - 1 civil call, 3 public service, 1 vandalism, noise, mental subject, 3 mutual aid, 33 school traffic violations, 4 traffic stops, 2 animal complaints, EMS, 1 drug offense, disorderly conduct, domestic assault, 1 not reportable
- Jason thanked council for giving him back the Floc cameras.
- **Legal - John Eller** July 1 a new state statue is coming for zoning in zone district R1 regarding manufactured homes. We may have to amend our zoning.
- With the new construction starting soon for the plaza, council needs to review and pass the food truck ordinance. The ordinance will be sent to council for review, and we need to get it in place with the possibility of new vendors coming to the plaza.

COUNCIL ACTIONS TAKEN

Council member Bond made a motion to change the town's tax billing date from November 5 to October 5 to ease the burden on town residents during the month of December. Councilman Poindexter second the motion with Hurt Town Council voting 5-0 in favor. The motion was approved and this year's tax billing will be done in October with a due date of November 5.

MAYOR REPORT

We are trying to get everything up and running as fast as we can as far as the plaza, consent order and water treatment plant.

Budget

Councilman Poindexter spoke about the budget. The need for getting accurate figures for the budget.

- Water volumetric sale
- Plaza rent potential
- Escalator percentages

Public Hearing for the budget needs to be advertised twice, with a week between the hearing. We want to have the hearing on June 2, 2026.
There must be two approvals to the budget; a preliminary and final.

Council discussed meeting together next Thursday and agreed to continue the meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 6pm.

Continuation

With further budget business to discuss, Mayor Hodnett continued this meeting on Thursday, May 14, at 6pm. Meeting stopped at 8pm.