

HURT TOWN COUNCIL 2026

MEETING MINUTES

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

Date: June 2, 2026 Location: TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
533 POCKET RD. HURT, VA

Time: 6 pm Adjournment: 7:40 pm

Meeting called to order by: MAYOR GARY HODNETT

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE ESTABLISHING A QUORUM

Steve Worley
Paul Johnson
Jimmy Harding
Alice Bond
Gary Poindexter

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Vice Mayor Bob Majure – Work related

TOWN STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Marissa Padilla, Treasurer
Shannon Race, Clerk
Joe Smith, Public Works Director
Paul Watlington, Public Works Assistant
Bob Williamson, Water Plant Operator
Jason Lovelace, Chief of Police
John Eller, Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hodnett called meeting to order at 6:00pm 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 (as applicable).
- Council Member Bond 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 6:05pm.

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)) that whereas council has held a closed meeting this day personal to an affirmative recorded vote in keeping with provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, where Section 2.2 3712 Code of Virginia requires certification that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with state law. Be it resolved that council hereby certifies to the best of each member's knowledge that only matters lawfully exempted from open requirements were discussed in the closed meeting, that only the matters identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed, or considered by council.
- Mayor Hodnett calls for a second, which is given by councilman Harding, town council voted 5-0 in favor and approves the certification of the closed session.
- Councilman Worley leads the invocation.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. May Expenditures
2. May 5, 14, 19 & 22 Meeting & Workshop Minutes.
3. Additions to the Agenda

Councilman Worley made a motion to approve the May expenditures, second by councilmember Bond, and the Hurt Town Council voted in favor 5-0, and approved the May expenditures as presented.

Councilmember Bond made the motion to approve the May 5, 14, 19, and 22 minutes with the following corrections:

1. Removal of the duplicate action item regarding reactivation of the Flocc cameras in the May 5 minutes.
2. Correction of 'budget water volume metric sale' to 'budget water volumetric sale' to reflect billing by volumetric use in U.S. gallons.

Councilman Poindexter seconded the motion with town council voting 5-0 in favor of approving the minutes with the adjustments made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Kim Johnson from Lynn Street spoke. Her public comment focused on:
 - Appreciation for council's budget work, and
 - A request for stronger and more consistent enforcement of the weed ordinance, including mowing of ditches that are reasonably maintainable, to improve the town's appearance.

Councilman Worley discusses tall grass and enforcement (the same issue Kim raised), Chief Lovelace explains how he handles it:

- **Mowing standard & height:**
 - Grass must be mowed to the asphalt along the street.
 - The working enforcement trigger discussed is 12 inches in height:

Chief confirms the standard and process in response.

- **Slopes / ditches:**
 - Notes an exception for steep slopes at a 30-degree slope.
 - Implication: beyond that slope, owners may not be required to mow.
- **Enforcement process:**
 - Uses patrol observations and complaints:
 - If there's extended bad weather, they use common sense before citing.
 - Recognizes cases where owners are away and gives some leeway.
 - For noncompliance:
 - A letter is sent (he mentions a form letter John drafted).
 - If the owner still doesn't comply, the town cuts the grass and the matter then "goes over to Shannon, and paperwork gets done, and those [costs/bills] don't get sent" until that process is complete.
- **Openness to citizen reports:**
 - Encourages residents to contact him directly with addresses or concerns about problem properties and says he will look into them.

New Business

1. State Mandate Construction Update

Paying off Phase 1 consent order loan

Mayor Hodnett explains the Town has money from land sold "up on the hill and proposes to use those funds to pay off the loan on the first consent order (Phase 1) so that: When the Town moves into Phase 2, it will be "on a clean slate" with no remaining Phase 1 debt.

Council action taken

Councilman Poindexter made the motion to authorize the expenditure of up to approximately \$125,000, utilizing capital reserve funds as necessary, to pay off the 2022 bond issue for water system capital improvements." The motion was seconded by councilman Harding with town council voting 5-0 in favor of paying in full the phase one loan.

2. Plaza Update

Project timing & coordination

Mayor Hodnett reports he will be meeting with Matt Astrid within the next couple of weeks to plan the project.

Target is to start plaza construction in the fall of this year.

He anticipates "a lot of smiling faces" once the project gets underway.

Related planning & future use

John Eller notes he has drafted a mobile restaurant (food truck) ordinance, to be emailed to council and brought to a work session for possible adoption.

The ordinance is being prepared in part because mobile restaurants/food trucks may want to locate at the plaza once it "starts looking decent."

Councilman Harding mentions a local business owner (Jack's) who might be interested in having a food truck in Hurt and asks how a food truck at the plaza would be handled.

John clarifies they would need a town license, and the ordinance will address placement/requirements.

Related construction activity nearby

The mayor comments that council should "keep your eyes peeled" for activity:

Work “up on the hill for AVIO” possibly in July or August.

Plaza work expected to start around October–November.

Emphasis that residents will see visible work beginning in both areas around those times.

TOWN STAFF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- Treasurer – Marissa Padilla reported normal monthly activity for May, including ongoing budget preparation, processing of VRS and VOYA-related payments, and completion of a FOIA request concluded the previous Friday.”
- Clerk- Shannon Race reported ongoing work to make town documents ADA compliant, noted completion of a training course approved by council and attendance at webinars, requested council’s consideration of DocAccess software to streamline ADA compliance, continued regular daily duties including processing payments, and assisted a councilmember with an oath-related issue.

Councilman Poindexter requested that Shannon explain what all must take place for the town to be ADA Compliant. She explained that ADA compliance requires town documents to be tagged and formatted so screen readers can identify titles, dates, locations, and body text; that documents must remain legible when enlarged; and that while CivicPlus is implementing ADA improvements on the website platform, a substantial effort will still be needed to retrofit existing documents to meet new legal accessibility requirements.”

- Public Works- Joe Smith & Paul Watlington reported several days of intensive mowing due to recent rains, ongoing efforts to address burned-out streetlights including one repeatedly reported fixture, assistance with water plant operations and monthly paperwork, initiation of required THMs/HAA5 sampling followed by triennial lead and copper sampling with resident participation and lab submissions to Pace, and resolution of a major blockage at the river intakes caused by a large kayak that required several hours of work with a winch to remove.”
- Water Operator – Bob Williamson reported that Siemens Industry visited the plant on May 27 and gave positive feedback on the existing electrical and structural systems slated for upgrades, that property owner Will Dillinger has agreed to provide personnel, equipment, and an electrician to help clean up the creek source and related power line areas so the creek can be tested and eventually used as a drinking water source, and that Dillinger has previously donated substantial heavy-duty tools to the Town which have provided significant operational value.”
- Police Department- Chief Lovelace “Chief Lovelace reported recertification as a Field Training Officer, assistance with officer survival training at the police academy, and attendance at the Roanoke Regional Readiness Summit on emergency preparedness; read a commendation letter from a Pittsylvania County sergeant.
- Legal - John Eller reported assisting with scheduling and advertising the June 17 budget hearing, continuing work with bond counsel on financing for the state-mandated Phase 2 water system improvements, preparing a draft mobile restaurant ordinance to be circulated to council and brought to a work session in anticipation of food trucks at the plaza, and processing a special use permit application for a major home operation on East Hurt Road involving sales of homemade and homegrown food products, including plans for referral to the Planning Commission and a joint public hearing with council likely in July.” He requested that the clerk provide him with the names and contact information for Planning Commission members.

“Councilman Poindexter reported that he and the Vice Mayor have prepared a draft Budget FAQ sheet to improve public understanding of the proposed budget, invited additional questions from council and staff (with Councilmember Bond offering to submit her list), and stated that once finalized the FAQ will be posted on the town website alongside the budget summary and spreadsheet and made available on the Town Hall bulletin board.”

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Commendation for Officer Markins

Chief Lovelace read a letter from a Pittsylvania County Sheriff's sergeant praising Officer Markins for:

Frequently assisting county units on calls.

Going above and beyond for both Hurt and county residents.

Providing backup on high-risk calls when county units are short-staffed.

Demonstrating a strong work ethic and contributing to officer safety.

The sergeant stated that Markins's help may have helped save a life on a recent call.

Chief emphasized that Markins does a great job, and the Town is fortunate to have him.

MAYOR REPORT

“In closing, Mayor Hodnett noted that construction activity is anticipated to begin on the AVIO property in July or August and on the town plaza in October–November, encouraged citizens to direct any questions to councilmembers.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Hodnett adjourned this meeting at 7:40pm.