# TOWN OF HURT 2025 MEETING MINUTES

## MONTHLY WORKSHOP MEETING

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| Date: | June 5, 2025 |
| Time: | 6PM |
| Meeting called to order by: | MAYOR GARY HODNETT |

### COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

G. Poindexter, J. Harding, P. Johnson, S. Worley, Vice Mayor Majure, A. Bond by phone
Perfect attendance, Quorum is established.

### MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

- Mayor Hodnett calls meeting to order at 6pm. Request a motion to move into closed session.
- Councilman Poindexter moves that the council convene a closed session in accordance with Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended. A. Personnel, Real Estate, Prospective Business, Legal Council (as necessary) (Authorization: § 2.2-3711 A (1) (3) (5)(7) as applicable)
- Vice Mayor Majure seconds the motion for the closed session.
- Mayor Hodnett calls for individual votes on the motion and all council members vote in favor of the closed session.
- The motion is passed, and the council moves into a closed session at 6:02 PM.

### CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION AND INVOCATION

- Mayor Hodnett requests a 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.
- Mayor Hodnett calls for a second, which is given by Vice Mayor Majure, each council member approves.
- Councilman Gary leads the invocation.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Lead by Mayor Hodnett

## ITEMS ARISING SUBSEQUENT TO NOTICE

- Mayor stated we normally forego public comment period at the workshop, but he was contacted today by phone and Mr. Burns requested to speak.
- Mr. Burns, a volunteer at the HVFD for nine years, from school road requested to be allowed to use his personal well and stop the town water supply to his home. Stated rates are too high and he had concerns about chemicals causing harm to his family.
- Mayor Hodnett gave copies of the town ordinance, and his account was reviewed for a possible leak. No leak found.
- Mayor moved into new business

## NEW BUSINESS AND/OR BUSINESS SUBSEQUENT TO NOTICE

- Sewer Pump Station
    - Ricky Van Shelton Dr. needs urgent repair however, it is too old to repair
    - Steel chains have corroded
    - Sewer gases are destroying the pipes
    - 1st quote was w/o pipe repair
    - 2nd quote was with pipe repair, estimated for $32,000
    - 6-7 weeks to get the new pump
    - Trying to get bypass pump asap – currently unable to get one quickly
    - Renting bypass pump approximately $800-$1,000 per week
    - If overflow occurs, massive fines will be received
    - Paul will reach out to Carter Cat to see what can be done there
    - We have 3 pump stations
        - 2 are in need of repair now
        - 1 will need repair before long
- Councilman Gary made a move to take $30,671.00 more or less funds from account 30-000-1103250 for the purpose of this wastewater repair. I'll extend that to authorize the mayor and public works director to have the leeway to acquire a bypass pump if one is needed in a crisis situation.
- Vice Mayor seconds the motion, and all council members voted yes.

## COUNCIL ADDRESS

- Mayor asked if anyone would like to address Mr. Burns about the well.
- Vice Mayor stated he is in a similar situation, not happy about it either.
    - Paying similar amounts
    - Can't give individual rights because everyone would want to use their well
    - If a property's well is bad, those people would not have access to water
- Mr. Burns stated he had just spent $5,000 updating his well pump & lines.

- Vice Mayor stated he could 100% use his well for any system that doesn't connect to the town. Example, outdoor uses like cars or outside spigots.
- John Eller explained the monopoly to keep the whole water system from collapse. It was established in 1982.
- Paul Johnson addresses the issue of someone having a bad well and the whole block gets poisoned, the liability falls on the town.
    - I am in the same spot as you, Bob, and everyone else in this town.
    - Repairs should have been made over the last 40 years, but it wasn't.
    - Altavista is working on modernizing everything
    - Explained how modernization will help with water quality
    - Davenport's guideline has to be followed, or we have to pay the state back a lot of money
    - We need a big water user in town to ease the water rate
    - Actively seeking a high-water end user
- Councilman Gary explained how the reserves are affected and how they don't have much in the reserves.
- Vice Mayor states we have to have a certain amount of money in our accounts.
- Mayor and Kayla discussed the selling of the plaza
- Mayor moved on to the budget

## PRELIMINARY BUDGET DISCUSSION

- Councilman Poindexter reviewed the changes made to the proposed budget
- Tax rates are to be as follows
    - 13.5% Real Tax Rate
    - PP Tax rate will stay the same
    - $18.61 Water Rate
    - $26.00 Quarterly Base Rate Fee
    - Revised Budget total for FY 2026 is $1,131,400
    - Reviewed electronic bill with the council
        - Explained the benefit for the town
- Council discussed the budget with each other and those present at the meeting
- Councilman Gary made a motion to move the preliminary proposal to June 18, 2025, meeting to finalize.
- The motion was seconded, and councilmembers Worley, Johnson, Poindexter, Bond, and Vice Mayor voted yes. Councilman Harding voted no.
- The motion was passed, and the budget will be finalized on June 18, 2025.

## MEETING ADJOURNED:

- meeting is adjourned at 8:40pm.
    - Next Workshop Meeting June 17, 2025