TOWN OF HURT 2025 MEETING MINUTES

MONTHLY WORKSHOP MEETING

Date:	11/18/2025
Time:	6PM
Meeting called to order by:	MAYOR GARY HODNETT

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE ESTABLISHEDQUORUM

- Shannon Race calls attendance: Steve Worley, Paul Johnson, Jimmy Harding, Alice Bond, Gary Poindexter, Bob Majure by phone

MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

- Mayor Hodnett calls meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Request a motion to move into closed session.
- Gary Poindexter moves that the council convene a closed session in accordance with Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended. A. Personnel, Real Estate, Prospective Business (as necessary) (Authorization: § 2.2-3711 A (3) (5) (8) as applicable)
- Council member Alice seconds the motion for the closed session.
- Shannon Race 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 6:07pm.
- Gary Hodnett instructs Jason and Joe to join soon after the first closed session item is addressed.

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 councilwoman Bond, each council member approves, and motion is passed.
- Councilman Worley leads the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Lead by Mayor Hodnett

WELCOME

Gary Hodnett thanks everyone for attending and notes the attendance compared to other meetings.

Public Comments - Neighborhood Concerns:

First Speaker: Ellen Nichols Lynn St.

- Addressed people living in the basement of the Barksdale home.
- Explained disruptive behaviors taking place
- She describes a specific incident where a bad argument led to fear for her and her husband's safety.
- Gary Hodnett asks Ellen about the number of people involved, and she estimates at least four to five girls and two boys, excluding the owner's son.
- John Eller informed them to call the police when incidents are taking place

Second Speaker: Teresa Pirkey

- Addressed the same situation
- She mentions that the situation has escalated over time, involving different groups of people living in the basement.
- Teresa expresses fear for her granddaughter's safety due to the hostile environment.
- John Eller advises Teresa to call the police if the situation arises again.
- John Eller asked questions of all the citizen here which confirms a public nuisance status.

Third Speaker: Dennis Nichols

- Addressed the same issue
- Woman outside in her under garments
- Girls being dropped off late hours
- Chief Lovelace advised them all to call 911. Advise them of the issues taking place. Dispatch will call him on his radio and tell the chief what's going on. This is the fastest way to get him in case he is in the middle of something else at the time.
- Teresa asks about the legality of marijuana, and Jason explains the legal stipulations regarding marijuana possession and use.
- Jason clarifies that personal use of marijuana is legal, but possession with intent to distribute is not.
- The discussion highlights the importance of calling the police for any disturbances.
- Councilman Johnson addressed the ladies
- Councilman Worley addressed the residents

NEW BUSINESS AND/OR BUSINESS SUBSEQUENT TO NOTICE

Report from Alice & Jimmy on the 250 USA Celebration with the County

- Alice Bond and Jimmy Harding provide updates on the 250 years celebration between the towns and Chatham.
- Alice went over committees the county has working on the event
- Various committees have been formed to handle different aspects of the celebration, including historical and heritage, events and entertainment, parade, decorations and beautification, volunteer coordinating, food and beverage, public relations and marketing, fundraising and sponsorship, youth engagement, safety, security and logistics, commemorative items and souvenirs, and faith and reflection.

- Alice reached out to the attendees to see if anyone wanted to volunteer for any of the county committees
- Town was asked to donate $1,000 towards the fireworks display

Staunton River Associates Xray Machine

- Steve Worley discusses the need for repairs to the X-ray machine at the Stanton River Medical Center.
- The machine, installed in 2016, is outdated and requires a $25,000 repair.
- Read a letter from Staunton River Associates here in town.
- Steve requests the council's assistance in maintaining this important service for the community.
- The council members discuss the possibility of contributing to the repair costs and the complications of supporting a for-profit business.
- Many unanswered questions were asked. Steve is going to do some more digging.

Historical Context and Previous Contributions

Gary Poindexter provides historical context about the town's previous contributions to the medical center foundation.

Possible donation to Staunton River Medical Foundation if they would take part in donating to Staunton River Associates.

The council members discuss the need for more information before making a decision on the X-ray machine repair.

John Eller suggests reaching out to Lillian for more information about the foundation's current status

Plaza update

Matt will come and discuss the plaza in a few weeks.

Gary Hodnett mentions the upcoming Plaza update and the need to consider matching funds for a grant from the tobacco foundation.

WTP Grant application update

- At the state. The state is pleased with the documentation. It needs more signatures.
- The state has approved the grant application for $9 million for the water treatment plant.

Items Arising Subsequent to Notice

- **Town minutes approval**: 6/3/2025, 10/7/2025, 10/21/2025, 10/29/2025

Mayor asks for a motion to approve town minutes. Motion is made by Jimmy and seconded by Alice; all council members approved.

- Santa needed for Town Christmas event

Paul will reach out to someone to fill that position.

Christmas planning meeting on Friday after 1pm.

Jason reminded the planning team where the Christmas supplies were stored last year.

Jason still has a working popcorn machine.

- Christmas for kids

$2,900 was raised this year. 10 children will be serviced. Half boys and half girls.

$500 excess will be used for a scholarship which will be given to the school.

Meeting adjourned:

- meeting is adjourned at 7:55 pm.