

Minutes of a Regular Meeting and Joint Public Hearing of the Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia, held in the Council Chambers located at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, on Monday, April 21, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

Mayor: William D. Coleburn

Council Members: L. Benjamin Green, John W. Hill, Jr., C. Duncan Quicke, Alfred V. Tucker, J. A. Wilson, Jr., Constance T. Wynn

Planning Commission: Edwin B. Nash, Robert Rhoades, Tom Watkins

Town Attorney: Kennon C. Walden, Jr.

Town Staff: Jennifer H. Beck, Administrative Assistant; David Dunn, Assistant Town Manager; Nicholas C. Kuzmiak, Police Chief, J. Larry Palmore, Town Manager; Joan R. Palmore, Town Clerk; Charles C. Wells, Finance Director

Those Absent:

Council Member: Barbara Thompson

Planning Commission: Denis McCarthy, Chairman

Mayor Coleburn called the meeting to order and Councilman Quicke led in prayer.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Coleburn led those in the Chambers in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Coleburn opened the Public Hearing and asked the Town Clerk to read the Public Hearing Notice as follows.

*NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING*

*The Public is hereby notified that there will be a joint public hearing held by the Planning Commission and the Town Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia, to consider amending the Town Zoning ORDINANCE as follows:*

*To amend and reenact Article 6 Residential District R-3 to add a new section under Section 6-2 Use by Special Exception to be designated as Subsection 6-2-3 and entitled, “Mini Warehouse, Self Service Storage Facilities” which would allow for location of self service storage facilities in a R-3 zone by special exception and to grant a Use-by-Special Exception unto W. Irby Moncure and Thomas L. West to operate a Self Storage Facility on West Entrance Road between Oak Street and Lester Street; and to grant a Use-by-Special Exception Permit to A. G. Bingham and Linda Lou Collins to operate a Self Storage Facility between Oak Street and Lester Street adjacent to the Moncure/West Self Service Storage Units.*

*The public hearing will be held at the Town Council Chambers, Town Office, 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia on April 21, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. Members of the public are invited to attend to express their views. Copies of the proposed ordinance are available for inspection at the Town Manager’s Office, Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia, during normal business hours.*

Manager Palmore stated that we goofed several years ago. He explained that back when Mr. Moncure applied for a permit to operate a self storage facility on the above mentioned property we did not make the necessary changes to the zoning. We found our mistake when Mr. Bingham came and requested that he be allowed to use his property as a self storage facility. Manager Pamore recommended that we grant this request but that we place a restriction on the Moncure and Bingham properties to not allow vehicles, boats, boat trailers, etc., to be parked outside of the storage units.

Mayor Coleburn asked is there anyone in favor of the request.

Irby Moncure addressed Council and read a prepared statement. He stated that he is the owner of the self storage facility on West Entrance Road. He added that his facility has operated for about 15 years and they don’t plan any changes. He added that they have improved the value of the property and continue to try to be a good neighbor. He asked for approval of the request.

Mayor Coleburn asked if anyone was here to speak against the request.

No one came forward to speak against the request.

Councilwoman Wynn asked the Town Manager did Waymond Mitchell apply for the same type thing several years ago.

Manager Palmore answered that he remembers talking to Mr. Mitchell about something similar but Mr. Mitchell did not go through the process to have this done.

Mayor Coleburn asked does the Planning Commission have anything they would like to say on this request.

Vice Chairman Nash stated that he recommends approval of the request.

Mr. Watkins and Mr. Rhoades both agreed that the request should be granted.

Mayor Coleburn closed the public hearing.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to amend the R-3 Zone to allow for Mini Warehouse/Self Service Storage Facilities. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green.

Discussion:

Councilman Quicke asked about the restriction on vehicles outside of the storage units that Manager Palmore mentioned earlier.

Manager Palmore feels we need to do this rather than it happening and then we have to react. He feels this should be included as part of the approval of this request.

Vote:

|                   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Councilman Quicke | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Wynn | - | Aye |
| Councilman Green  | - | Aye |
| Councilman Wilson | - | Aye |
| Councilman Hill   | - | Aye |
| Councilman Tucker | - | Aye |

### **MINUTES**

Councilman Wilson made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented the Minutes of the March 17, 2008, Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hill and approved unanimously. Vote:

|                   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Councilman Quicke | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Wynn | - | Aye |
| Councilman Green  | - | Aye |

|                   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Councilman Wilson | - | Aye |
| Councilman Hill   | - | Aye |
| Councilman Tucker | - | Aye |

## **VISITORS**

1. Christine Kelly, 399 Virginia Lee Boulevard, (an out of Town resident) addressed Council regarding a water leak at her residence. She stated that she has a \$2,000 water bill. She added that this bill is crippling for her. She acknowledged a leak on her property similar to two others she had in the past. Ms. Kelly stated that they had a leak the previous month that resulted in a loss of about 2,000 gallons and they had it repaired on January 23, 2008. She did some research and she is hopeful that some remedy can be reached. Even with the kindness of spreading the payments over three months, this is still a financial burden for her.

Mayor Coleburn reminded Ms. Kelly that the Town did waive the sewer bill. He asked is her request to have more time to pay.

Ms. Kelly asked for some consideration because this leak is similar to some of the leaks she has had in the past. She would like for her bill to be reduced to 1,500 gallons or another option would be to average her bill over the past several years. She also stated that she considers herself to be a citizen of Blackstone even though she is a mile outside of the Town limits. If none of these options seem feasible, then she would ask that she be given the Town discount because right now she pays Out-of-Town rates for water and sewer.

Mayor Coleburn stated that the problem is the water has gone through the meter. He asked if any of the Council Members had any questions.

Councilman Green asked is it possible for the ground to handle this much water.

Manager Palmore answered, yes sir. Her property is right next to a pond.

Councilman Green stated that this seat is not the best place to be sometimes. This is one of those times when he wishes he could excuse himself but he can't. He asked about the extra charge for out of Town residents.

Councilman Hill stated this has been a policy for many years. He added that if we reduce the bill it would be setting a precedent.

Councilman Green asked is there any way that we can forgive part of the bill because it is out of town water.

Manager Palmore feels that you need to be very careful with this because we have water lines all over Ft. Pickett and if one of them started leaking it could be millions of gallons of water that we would be talking about. He recommended that we allow her to pay over a period of 12 months. Manager Palmore added that the Town Staff did all we could for Ms. Kelly on this issue. We checked and rechecked her bill. He stated that the only parameters we have to work with are what is spelled out in the Town Code which allows us to break the bill down into three monthly payments.

Ms. Kelly recognized the issue of precedent and she stated that with regards to her leak, there were some unusual circumstances. She stated that she talked to Jack Jackson with Sensus Technology the company that makes the town's water meters and she added that this was an over eight gallons per minute leak.

Manager Palmore stated that we have spoken to the Sensus Technology people and Mr. Jackson did not understand Ms. Kelly's situation. Manager Palmore added that if he thought there was one inkling of a chance that this water didn't go through the meter he would ask that the whole amount be forgiven, but there is no question, the water went through the meter.

Council discussed this further.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to give Ms. Kelly 12 months from tonight to pay the bill. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke.

Discussion: Councilman Green asked is there anything else that can be done because she is out of Town.

Manager Palmore stated that as long as Council is okay with a leak happening at Fort Pickett and them coming to us in the future and requesting some leniency. He clarified that we could be talking millions of gallons of water going out if this happened at Fort Pickett.

The motion made and seconded was approved as follows. Vote:

|                   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Councilman Quicke | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Wynn | - | Aye |
| Councilman Green  | - | Aye |
| Councilman Wilson | - | Aye |
| Councilman Hill   | - | Aye |
| Councilman Tucker | - | Aye |

2. Lisa Hudson, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Blackstone Primary School, addressed Council and stated that she has some students here tonight who are all members of the Blackstone Primary School Green Team and they would like to share with the Town Council what they are doing at school for recycling.

Destine' Robertson addressed Council regarding recycling. She stated that every Friday they meet at her school and discuss recycling. One suggestion is to fill up a recycling bin.

O'Shanel Epps, addressed Council, and stated that she is a member of the Blackstone Primary School Green Team. She explained that the Green Team teaches us about recycling. They want to educate people about why recycling is important. She informed those present that they are having an education fair on April 29<sup>th</sup> and she invited Council to join them.

Hannah Armes, stated that recycling will help make the Town cleaner and she added that we need people in our community to recycle more. She thanked Council for allowing them to talk about saving the earth starting right here in Blackstone.

Taylor Clark, addressed Council about encouraging people to recycle which will keep recyclables out of the landfill. The Green Team is collecting soda print tabs which they give to Ronald McDonald house to help sick children. She added that items can also be donated to charities such as the Goodwill and Madeline's House. She suggested buying larger quantities of items in order to cut down on the packaging and she added that together we can make a big difference.

Malik Taylor, stated that the Green Team has come up with a motto, "little effort, big difference". She stated that recycling is not the easiest thing to do but it is the best thing to do. Everybody should be working together to make our earth healthy. All it takes is a little effort to educate our community and that will make a big difference in our future.

Morgan Davis, informed Council that she recently read an article in the local paper that said that Blackstone does not have any recycling. She wanted everyone to be aware that we do have recycling because there is a recycling bin at WalMart. She then read a poem she had written.

Kennedy Goode spoke to Council about recycling. She stated that the Green Team collects used paper and then Mrs. Hudson takes the paper to the recycling bins at WalMart. In the last month, they have collected over 450 lbs of paper. She feels that Blackstone should promote recycling and she hopes Council will consider helping educate others about this important issue.

Shaneaha Oetting, stated that the landfills are filling up fast and we should start protecting the environment by starting a recycling program. Many people have joined their efforts and would gladly support recycling in our community. We would like to invite you to become a partner with us to share in the recycling experience. She gave Council a red pail to use for recycling.

Mayor Coleburn commended Mrs. Hudson and the Green Team. He asked could people come to Blackstone Primary and drop off recyclables.

Ms. Hudson stated that one of the problems they have is they have to take items somewhere else. The paper drop is not far away so that would be easier. She added that STEPS in Farmville takes milk jugs. They would love to work with the community and if this becomes too large an endeavor for them to handle, then they will ask for help.

Manager Palmore stated that Col. Dunn, Assistant Town Manager, recently attended a conference and came back with a lot of information. This needs to be done as a whole county-wide effort. He added that we will work with them in anyway we can. He suggested taking the dumpster at the Armory to Blackstone Primary School for them to use for recycling.

Ms. Hudson stated the Green Team would love to help take care of keeping the dumpster clean. She asked for the Town's support on this project.

Councilman Quicke stated that the Town has been recycling our waste paper and taking it to the receptacle at WalMart.

Mayor Coleburn stated that we were doing more recycling 20 years ago than we are doing today and this is a trend that should not continue.

Mayor Coleburn asked if there are any visitors who did not sign up to speak that would like to now.

3. Janette Baranishyn spoke to Council about the recent fund-raiser/family fun day at the Armory last weekend. She informed Council that they had 91 in-kind donations in the amount of \$6,730.00; 22 volunteers donated more than 285 hours and the event grossed \$5,300. They also received six cash donations in the amount of \$3,000. Total donations to date have exceeded \$15,000, including both in-kind and cash donations. She stated that cash donations will be netted with our fund-raising expenses.

Mayor Coleburn feels this is a great start.

Ms. Baranishyn would like to have more events in the future. She would like to make a proposal to Council. Back in December, she asked that Council consider donating the Armory to the "Friends of Blackstone". There were a lot of unanswered questions at that time and there still are. She would like to propose an alternative to a donation, which is what they had originally asked for. They would like to start a Farmer's Market and would like to get it up and running by this summer. She suggested a lease arrangement for a term, possibly 10 years. At the end of the term, if they are not successful, then the property would revert back to the Town. However, if they do succeed, she would like for the term to be extended for 99 years. Mrs. Baranishyn wanted to present this as an alternative proposal for Council's consideration and she thanked Council for their time and efforts.

Mayor Coleburn referred this to the Building and Grounds Committee and added that hopefully by next month we will have a recommendation for Council.

5. Terry Abstan, with Nottoway County 4-H, addressed Council and stated they are here to educate the Town Council on what 4-H is doing to help with recycling efforts in Nottoway County. She added that 4-H helps educate young people in many different areas such as Science and Technology, Home Arts, Sewing Club, Livestock Club, Horse Club, Teen Leadership Club, Wildlife Club, Shooting Education Club as well as the Green Team, as Council has seen here tonight.

6. Ben Fitzgerald, 927 East Courthouse Road addressed Council regarding electricity. He asked are we locked in and at the mercy of Dominion Power.

Mayor Coleburn answered, yes sir.

The second question Mr. Fitzgerald has is how often are we billed from Virginia Power.

Manager Palmore answered, once a month and we have been for many years.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that there was a newspaper article in 2002 regarding the billing. He gave Manager Palmore a copy of the article.

Council discussed this article and Mr. Fitzgerald's question.

Mayor Coleburn explained that the issue that Mr. Fitzgerald is speaking of is the fuel adjustment charge.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that we must conserve.

Manager Palmore stated that the Town is much cheaper than Southside Electric.

Councilman Hill responded that he was concerned because we are over budget right now on what we had budgeted for this year for fuel.

Mayor Coleburn would like to write a letter to Virginia Power asking that we get some advance notice when the fuel adjustment changes.

Manager Palmore explained that what we collect is how much we pay Virginia Power. He stated that the problem goes back to deregulation and now Virginia Power has no over-site through the State Corporation Commission anymore. The VMEA (Virginia Municipal Electric

Association) Board is keeping a close watch on VEPCO. He added that what makes him the maddest about all of it is that Virginia Power can average all their fuel charges and then they take the highest amount and apply that across the board. We just received a letter from Virginia Power on April 16<sup>th</sup> stated that the actual fuel adjustment is now .02279.

Mayor Coleburn stated that if the gas prices are going up, then we can be assured that the fuel adjustment charge will go up.

7. Lafayette Dickens thanked everyone for their support and for their efforts on behalf of the Downtown Revitalization. He particularly thanked the Town Council for putting their money where their mouth is. He also thanked the volunteers and businesses that have donated to the cause such as WalMart and Citizens Bank. He added that progress is being made Downtown and we will eventually see that progress. Mr. Dickens stated that we now have commitments from 20 property owners that want to see improvements to their facades. He explained that this takes continued team work and patience because these things don't happen overnight. He asked that if anyone has a design request, please submit your request by the first Monday of each month.

### **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Fire Chief Tony Bradford presented the Fire Chief's report for March.

Councilman Quicke asked about the report and some of the numbers listed. The year to date is broken down but the monthly amount is not.

Fire Chief Bradford stated that he will get this corrected.

Fire Chief Bradford informed Council that the Junior Fire Department will be cooking Boston Butts on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. He added that the FEMA grants for the new truck and the turn-out gear have been submitted. He thanked Administrative Assistant Beck for her last minute assistance. He stated that every year they ask for a training budget and he would like to let Council know where their money is going. He stated that Blackstone recently had five members to receive their Instructor-1 certification. They are trying to get more people certified so they can do their own training. Out of 55 members, 44 are currently certified or are in school to be certified at a minimum status of Fire Fighter 1. He stated that the current Fire Fighter 1 class is 115 hours long. He informed Council that the plaque he sent around was presented to the BVFD at a Caroline County regional school they went to last weekend. He stated this year there were 260 students in attendance and Blackstone brought back the award for the most students from a single department other than the host department-- we had 14 members present at this school. Fire Chief Bradford is very proud of this plaque as we have never received it before. Chief Bradford stated that the Circus is coming and he requested they be allowed to use the old intermediate school grounds on May 29<sup>th</sup> for this event. He asked do we need to notify the school board of this request.

Manager Palmore answered, yes, we should let them know.

On motion by Councilman Green, seconded by Councilwoman Wynn to approve the request to use the old intermediate school grounds to hold a Circus on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Vote:

|                   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Councilman Quicke | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Wynn | - | Aye |
| Councilman Green  | - | Aye |
| Councilman Wilson | - | Aye |
| Councilman Wilson | - | Aye |
| Councilman Tucker | - | Aye |

Fire Chief Bradford thanked the Town Manager for the use of the house on Dinwiddie Avenue in their training efforts.

Manager Palmore thanked the Fire Department and stated that this award is one of the best they have ever received. He stated that the point he was trying to make with Nottoway County a while back was not to just increase Blackstone's budget but to increase the budget of fire fighters all across the County. These fire fighters have not seen a budget increase from Nottoway County in 15 years. He feels that there comes a time when the burden should be shared by the County. He commended the Fire Department for their efforts and added that it is a pleasure to work with them. He also stated they working with us to cut their budget.

Fire Chief Bradford thanked Council for all they do for the Fire Department.

### **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Hill made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$997,370.56. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson.

Discussion: Councilman Hill asked several questions on the bills.

The motion made and seconded was approved as follows.

Vote:

|                   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Councilman Quicke | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Wynn | - | Aye |
| Councilman Green  | - | Aye |
| Councilman Wilson | - | Aye |
| Councilman Hill   | - | Aye |
| Councilman Tucker | - | Aye |

Councilman Hill asked when are we going to get the audit. He feels that even if it costs us 50% more, we need to get the audit in here by January or February.

Finance Director Wells answered that the auditors were here today.

Mayor Coleburn stated that we made this point last year.

Council discussed the audit and why Robinson Farmer Cox is late getting it done again this year.

Manager Palmore stated that he will call Paul Lee in the morning.

Councilman Hill asked if the County can get their audit on time, why can't we get ours.

Councilman Green asked are we over a barrel here.

Manager Palmore answered that they Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates tied in with the Bright System and they pulled us out of a terrible bind in 1993. He feels that we need to have a conversation with them about this.

Councilman Wilson feels that Robinson, Farmer Cox does a much better job than previous auditors that we have had.

Manager Palmore stated that we will put pressure on them to get the audit to us sooner.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

### **CAROLINA TRANSFORMER**

Assistant Town Manager Dunn reported to Council on the Carolina Transformer issue. The Department of Justice and the Environmental Protective Agency have agreed to the wording on the Consent Decree. He explained that before it goes to the courts there will be a 30 day public comment period and hopefully the judge will sign off on it. At the same time, we are dealing with the insurance issue. He explained that about 26 or 27 of the original PRP's had evidence or some information that Nationwide had insured them during this period. Our lawyers in Charlotte, NC are negotiating with Nationwide Insurance. We have been on conference calls for the last three weeks trying to decide who will get this money. The suggestion now is to divide it up evenly between all 23 of us which would be about \$3,000 to each. Then we would use the formula that Hunton and Williams came up with, on the rest of the money, of which our part is very, very small and will probably only be around \$2,000 or \$3,000. One bone of contention is

the confidentiality agreement. Nationwide has said that we cannot talk about this to anyone once it is settled. They cautioned us to be very careful about what we say about this issue so we will not violate any federal or state laws.

Council discussed this further.

Mayor Coleburn asked how much money have we spent on this so far.

Assistant Town Manager Dunn answered, \$39,000.

Councilman Green asked where are we in going after the other localities that did not join.

Assistant Town Manager Dunn answered, it is up to every one of the PRP members to decide if they want to pay the lawyers more money to go after these other localities. He stated that the larger groups are definitely going after the ones who didn't join because they have millions and millions of dollars invested in this but what we need to decide if it is worth it to us.

Manager Palmore stated that we need to weigh what it is going to cost us to go after the other localities.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Assistant Town Manager Dunn for working on this for us.

### **REPORT ON MEDICAL CENTER**

Manager Palmore reported that we are in the process of rebidding the project. We finally received the lease back from Bon-Secours and they are now in the final stages of redrawing the building. He stated that we will have a called meeting when he gets these drawings back.

### **ON-GOING PROJECTS**

Manager Palmore reported on the following *On-Going Projects*:

*Bus Shop* - Everything is on track. Jennifer should be in the new building in about a month. He added that this is a very nice facility.

*Downtown Revitalization* - Moving forward.

*Castle Trailer Park* - The first house is under design. He stated that we are trying to do this work without displacing the people. This is going to be a neat project and will certainly make the Town look much better.

Councilwoman Wynn asked about the TV Guide Channel.

Manager Palmore answered that he will check with JetBroadband on this again.

Councilman Green asked about the Memorial Center.

Manager Palmore asked Council to wait and decide what we want to do with the Memorial Center until after the Town’s surplus sale in October.

Councilman Green made a motion to extend the deadline for the sale of the Memorial Center through the month of October. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved as follows. Vote:

|                   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Councilman Quicke | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Wynn | - | Aye |
| Councilman Green  | - | Aye |
| Councilman Wilson | - | Aye |
| Councilman Hill   | - | Aye |
| Councilman Tucker | - | Aye |

**USE-BY-SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT - Ike Bingham**

Manager Palmore feels it is very important that this property not be used for storage of vehicles, boats, campers, etc. He feels the neighborhood should be protected.

Councilman Green agrees.

Town Attorney Walden stated that when we have a Special Exception Permit the Council can put in special parameters.

Councilman Green made a motion to grant Irby Moncure who owns property on West Entrance Road between Oak and Lester Streets and Ike Bingham and Linda Lou Collins who own property located on Lester Street a Use-By-Special Exception Permit to operate Mini Warehouse, Self Storage Facilities on their properties. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved as follows. Vote:

|                   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Councilman Quicke | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Wynn | - | Aye |
| Councilman Green  | - | Aye |
| Councilman Wilson | - | Aye |
| Councilman Hill   | - | Aye |
| Councilman Tucker | - | Aye |

**HERITAGE HALL - PARADE PERMIT (May 12<sup>th</sup>)**

Councilman Green made a motion to approve Heritage’s Hall Parade Permit. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker and approved unanimously. Vote:

|                   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Councilman Quicke | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Wynn | - | Aye |
| Councilman Green  | - | Aye |
| Councilman Wilson | - | Aye |
| Councilman Hill   | - | Aye |
| Councilman Tucker | - | Aye |

**HERITAGE HALL - SENIOR OLYMPICS (May 15<sup>th</sup>)**

Councilman Hill made a motion to block off part of Sixth Street between South Main Street and Lunenburg Avenue from 8:30 a.m., until 11:30 a.m., on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> for the Heritage Hall Senior Olympics. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green and approved unanimously. Vote:

|                   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Councilman Quicke | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Wynn | - | Aye |
| Councilman Green  | - | Aye |
| Councilman Wilson | - | Aye |
| Councilman Hill   | - | Aye |
| Councilman Tucker | - | Aye |

Council discussed the Brandy and Jaron Scholarship Walk-A-Thon scheduled for Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Wilson made a motion allow the four (4) mile walk-a-thon to begin at 8:00 a.m., from Mitchell’s Restaurant Parking Lot. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker and approved as follows. Vote:

|                   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Councilman Quicke | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Wynn | - | Aye |
| Councilman Green  | - | Aye |
| Councilman Wilson | - | Aye |
| Councilman Hill   | - | Aye |
| Councilman Tucker | - | Aye |

**ABC STORE**

Mayor Coleburn stated that our friends in Victoria were totally caught off guard by the closing of the ABC Store. He asked for Council’s permission to write to the ABC Board showing our support to the Town of Victoria.

Manager Palmore stated that Victoria came to our aid very quickly on the OLF issue and he feels a Resolution would be fitting in this situation showing that we support keeping the ABC Store in Victoria open.

On motion by Councilman Green, seconded by Councilman Quicke to authorize the Town Attorney to draw up a Resolution supporting the Town of Victoria in its efforts to keep the ABC Store open in their town. Vote:

|                   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Councilman Quicke | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Wynn | - | Aye |
| Councilman Green  | - | Aye |
| Councilman Wilson | - | Aye |
| Councilman Hill   | - | Aye |
| Councilman Tucker | - | Aye |

**RESPONSE BY TOWN MANAGER TO MARVIN CROMER’S RECENT LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Manager Palmore read the attached statement. He added that the thing that he feels would help the citizens realize what we are up against is to take a tour of the Town and see what we have going on. We are a far better choice than buying water from Paul’s waterworks. He is very proud of our Fire Department, our Police Department, our Public Works Department and our Electrical Department. They are outstanding and they work hard.

Mayor Coleburn applauded Manager Palmore for his answers. He stated that one of the things that makes our budget look fat is because we go after those grant dollars.

Manager Palmore added that we also show our indebtedness in our budget, where other localities do not.

**MAYOR’S MINUTE**

Mayor Coleburn would like to seek advice from the Council as he really believes with all his heart that we have a golden opportunity with the building of this new bowling alley and he would like to ask the County to reconsider putting the bowling alley in Blackstone. He doesn’t want to go to war with the County on this but he is wondering if it is this worth another letter.

Councilman Hill stated that this is not the only place they want to put it.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he has heard that it may be built at Piedmont Park.

Councilman Hill added that if they are going to move it off the property then they can move it to Piedmont Park. The memorandum of agreement says that all the proceeds have to be spent on LRA property at Fort Pickett. Up until 2012, all the money that is generated out there has to be spent out there.

Council discussed this further.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he never received a reply from the County on the letter he sent to them on this issue.

Councilman Wilson feels that if we try to get it in Blackstone, the politics are stronger at the other end of the County and we may lose it all together. It may end up going to Burkeville.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Councilman Green asked about blight in Town and the building inspector situation.

Manager Palmore stated that he needs to meet with the Building and Property Committee about this issue. He thinks he has a solution.

### **POLICE REPORT**

There was no comment on the Police Report.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizens comments.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Councilman Quicke made a motion to go into Closed Session according to the following.

Virginia Code Section 2.1-344  
Sub Section A  
1. Personnel

The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and approved unanimously. Vote:

|                   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Councilman Quicke | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Wynn | - | Aye |
| Councilman Green  | - | Aye |
| Councilman Wilson | - | Aye |
| Councilman Hill   | - | Aye |
| Councilman Tucker | - | Aye |

Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting back in Open Session.

Councilman Hill made a motion to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened, were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green and approved as follows. Vote:

|                   |   |     |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| Councilman Quicke | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Wynn | - | Aye |
| Councilman Green  | - | Aye |
| Councilman Wilson | - | Aye |
| Councilman Hill   | - | Aye |
| Councilman Tucker | - | Aye |

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR  
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
APPROVED AND ADOPTED

\_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN CLERK  
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

