

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia, held in the Council Chambers located at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, on Tuesday, February 19, 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, Barbara Thompson, Alfred V. Tucker, J. A. Wilson, Jr., Constance T. Wynn

Town Attorney: Kennon C. Walden, Jr.

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

Those Absent: None

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.

MINUTES

Councilman Green made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented the Minutes of the January 22, 2008, Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke and approved unanimously. Vote:

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

(Council Members Thompson and Tucker were absent during this vote)

VISITORS

1. Mickey Shields, Crenshaw United Methodist Church, addressed Council regarding carrying the cross around Town during Easter as they have done in the past. This year it will be March 21st beginning at 6:00 a.m., and ending at 6:30 p.m., and they would like to have a police escort.

Councilman Hill made a motion to approve the above request for a parade permit for March 21st. 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

(Council Members Thompson and Tucker were absent during this vote)

2. Chuck Arnason asked for Council to allow Rotary to hold the third annual Blackstone Cleanup Day on April 19, 2008. In the past, we have used some Town resources to pickup the trash. He stated that Assistant Town Manager David Dunn has been very instrumental in getting this organized. He asked for the Town’s approval on this project.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the Third Annual Blackstone Cleanup Day. 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
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

(Councilman Tucker was absent during this vote)

3. June Buntin, addressed Council regarding the library. She stated that with all due respect to Mr. Palmore she feels that he blind-sided them with the proposal of a central library. She stated that she is vehemently opposed to this. She stated that we have a really good Town and added that Blackstone has had a library since she was in high school which was 50+ years ago. Mrs. Buntin stated that we are spending money to “prettify” Blackstone, which she feels is a good thing, but she asked, what good is that going to do if we don’t have a library. People who are looking to relocate to Blackstone are going to ask what kinds of things do we have here that are cultural and, she stated, we don’t have other things but we do have a library. She asked

Council to really think about this. She explained that the library in Blackstone is kind of in a catch-22. They aren't open enough hours but the reason they aren't open enough hours is because they don't have enough circulation but they don't have enough circulation because they don't have enough hours. She stated that they are getting closer to having a plan on paper and a consultant from Williamsburg is coming to give them some ideas. She would like for Council to consider that their first concern should be for all the people in Blackstone who cannot afford to buy books or travel to other places.

Councilman Tucker entered the meeting.

Mayor Coleburn stated that his recollection is that this Council in recent months has not discussed a consolidated library. He stated that Manager Palmore went before the Board of Supervisors recently and laid out his concerns about the library system.

Manager Palmore informed the Council that his whole point in going before the Board of Supervisors is that he feels that the County needs to do more not only for the library but for the Fire Department. He feels that if they can't afford three libraries than they should consolidate and do one like it ought to be done.

Councilman Green stated that this is a County issue.

Mrs. Buntin feels like this is a political issue that the Town and County can bounce back and forth from one to the other without it ever being solved. She added that the Board of Supervisors stonewalls them every time they ask for something. She also added that they have never asked the Town for any money in addition to what was agreed to.

Mayor Coleburn asked if any members of the library are here to support what Mrs. Buntin has said tonight.

Several people in the chambers raised their hands.

Mayor Coleburn added that it is his opinion, that each locality needs its own library.

Councilman Green stated just like the school system is a County issue, so is the library system. He added that this Town does way more for the library than most Town's this size. He supports the library but we can't raise the taxes anymore.

Mayor Coleburn feels there has been a communication breakdown. He asked the Building and Grounds Committee to meet within the next two weeks with the Friends of the Library. (Green, Tucker, Wilson)

Manager Palmore stated that we need to ask who paid for the addition onto the Crewe Library because Nottoway County paid for the addition and he added, we are all citizens of Nottoway County.

Mrs. Buntin stated that she does not think anymore talk is necessary. She does not feel there is much of a point.

Mayor Coleburn does feel words matter and he wants the Friends of the Library to know that he supports them.

Mrs. Elba Robertson asked the Council to give them some assurance that the library won't move from its present location.

Manager Palmore stated that he has never thought that the library should be moved one-inch, he only wants the County to step up and do what they should. He added that he has requested a meeting with the Finance Committee of the County Board of Supervisors about the library and about the Fire Department.

Councilman Green stated that the Board of Supervisors meets on the third Thursday of each month which is this Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

4. Janette Baranishyn addressed Council and stated that she is here tonight to talk about the Armory. Since talking to Council last time, they have been looking for volunteers and encouraging the citizens of Blackstone to become involved. They have handed out over 42 volunteer applications and the response has been good. An informal meeting with the Armory Authority was very positive and supportive. They expect to have their funding and rehabilitation committee and staff in place within the next few weeks. They are currently preparing a mailing to local contractors to get them involved whether as an advisor, consultant or active bidder. They are also developing a "Save the Armory" Website which will inform the community of the organization, their activities and why the Armory is worth saving. She stated that one of their newest volunteers, Mr. Richard Eaton has been instrumental in getting these efforts underway. They have already started receiving private donations from the community which are being set aside for this project. She stated that they have also submitted eight grant requests and additional grants are also being prepared. They are seeking moderate grants that eventually can be leveraged into larger grants to meet their funding target of \$400,000 to cover operational costs and the initial rehabilitation of the building. They are also in the process of preparing a written proposal for the rehabilitation and reuse of the Armory. As a work in progress, it is not ready to be shared with Council but she would like to share some basic components that are to be built into the plan.

First, there are no plans to impact or change the location of the food bank. She stated that the primary reuse of the building being considered is a local museum, including a gift shop, and a restaurant dinner club to showcase the Arts, in particular Blackstone's talent. They would also like to have a farmer's market beside the building with parking behind the building. **She stated that this would be an open air market until funds are available to enclose the structure to be open year round and perhaps to serve as the new venue for the Arts and Crafts Festival.**

Councilman Green asked, based on the amount of work the Friends of the Library have done on the Armory, do we need to reverse the motion that was made a few months ago to demolish the building.

Councilman Hill stated that the key phrase is, when funds are available.

Councilman Wilson stated that we can't do anything until we adopt the new budget in July.

Manager Palmore feels that we need to leave this in place as it is now in order to help with grants.

Councilwoman Wynn stated that she was approached not to long ago about Blackstone starting a Farmer's Market.

Mrs. Baranishyn answered that this is the first time a farmer's market has been discussed by the Friends of Blackstone group.

Manager Palmore added that Council discussed this a while back, but if this group can do it, that would be great.

Mayor Coleburn stated that the same night Council made the motion to demolish the Armory, Council also made a motion to sell the Memorial Center within six months. Do we need to do anything on that motion.

Manager Palmore answered, that he feels we should leave that as it is for now. .

Councilman Green wants Janette to know that we are behind the Friends of Blackstone 100%.

Manager Palmore added that his office will work with them in anyway we can.

Councilman Green apologized to Mrs. Tilley Conley for not contacting her when Council voted to demolish the Armory. He also apologized to her for not inviting her on the Chester, Virginia field trip to meet with Keith Jones to explore a tractor museum when in a committee meeting she was told that she would get an invitation. He stated that she was also told that if the

tractor museum didn't work out, then she would have the full backing of the committee. He doesn't feel there has been any malice involved, we all want to do what is best for Blackstone, we all just have a lot going on. He is very sorry this happened and he is sorry he hadn't gotten back to Mrs. Conley before now.

5. Ms. Delphine Wills asked permission from Council to hold a parade on Saturday, March 29th. They want to raise money for a community gym in Crewe for the youth of Nottoway County.

Police Chief Kuzmiak stated that he is fine with the parade permit except he would like to make an adjustment to the route, and he will talk to Ms. Wills about that.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the above requested parade permit. Councilwoman Wynn seconded the motion. Vote:

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

Tilley Conley stated that she accepts Councilman Green's apology and she feels that the Town needs to do something immediately so that Janette and her group can get started and not have the Armory attached to the Town. She suggested that it either be sold to the Friends of Blackstone or given to them so they can have control of it in order to receive grant funding.

Janette Baranishyn stated that nothing would please her more but this group is not ready to take over the Armory yet.

Councilman Green asked that Ms. Baranishyn and the Town keep in communication.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Tony Bradford presented the Fire Chief's report for January. He stated that he also included, at Councilman Green's request, the 2007 total for Town and County fire calls and EMS calls. He added that other than a very busy Sunday a couple of weeks ago, things have been quiet. He stated that they answered twelve fire calls that day starting at 9:45 a.m., until 11:00 that night. Fire Chief Bradford stated that we had three fires in our district and the rest were mutual aid calls. He added that Nottoway county was very lucky that day because it could have been a lot worse. He also informed Council that radio traffic overloaded our dispatchers so he set up a temporary dispatch station at the Fire Department so all Nottoway had to do was route the 911

calls to them and they dispatched their own firemen. He stated that they helped all of our neighboring counties the best we could but our resources were stretched. He also informed Council that one of their firemen, Lee Bryant tore a ligament in his knee that day.

Mayor Coleburn asked if the fires were caused by downed power lines or cigarettes.

Fire Chief Bradford answered most were power lines because of the high winds. They also had problems because they had to wait for Southside Electric to disconnect the lines before they could put the fires out.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Hill made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$1,043,563.67. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson.

Discussion: Councilman Hill asked is Volkert and Associates finished with Bird Road.

Manager Palmore answered, yes sir.

Councilman Hill asked how many more payments do we have on the fire truck.

Manager Palmore answered, one more after this year.

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
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fire and Water Committee - Committee Chairman Quicke read the following report on the Fire and Water Committee.

The Fire and Water Committee (Alfred Tucker, Ben Green, and Duncan Quicke) met on Tuesday, February 12th, at 3:00 p.m., at the Fire Station with Fire Chief Tony Bradford, Assistant Fire Chief Sam Nunnely, Town Finance Director Chris Wells, and Town Manager Larry Palmore.

One of the main concerns during the meeting was the age and condition of the fleet of equipment at the firehouse and how we can get back on an equipment replacement schedule.

If the equipment did not have to travel outside of the Town limits, then the issue would not be as important. However, the monthly and annual reports show more than half of the calls are made out of Town and in the county. Therefore, we need to be more cognizant of the safety of our firemen while traveling to the fires and accidents.

Because of limited revenue and due to constant budget restraints, we have to find other ways to help generate the necessary funds to sustain our volunteer fire department.

*Tonight the Committee recommends to Town Council **that we continue to look into the possibilities of recovering the costs for services of the Fire Department through the insurance companies that represent the affected parties.***

This is not a new way of doing business, but it is new to us and we need to be aware of the pros and cons that are involved with such a process.

Council discussed this further.

HANDOUT ON FIRE DEPARTMENT - BILL FOR SERVICE

Councilman Hill asked are a lot of other volunteer departments doing this already.

Manager Palmore answered that Dinwiddie County is and we are told that Alberta is getting into it. He stated that we made contact with Buddy Hyde who used to be in charge of the Department of Fire Programs and is now a teacher at Southside Virginia Community College. He feels that Buddy will know the ends and outs of this and he would like to seek his help to make sure that we make the right decision. Maybe we can piggy back with Alberta. We need to look at this hard because the fire trucks are increasing in price every year and our revenue is not going up enough to keep up.

Councilman Hill asked when do we project to have this go into effect.

Fire Chief Bradford answered, by July 1st. He added that they are going to seek more vendors.

Councilman Wilson hopes we can come up with a better vendor than the one in the packet.

Councilman Hill stated that he was really shocked about the difference in the calls in the Town and in the County. This report shows 57% in Town and 43% in the County.

Mayor Coleburn feels that we need to educate the public about this. He added that we will continue to study this issue as Councilman Quicke and his committee requested.

Manager Palmore handed out a JLARC study that was done in 2004.

DBI Minutes (January 8th and February 12th) - Minutes Attached.

ONE-WAY TRAFFIC ON MAIN STREET

Manager Palmore would like to contact VDOT and ask them to come in and do a study to see what would be best for Blackstone. This study would be two fold. Looking at one-way traffic on Main Street and looking at doing away with parking on one side of Main Street. He feels that now is a good time to do this. Manager Palmore added that he intends to travel to South Boston tomorrow for other purposes but he hopes to get some idea on how other communities are handling this. He spoke with the Town Manager of South Boston and he loves one-way traffic on Main but we need to look at this from a business owner's stand point. We need to look at all avenues. We all want to create one thing, an atmosphere that encourages people to visit Blackstone and shop here. That's what we are after and how can we best do that.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a show of hands for those opposed to making Main Street one-way traffic. Several people in the Council Chambers raised their hands.

Mayor Coleburn then asked for a show of hands of those in favor of one-way traffic and no one raised their hand.

Mr. Al Moore, owner of Farmer's Café on Main Street, stated that it is a good idea to have a truck route. But if you go and put in a one-way street, you might as well buy his business because it will cut his throat. He feels that all of the out of Town people will keep going.

Tommy Watkins stated that most of us agree with the truck route. He also asked wasn't the corner of St. Luke's Episcopal Church's property taken specifically for the truck route.

Mayor Coleburn stated that one-way traffic has intrigued him because we all have a vision of people being able to walk and shop Downtown Blackstone.

Mr. Watkins stated that he is totally opposed to one-way traffic in Blackstone. He sees no reason to spend money on a study. If you are a resident of a community of one-way streets it doesn't bother you but if you are a visitor, it does.

Councilman Wilson would like for us to consider building the street beside the medical center and rebuilding Brown Street but not making Main Street one-way.

Mr. Watkins added that if you improve Brown Street, you are going to have less traffic on Main Street because more people will automatically travel on Brown Street.

Mr. Moore stated that everyone here works hard on their businesses. He and his wife brought "Street Rod" into Blackstone. He added that if you look at a Street Rod magazine Blackstone is in it. People all over the United States know how Blackstone treated them while they were here.

Councilman Hill does not feel we are ready to do a study especially if it is going to cost more money. He does not feel that those traveling South on Main will be able to see what Blackstone has to offer.

Manager Palmore stated that he has learned to throw it out there prior to the Council Meeting and have it open for discussion. He feels that we do need to proceed on with the road at the medical center.

REPORT ON MEDICAL CENTER

Manager Palmore reported that for the last six weeks we have been doing valued engineering and it seems we are going around in circles. He reviewed the list of things being discussed. He added that we have met our goals so everything is fine as far as the grant is concerned. He would like to encourage everyone to buy a brick as this will help fund the project.

Manager Palmore stated that engineers estimates have the road coming in at about \$500,000.00. We feel that we can do this for around \$400,000 or less. VDOT has agreed to appropriate \$200,000 this July 1st and then another \$200,000 next July in order for us to complete this project. This means that the Town would have to fund the project for two years. We would get partial payment this July and the rest the following July. Manager Palmore is comfortable with this. He stated that he has it figured down to the amount of material and dirt involved. He asked for direction from Council on this and added that we will need to talk about this during the budget process. We need to know where the funds are going to come from.

Councilman Hill asked doesn't VDOT come under the Governor's authority.

Manager Palmore answered yes sir, but unless the Governor cuts more funding than VDOT knows about, he feels there is an opportunity for some real savings for Blackstone to do it this way.

Mayor Coleburn asked the Council what do they think about this.

Councilman Wilson asked about a problem with the paving on Dinwiddie Avenue.

Manager Palmore answered, he feels this is a broken water line and we are going to go out tonight to see if we can find the leak. There is definitely something causing the road to give way.

Manager Palmore stated that we need to move forward on this project and now is the time to do it.

Councilman Green asked are we going to infringe on Brother's Pizza anymore.

Manager Palmore answered, no sir other than a small area where we would need to put in a storm drainage but that should be it.

Councilman Hill asked how are we going to pay for this.

Manager Palmore stated that VDOT has agreed to do this.

Councilman Quicke asked outside of the \$400,000.00 that VDOT is going to pay, how much is it going to cost Blackstone.

Manager Palmore answered, 2%.

Mayor Coleburn feels we need to have a public hearing before we designate Brown Street as a truck route.

Manager Palmore answered yes sir. He added that his opinion is to do one of three things -- one-way traffic on Main Street; limit parking only on one side of Main Street; or to do a truck route down Brown Street. He added that Mr. Watkins is right about the curb at the Episcopal Church. We did design that curve to help with the trucks turning on and off of Church Street.

Council discussed this further.

Manager Palmore stated that the suggestion to do one-way traffic on Main Street is dead. He is not going to pursue it.

Mayor Coleburn stated that we want to have good streets in Blackstone. He then asked for Council disposition on the Town Manager's request to move forward.

Councilman Green made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to continue with the design and build of the Brown Street extension, this would include rebuilding Brown Street to North Main Street at Dinwiddie Avenue. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson.

Council discussed this further.

Manager Palmore stated that he will use Highway Maintenance Funds right now as far as designing and soil testing.

Vote:

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

BROADBAND KICKOFF MEETING - February 29th at 9:00 a.m.

Manager Palmore stated that this meeting will be held at the Blackstone Fire Station on Friday, February 29th at 9:00 a.m. He asked for Council and the business owners to attend this meeting.

Councilman Quicke asked will this be the same type meetings we had at VUMAC last year.

Manager Palmore answered, no sir this is going to be different. It will be more geared towards helping the business owners get broadband into their businesses.

CAROLINA TRANSFORMER

Assistant Manager Dunn stated that the Carolina Transformer group has recovered \$3,475,000.

Councilman Green asked what does that mean to us.

Assistant Manager Dunn answered, about \$13,000 will come back to us of the original \$39,000 we were going to have to pay.

Councilman Green stated so about a third, that is really good news.

Assistant Manager Dunn added that there are two more issues that Council needs to be aware of. He stated that several of the original 54 members had Nationwide as their insurance carrier at that time, and this law firm is negotiating with Nationwide to get significant dollars from them. However, Nationwide is saying that they want not only the people who had Nationwide but also the rest of us to hold-harmless Nationwide Insurance. So what the firm has

to come up with is, if they get several million dollars, how much of that legitimately goes to people who didn't have Nationwide Insurance. He added that the second big issue Council will have to face is whether or not to join the group that is going to sue the people who didn't pay and didn't join. Unfortunately, the law firm we have been dealing with can't handle the case. The bottom line is, what is it worth to us to recover \$27,000 from these other localities. How much are we willing to spend to do this.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

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

Bus Shop - going fine. He really thinks we will be in the building by the first or second week of April. He asked the Council Members to stop in and visit.

Downtown Revitalization - He and others will be traveling tomorrow to look at some other areas around Virginia to give us some ideas.

Castle Trailer Park - We are getting very close on this. He hopes to be under design within about six weeks.

Manager Palmore stated that Mattie Neal's house should be under construction this week. Hopefully within 10 weeks, she can move in.

Mayor Coleburn informed those present that this was an emergency grant and there is no cost to the Town whatsoever.

Manager Palmore explained that this is an indoor plumbing grant. The home will face North West Avenue. He added that under the grant, we are reimbursed for our involvement in the project. He feels that there are some things that maybe the churches can come together and make happen. He stated that it is great that the money is there to help those that need it.

Mayor Coleburn asked is the Town willing and able to do for others what we have done for Mrs. Neal.

Manager Palmore answered, absolutely, we are willing to do whatever we can for our citizens.

LETTER OF SUPPORT - Nottoway County Grant Application

Councilman Green made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the Nottoway County's grant application. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker and approved. Vote:

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

RENOVATE PART OF THE POLICE STATION

Manager Palmore stated that the Police Chief is requesting \$3,036.86 to renovate the police station as outlined in the handout.

After discussion, Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the Police Chief’s request to renovate the Police Station. 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
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE - Business 460

Manager Palmore stated that about eight or ten years ago VDOT started talking about replacing the bridge out at Business 460. Now they are proposing to close the bridge for 18 months while they do this work. His concern with this road being closed is what would we do if Route 609 became completely blocked. He doesn’t want one-way out of anything and that is what we would have if VDOT closes this bridge completely. VDOT contacted Nottoway County and Fort Pickett but they did not contact us and when he found out about their plans, he called them and set up a meeting to discuss this issue. He added that Minutes of that meeting were included in Council’s packet.

Mayor Coleburn clarified that if this happens, when convoys come to Fort Pickett they would have to come by the checkerboard water tower, come down Barco Road and take a left onto North Main Street to get to the entrance at Pickett.

Councilman Wilson stated that car traffic could travel on Wellville Road.

Manager Palmore wants to talk to Jack Hodge and get some understanding on how he thinks this should go. We want to save money and we don't want to slow down this project but he is not happy with closing it down completely.

Councilman Quicke asked why can't they build a new bridge to the right or left and continue to use the old bridge.

Mayor Coleburn answered that we asked that question in this meeting but VDOT is telling us that it would be too costly because they would have to buy right-of-ways from the landowners on both sides of the bridge.

REVIEW BOARD - DBI

Manager Palmore asked for Council to make Downtown Blackstone Incorporated the Review Board instead of the Planning Commission.

Councilman Green made a motion to amend the Historical District Ordinance so stating that Downtown Blackstone Incorporated's Design Committee shall serve as the Review Board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke.

Discussion: Councilwoman Wynn asked about the Epes building and is this a part of what we are talking about.

Manager Palmore answered that the Department of Historical Resources has encouraged us to try and save this building. We have talked about moving the facade to some other area. He stated that we will continue to look at this but at this point there are no recommendations other than to determine the best use and if it is worth saving.

Manager Palmore stated that he wants to make sure that the Review Board process is expedited. We have always done our best to make sure we make it as easy as possible for the business owners. He knows that some of the decisions are not going to be quick but when someone comes to you and they are spending their own money to improve the buildings Downtown, we should do all we can to help them.

Town Attorney Walden answered a question about the appeal process. He stated that the Historical District Ordinance has it all spelled out; if someone wishes to appeal the Review Board's decision on an issue, they would have 30 days to appeal to the Town Council. If they are not happy with Council's decision, they would then appeal to the Circuit Court.

The motion to amend the Historical District Ordinance being made and seconded was approved as follows. Vote:

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

MID-ATLANTIC

Manager Palmore stated that a few weeks ago Councilman Green asked him about the Town’s Street Sweeper and a week later, it broke down. He asked Council for permission to purchase a new sweeper in the amount of \$139,140.00 from Mid-Atlantic Waste Systems. He stated there is no way we can pay this right now but this is the lowest quote we could find.

Councilman Green asked do we have to have a street sweeper.

Councilwoman Thompson asked how often do we sweep the streets.

David Ostrander answered, that we sweep the street at least twice a week and when it is raining or drizzling we sweep the whole day.

Council discussed this further.

Councilman Quicke asked how much do we have budgeted for this.

Finance Director Wells answered, \$130,000.00.

Manager Palmore stated that he would like to talk to this company about lowering their price.

By Common Consent of Council, Manager Palmore will try to negotiate a lower price.

MAYOR’S MINUTE

Mayor Coleburn asked how are we coming on getting the goals posted.

Manager Palmore answered, we will work on that.

Mayor Coleburn feels that Blackstone is the dirtiest it has ever been. The problem is not the picking up, it’s the throwing out. He feels we may need to make an example out of someone. We have got to wage war on people who litter if we are going to have a chance to fix this problem.

POLICE REPORT

No comments.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No Comments.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711
Sub Section A
- Acquisition of Real Property

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved unanimously. Vote:

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

Assistant Town Manager Dunn spoke to Council about the 2010 Census. He handed out a list to Council and asked them to give this list to the committee members they appointed to the Census Committee so they can make sure the homes listed are still there.

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

_____APPROVED AND ADOPTED

TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA