

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, Virginia, on Monday, July 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, 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; 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

Mayor Coleburn called the meeting to order and Councilwoman Wynn led in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MINUTES

Councilman Wilson made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented the Minutes of the June 16th and June 30, 2008, Council Meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke and the corrected Minutes were approved unanimously. Vote:

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

Mayor Coleburn presented the Town Clerk with a plaque recognizing her for attaining the status of Master Municipal Clerk.

Town Clerk Palmore thanked Mayor Coleburn and Council for the plaque.

VISITORS

1. Janette Baranishyn, Friends of Blackstone, spoke to Council regarding the Armory. She asked Council to allow their group to turn the Armory into a community asset. She stated that their organization is passionate about saving the Armory and their proposal benefits the entire Town.

Councilman Tucker entered the meeting.

Ms. Baranishyn stated that it is her hope that the recommendation of the Committee is favorable to the Friends of Blackstone.

Councilman Green, Chairman of the Building and Property Committee, stated that the Committee recommends that the Armory and the old Health Department building be leased to the Friends of Blackstone. The lease is to be a five (5) year lease with the Town of Blackstone reserving a 40' perimeter around the Northern and Eastern edges up to the driveway of the Health Department Building on the Southern edge. He read the following list of recommendations.

1. The Friends of Blackstone must agree to carry insurance on the building to protect Blackstone against any liability.
2. Restoration of windows on front of long sides of the building
3. Rehabilitation of bathroom facilities
4. Replacement of heating and cooling systems
5. An operational Farmer's Market
6. They must agree that the Town will not be asked to provide any funds and all utilities will be in the name of the Friends of Blackstone the day the agreement is signed.
7. The Town will make an agreement with the Department of Corrections to help provide labor to this project.
8. The Committee recommends that the Town Attorney and the Town Manager work with the Friends of Blackstone to draw up the necessary documents for the Mayor's signature.

Councilman Green suggested that maybe the Town could keep an option to donate in the future.

Manager Palmore agreed and suggested that the Town Attorney look at what we need to do to protect the Friends of Blackstone and the Town.

Councilman Green would like to see us more forward on the five year lease and in the future, this group would have ownership of the building.

Mayor Coleburn asked can this public body lease this property without having a public hearing.

Attorney Walden answered, yes, for four years and 364 days but no longer.

Councilman Wilson also feels that we need to make it clear that we are leasing the building to the Friends of Blackstone for \$1.00 a year.

The Council discussed this further.

Councilman Green made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Building and Property Committee for a 4 year, 11 month and 29 day lease in the amount of \$1.00 a year to the Friends of Blackstone with the aforementioned restrictions and covenants. 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
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

2. Francis Gilmore, Member of DBI Board and the Promotions Committee addressed Council. He stated that there are a tremendous number of people working for the betterment of Blackstone. He stated that it was determined that DBI should pursue a branding or some type of logo. He added that the next step is to put together a brand launching event. Mr. Gilmore stated that they would like the three partners to be the Town of Blackstone, DBI and the Chamber of Commerce. He stated that they would like for us to have the successes and advantages that other localities have had. Tonight he is asking for the support of the Council and for them to get behind this event.

Councilman Quicke asked Mr. Gilmore are they looking for money or labor.

Mr. Gilmore answered that they are looking for both. They would like to produce a banner, key chains and other items. He added that the good news is the Chamber of Commerce is behind them and has agreed to participate in a monetary fashion as well as DBI. They would like for the Town to donate \$1,500 to launch this event.

Councilman Green asked when does he see this event taking place.

Mr. Gilmore answered, probably the end of August and maybe at the Fire Station.

Mayor Coleburn asked how much money is the Chamber of Commerce donating and how much is DBI putting in.

Mr. Gilmore answered, that the Chamber is donating \$1,500 and DBI is donating \$500.00.

Councilman Hill asked about the \$15,000 that the Town has already given to DBI.

Mr. Gilmore answered that the Town has certainly contributed to DBI but DBI has also received funds from sponsor and fund-raisers they have participated in and they plan to use those funds to contribute to the brand launching event.

Councilman Quicke made a motion to give \$1,500 to DBI for this brand launching event. 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

3. Tom Daniel, Brunswick Avenue, addressed Council and asked them He asked to look at the Council Committee appointments. He stated that there are 10 Council Committee appointments and each Committee has three members. As he understands it, this constitutes an official meeting. He stated that these meetings have not been published. He does not know when they are, where they are, nor does he know what the results of the meetings were. He feels Council has been stepping over their bounds. He intends to follow up on this in writing to the Mayor and to the Council and ask for a legal opinion on this. He feels this needs to be taken seriously.

Manager Palmore responded to Mr. Daniel. He stated that notification of these meetings are posted in his office and in the DMV/Utility office. We also send out notification, by email, to those people who have requested it, of the date and time of the meetings. Manager Palmore reminded Mr. Daniel that he was asked last Thursday if he wanted to be on the list for notification and he told us no. He explained that the committees only meet when they need to. There is no special set time for each committee. They meet when different issues are assigned to them by the Mayor. He added that if Mr. Daniel wants us to put him on the list for notification, we will be happy to.

Mr. Daniel stated that his question is, when those committees meet, is that considered an open meeting to the public and shouldn't the public have access to what goes on in those meetings.

Mayor Coleburn answered that the committee meetings are open to the public and any member of the public is welcome to sit in on the meetings. He added that the results of the committee meetings are presented at the Council Meetings in a public forum.

4. Ann Hoover addressed Council regarding recycling. She wonders is it possible to have dumpsters where people can drop off plastic, cans and paper. She also asked why does the Town own so much real estate and why is the Town building a medical center when the budget is so tight and did the towns of Crewe and Burkeville build their own medical centers.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he feels the private sector should be involved. He explained that Crewe and Burkeville did not have 16 doctors and go down to none like what we experienced. He stated that he will always defend this Council's decision to build a medical center and added that the debt is backed by Bon-Secours and that is about as good as you can get.

5. Shirus Scott Craig, 100 10th Street, addressed Council and stated that last Saturday she encountered a Cougar near her property and it was a very scary event. She wants to know what is being done about catching the cougar.

Manager Palmore answered that we have obtained cameras that we are going to install in back yards and other areas, with some going in near the 10th Street and Lunenburg Avenue area. These cameras, that we are borrowing, cost about \$400.00 a piece. He wanted to talk to Council about replacing the cameras if something happens to them. He stated that we cannot shoot the cougar unless it attacks. The next thing we have to do is get a picture of the cougar, then decide if we want to trap it. The game warden feels that the cougar is tame but we are going to treat it as if it is not tame. He added that we also have some volunteers that are going out at night to try and find the cougar.

Mrs. Craig asked about trapping the animal.

Manager Palmore answered it is hard to do because many times the same thing that you would use to trap a cougar would be the same thing that would trap a regular house cat.

Councilman Hill stated that he talked to the Director of the Game Commission this afternoon and he is assigning Cale Godfrey to work on this and he is scheduled to be here sometime tomorrow. He added that the Game Commission is also planning to put up cameras.

Councilman Green stated that he is one of Mrs. Craigs neighbors and he thanked Councilman Hill for looking into this issue.

6. Marvin Cromer, South Main Street, addressed Council regarding 300 East Broad Street. He feels it is a safety issue when the parents allow the children to put basketball goals on the streets. A child was almost hit this past Saturday. He is asking the Police Department to look into this. Mr. Cromer added that once a child loses his life, it is too late. He has spoken to the parents but this only helps temporarily.

Mayor Coleburn asked do we have a regulation on this.

Manager Palmore answered that we have tolerated this so the children will have somewhere to play. In the past, when we have had problems, we have spoken to the parents and this has taken care of it. He will talk to the Police Chief and see what we can do. He stated that playing basketball in the street is illegal.

Councilman Wilson is also very concerned about this because you can't see the basketball goals at night which makes it very dangerous to drive.

Councilman Green stated that he agrees with what he is hearing. He then asked what can we do about the culvert on East Street.

Manager Palmore stated that we take care of this when we get the time and he will check into it.

Marvin Cromer spoke to Council regarding trash collection on holidays and on Fridays. When they don't pickup trash on a Friday, sometimes they wait until the next Friday and this is a lot of trash. He stated that this past Friday they didn't pickup any trash at his residence.

Manager Palmore answered that the garbage men are supposed to pickup twice a week.

7. Beverly Ambs, 4th Street, asked why is there not a hospital in Blackstone. She stated that we could serve five counties in this area and at the same time, put money back into local economy and the Town. She has looked around the community and she really paid attention at the recent Texas Festival. According to "Google" maps online, it takes approximately 40 minutes to get to a hospital from here. She stated that the Town has a volunteer ambulance service. If

you need to helicopter someone in you have to go through HCA or MCV, which means you are looking at a 40 to 60 minute window to get someone into treatment. She feels we need a hospital in this community that could serve Nottoway, Brunswick, Amelia, Lunenburg and Dinwiddie counties.

Mayor Coleburn stated that we have one of the best Volunteer Fire Departments and First Responder units anywhere and our Rescue Squad is a paid paramedic crew. He added that we are in a rural area so this is one of the challenges that we face and that is one of the things you may have to give up.

Ms. Ambs stated that she works for HCA and she wants the Council to know that HCA does look in the rural areas and they do a lot of community service and charity work. She added that Margaret Lewis, President of the Capital Division of HCA, will be happy to do a feasibility study for this area.

Manager Palmore stated that Nottoway County has just been declared a medically deprived area. He stated that we have met with many different hospitals over the years, but added that we will certainly be happy to meet with anyone at anytime. He added that our First Responders and the Fire Department are doing a wonderful job.

Councilman Green stated that if it hadn't been for the tireless efforts of the Town Manager and the Mayor, we would only have a "doctor in a box and he added, we went from 20 doctors here in Blackstone to none. He complimented Manager Palmore, Mayor Coleburn and Supervisor Simpson for all they have done.

Ms. Ambs stated that she is very impressed with what is going on and she just wants Council to think ahead.

8. Richard Eaton, South Main Street, stated that he prepared a letter and submitted it to his at-large Council Member asking that we add a question to the upcoming Town survey regarding recycling. He knows that Manager Palmore is planning a trip to Bedford to see how they do things. He understands that recycling is a volunteer program. Therefore, he feels that the Town survey will be golden opportunity to find out how many people there are in Blackstone who are interested in recycling.

Mrs. Neal thanked the Town for all they did for her and her new home and she welcomed everyone to come by at anytime. She added that Tuesday, August 5th, at 6:30 p.m., is the Annual Night-Out-Against Crime.

Councilwoman Wynn made a motion to close West Division Street on Tuesday, August 5th for the Night-Out-Against Crime. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green. Vote:

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

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

Fire Chief Tony Bradford presented the report for the Fire Department for June.

Councilman Quicke asked about a meeting that was held recently on disaster preparedness.

Fire Chief Bradford informed Council about a meeting that will be held this coming up Thursday on disaster preparedness.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Wilson made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$783,714.86. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke.

Discussion:

The motion made and seconded was approved as follows.

Vote:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health and Ordinance Committee - Committee Chairperson Wynn stated that she would like to make a report on weeds when we get to that on the Agenda.

Manager Palmore stated that he recommends that we change the effective date of the Meals Tax Ordinance to August 1st and he added that we will notify the effected businesses.

On motion by Councilman Quicke, seconded by Wilson to adopt the attached Meals Tax Ordinance with the effective date to be August 1, 2008. Vote:

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

Building and Grounds Committee - Chairman Green spoke to Council about the Bon-Secours lease and stated this Committee has some recommendations which he will outline later in the meeting.

REPORT ON MEDICAL CENTER - Low Bid

Manager Palmore stated that we had three companies to bid on building the new medical center with Kenbridge Construction coming in as the low bidder in the amount of \$1,670,000.

Manager Palmore stated that it has been a long time ago that he and Mayor Coleburn went over to meet with the Bon-Secours officials. He stated that the reason for the meeting was because Bon Secours was proposing a jack-in-the-box doctor at the Food Lion shopping center next to the ABC store. He thanked the Town Council, Finance Committee, Town Staff, Nottoway County, Steve Ferguson with the Planning Council, and everyone else involved in helping the Town with this endeavor.

Councilman Green is concerned about the naming of this building and stated that he wants to do the right thing by this wonderful family. He doesn't want to cause any trouble but he has been told that the whole family has not been talked to.

Manager Palmore answered that the part of the family that Council told him to talk to has been talked to.

Councilman Green stated that is has been seven months and he has heard both sides and understands both sides. He wants this to be a joyous thing.

Manager Palmore stated that we do not have to approve the name tonight. He explained that his sentiment was not only that James S. Harris, was Mayor of Blackstone he was also the President of the Virginia Municipal League. If we were building a sports complex in Blackstone he feels it should be named the James S. Harris sports complex. Manager Palmore stated that he has spoken to the members of the family that he was instructed to speak to and explained that he would not be coming to the Council tonight if he didn't feel like he had the support of that part of the family.

Councilman Wilson feels that we need to move forward with this.

Councilman Green agreed with Councilman Wilson.

Councilman Green made a motion to approve the five bullets as outlined by the Building and Property Committee as follows:

1. The Building and Property Committee recommends to Council that the Town Manager sign a proper lease agreement with Bon-Secours.
2. Recommends that Council award the contract to build the new medical center to the low bidder Kenbridge Construction in the amount of \$1,670,000.
3. Recommends that the building be named the James S. Harris Medical Center with a plaque to be placed in the appropriate spot on the building.
4. To display, on some portion of the inside of the building, portraits of Dr. Epes Harris, Dr. Stuart White and Dr. James Harris because these three men started the Blackstone Family Practice Center which helped train hundreds of doctors not only for the Commonwealth of Virginia but for the Nation.
5. Town Manager to find out who has portraits of the three men or if we are not able to obtain portraits then for the Town Manager to look into having portraits done and to report back to Council within three months.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson.

Discussion: Mayor Coleburn stated that he is in agreement with this decision.

Councilman Quicke asked the Town Manager is Bon-Secours in agreement with the base price– what about the other \$250,000.

Manager Palmore answered that he will meet with Bon-Secours and get that worked out. If Bon-Secours doesn't agree to this lease, we won't do this.

Councilman Hill asked about the 240 days.

Mrs. Mary Elba Robertson, a resident of Blackstone who was in the audience, stated that she is very much opposed to naming the building anything if Epes Harris's name is not included in the name.

Councilman Wilson commented that we are naming the building for James Harris because of his service as Mayor and his service in the Virginia Municipal League.

Mrs. Birdie Daniel, also a resident of Blackstone who was in the audience, suggested that perhaps there is another way to honor Dr. James Harris.

After further discussion, the motion being made and seconded, was approved unanimously as follows. Vote:

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

Councilman Green, Chairman of the Building and Property Committee stated that the Committee recommends the following regarding the "hole" on Main Street.

1. The Committee recommends to Council that the Town swap 29 feet on the North side of the "hole" for 29 feet on the Southern side and the necessary footage along the alley for future storm drainage, water lines and sewer lines.
2. The 29 feet will be used by the Town to install 6" water main and storm drainage for this area.
3. Also, we will continue to work with DHCD to find a use for the remainder of the property. The owner must agree to lease the remainder of the property to the Town. Both the Town and the owner will look for a buyer of this property and also the 29 feet that the Town owns. They would have to agree to market their property with the Town's 29 feet.
4. Our intention is to try to continue to market this property for business, however a green space should be developed in the mean time to dress-up this area to satisfy DHCD.
5. We recommend that the Town Attorney prepare the necessary documents that state the above.

Manager Palmore explained some of the history on the “hole”. He also handed out a map to Council showing what we will be swapping. He stated that tonight we are asking that the property be swapped so we can move forward. He added that recently someone recommended a public bathroom or a kiosk be located on the lot. Manager Palmore stated that the Town cannot afford to pay for this work so we will be continuing to work with DHCD to obtain grant money.

Councilman Green asked for clarification that what we are doing tonight is strictly to swap the land.

Manager Palmore answered yes sir.

Mayor Coleburn asked if someone came forward and wanted to buy the property what would we say.

Manager Palmore answered that he would definitely say sell.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Cheryl Reitz and Angie Sklute for investing in Downtown and for their hard work. His only concern is that we give the public ample time to come forward to comment.

Manager Palmore answered, that the business community has been notified.

Councilman Green asked that we have a work session when we start using DHCD money in this green space.

Manager Palmore stated that he has to start with land transfer but when we do move forward whatever we do will be advertised and the public will be notified.

Angie Sklute, Brunswick Avenue, addressed Council and thanked the Town for their help. She explained that all they wanted to do was put a business in Blackstone. It was never meant to be sneaky or untoward. She feels some pictures have been painted of them that were false. They are only trying to bring economic development into Blackstone. The issue with the property on the side has strictly been a drainage issue. This restaurant is something that has been near and dear to her and Cheryl and she wants to let everyone know that they are so happy that this is going to happen.

Mayor Coleburn stated that we are pulling for Angie and Cheryl very hard and added that they will have a significant business downtown.

Councilman Green made a motion to swap 29 feet on the North side of the “hole” on South Main Street for 29 feet on the Southern side and the necessary footage along the alley for future storm drainage, water lines and sewer lines and that Council direct the Town Manager to work with DHCD to find money. And also to swap the 35 feet on the rear of the property.. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and approved as follows. Vote:

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

WEED ORDINANCE

Manager Palmore asked for Council to table this issue for further discussion. The Committee needs more time to discuss this.

CONSENT AGENDA

Manager Palmore explained that he has concerns with a Consent Agenda and he understands Councilman Green’s desire to shorten the meetings. He added that in talking to other localities a lot can be hidden in a Consent Agenda.

Councilman Green made a motion to table the issue indefinitely. 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

ON GOING PROJECTS:

Bus Shop - We will be getting the asphalt and concrete in place. Everything is moving forward. We will notify Council when we plan to have a grand opening.

SCHWARTZ TAVERN AUTHORITY

Manager Palmore stated that the letter in Council’s packet regarding the Chamber of Commerce’s office being relocated from Schwartz Tavern came to us as a suggestion. He stated that we will not throw the Chamber of Commerce out on their heads, we will work with them to find an alternate location. He explained that we want to do this in order to have a more authentic museum atmosphere. He also spoke to Council regarding a tractor museum in the future.

Mr. Joe Allman stated that he has talked to the Chamber about this issue.

Councilman Green made a motion to ask the Schwartz Tavern Authority to write to the Chamber Board and give them six months to vacate Schwartz Tavern. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hill. Vote:

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

FLOOD MAP

Manager Palmore stated that we will be participating in a conference call this Wednesday to find some way that the Council could join the National Flood Insurance Program.

Mayor Coleburn referred this to the Insurance Committee chaired by Councilman Quicke.

SALARY STUDY

Councilman Quicke has requested some information from a neighboring locality but has not yet received that information. He asked that this item be placed on next month’s agenda.

REAL ESTATE/PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX WRITE-OFFS

Councilman Green made a motion to write-off Real Estate Taxes in the amount of \$20.71 and Personal Property Taxes in the amount of \$2,828.16. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and approved as follows. Vote:

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

UTILITY ACCOUNT WRITE-OFFS

Councilman Green made a motion to write-off Utility Accounts in the amount of \$11,452.76. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hill and approved as follows. Vote:

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

RELIEVE TOWN MANAGER OF THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS (RE & PP)

Councilman Green made a motion to relieve the Town Manager of the Collection of delinquent Real Estate Taxes in the amount of \$12,199.91 and delinquent Personal Property Taxes in the amount of \$5,289.92. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hill and approved as follows. Vote:

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

Councilman Hill - Aye
Councilman Tucker - Aye

Manager Palmore thanked Gweneth Procise for her hard work in collecting these debts. He added that if it weren't for her, our collections would not be nearly as high.

MOOSE LODGE

Manager Palmore stated that the Moose Lodge is planning to re-open two ball fields and they want to use our motor grader to do this work. He recommends that we do this but require them to pay for the fuel and the cost of labor.

Councilman Quicke made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to work with the Moose Lodge and for them to pay for the fuel and the cost of labor. 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

VRS RESOLUTION

Town Attorney Walden explained that when we put money into an account for an employee we can also charge money back to the employee. He feels the IRS has re-adjusted how we are calculating things.

Councilman Hill made a motion to adopt the attached VRS Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson.

After further discussion, Councilman Hill withdrew his motion and asked the Town Attorney to look into this further.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Mayor Coleburn stated that he talked to some residents of Pickett Court regarding shaving the inside corner of Pickett Court in order to allow for emergency vehicles to get into Pickett Court. He stated that he has spoken to the Town Manager about this and he assured the residents that we will not make a decision until we have a public meeting about this issue.

MISCELLANEOUS

Manager Palmore informed Council that the new 460 bridge will be built adjacent to the existing bridge and construction is scheduled to be begin by February 2011.

Councilman Green stated that he has a list of written questions that he would like answers to. He asked Council would they like copies of the questions with the answers.

There was no comment from members of Council.

Councilman Green then stated that he would like to ask three of the questions in public. He asked did we budget funds for the building inspector.

Manager Palmore answered, yes sir, we did and Town Attorney Walden, Assistant Town Manager Dunn and Marvin Alder will be meeting soon.

Councilman Green then asked the Town manager does the Council appoint him, the Town Clerk and the Town Attorney every year or every four years.

Manager Palmore answered, every four years.

Councilman Green asked have we gotten the check book balanced.

Manager Palmore answered that this month has been difficult because we have been shorthanded. He expects for it to be done by the end of the month.

Councilman Green asked why aren't we in trouble if our check book isn't balanced.

Manager Palmore answered it is procedural and it is supposed to be balanced by the 20th of each month.

Councilman Green stated that it bothered him that we didn't get our audit report on time because our check book wasn't balanced.

Manager Palmore answered that he feels this was an excuse that was used by the auditors. Everything changed when the GASBY Accounting System came into effect.

Councilman Wilson feels we need to get someone who gets paid less than Finance Director Wells to work the front counter. He feels Chris has his plate full.

Manager Palmore stated that we all have our plate full. We are shorthanded in the DMV. He added that he will report back to Council on the bank reconciliation next month.

Councilman Green asked that the Town Manager to answer a list of questions.

Manager Palmore stated that he would rather take direction from Council as a body rather than from one Council Member.

Council discussed this further and agreed that Councilman Green will give the list of questions to each Council Member and the Town Manager will not be required to answer until Council has a chance to look at them.

Councilman Green asked about three trees on Oak Street. When are we going to get these down.

Manager Palmore answered that we have to do those type things when we have time. We are checking the trees several times a week to make sure they are not a danger to anyone. It is our responsibility to take these trees down but it may be November before we can get to them.

Councilman Green asked about the Memorial Center.

Manager Palmore answered that Council made a motion to surplus the Memorial Center and it will be put in the Town's surplus sale in September or October.

Council discussed the survey that was talked about at the June 30th Council Meeting, but no action was taken.

POLICE REPORT

Councilman Wilson asked some questions about the tickets issued.

MISCELLANEOUS

Manager Palmore spoke about the Governor’s Letter on Virginia’s infrastructure. He doesn’t know what needs to happen before the General Assembly is going to wake up.

CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Ann Hoover asked for everyone to visit the Carriage Museum and asked about the brochure being printed.

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

_____ APPROVED AND ADOPTED

TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

