

Minutes of a Continued Meeting of the Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia, held in the Council Chambers located at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, on Monday, June 29, 2009, at 5:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

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 Staff: Jennifer H. Beck, Director of Transportation and Community Development; David Dunn, Assistant Town Manager; J. Larry Palmore, Town Manager, Joan R. Palmore, Town Clerk

Those Absent:

Mayor: William D. Coleburn

Due to the absence of Mayor Coleburn, Council President Wilson opened the Continued Meeting for the purpose of adopting the 2009/10 Budget.

Councilman Hill stated that there is no increase in taxes, utilities or fees of any kind in this budget.

Councilman Hill made a motion to adopt the 2009/10 Budget as advertised. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke.

Discussion: Councilman Green asked about the Administrative Assistant position.

Manager Palmore stated that we hope to save around \$10,000 in this budget. He added that he does not want to see Assistant Town Manager Dunn leave.

Councilman Wilson stated that he doesn't want to see Mr. Dunn leave either.

Manager Palmore stated that he has heard all kinds of things about this but none of them are true. He added that he would like to hire someone before Mr. Dunn leaves. He stated that Mr. Dunn's speciality is the National Guard because he has an excellent working relationship with them. He added that Mr. Dunn has also been working very hard with VDOT; the different lawsuits we have right now; and many other things. The position the Town Manager is talking about hiring for is not an Assistant Town Manager position and he will have to come back to Council and ask for permission to advertise. He stated that he would like for the new person to work with Mr. Dunn for at least a couple of months before he leaves. He informed Council that

recently there was a lawsuit out in California that ruled that what the EPA is doing as far as the Carolina Transformer and Ward Transformer issues are concerned is unconstitutional; so hopefully that will filter down to us also. This is a completely different case but it is the same principle, which is really good news.

Councilman Green stated that he is not questioning Mr. Dunn's job or what he does. He doesn't want to see him leave either and he knows he has done a good job.

Councilman Quicke stated that we don't want to put Mr. Dunn on a time line.

Assistant Town Manager Dunn stated that he has been punching the numbers and has decided that he wants to leave soon.

Councilman Green added that he certainly does not want Mr. Dunn to leave before he is ready.

Councilwoman Thompson entered the meeting.

Vote:

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

(Councilwoman Thompson did not vote because she was not present during the motion)

Manager Palmore informed Council that that we will need to close portions of Dinwiddie Avenue and North Main Street down to Division Street during the construction of storm drainage on these streets. He added that we will make sure that every business had a way for people to get in and out. He stated that we just got the go ahead from the State today.

Councilman Green asked how long is this going to take.

Manager Palmore answered that there will be traffic issues because of this for the next four weeks at least, but we will just have to deal with it.

Councilman Green made a motion to authorize the Town Manager, at his discretion to close Main Street from Tavern to Division Street for as much time as he needs. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson 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

Because Councilwoman Thompson did not vote on the motion to adopt the 2009/10 budget, Councilman Hill made a motion to rescind his motion to adopt and Councilman Quicke seconded the motion to rescind.

Vote:

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

Councilman Hill made a motion to adopt the 2009/10 budget. 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
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

Manager Palmore reported that one of our generators caught fire last week and our men were there and shut the switch down and we came away with minimal damage. The Fire Department was called but the fire was mostly out when they got there. He is certain that the insurance company will pay 100% of the damages.

Councilman Green asked about the new Trolley.

Transportation Director Beck answered that it was 100% paid for by Federal and State funds. She added that probably in the Fall, we will have a new route set up that will run Monday through Friday, around lunch time, out to the WalMart shopping center.

Manager Palmore stated that he hopes that eventually we will be able to run the Trolley out to Pickett but we are waiting on a study.

Councilman Quicke asked when will the study be done.

Community Developer Beck answered that CTAV (Community Transportation Association of Virginia) will be conducting the study for us but she is not sure when it will be complete.

Council discussed the Downtown Revitalization Project.

Manager Palmore stated that we did not get the VDOT grant to do the street scaping as we had hoped but we plan to reapply in November. He informed Council that we currently have two new businesses Downtown and possibly one more on the way.

There being no further business to bring before Council, Council President Wilson declared the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

APPROVED AND ADOPTED

TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA