

Minutes of a Regular Meeting and Public Hearing of the Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia, held in the Council Chambers located at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia, on Monday, June 15, 2009, 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, Director of Transportation and Community Development; David Dunn, Assistant Town Manager; Nicholas C. Kuzmiak, Police Chief; David Ostrander, Director of Public Works; 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.

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice of Public Hearing

The Town Officials invite all citizens of the Town to come by the Town Office and have the annual budget, from which this statement is made, explained to them in detail, if they so desire. A public hearing on this budget will be held at 7:00 p.m., June 15, 2009, in the Town Hall. All interested residents of Blackstone are urged to attend and express their opinion.

Mayor Coleburn stated that there are no proposed tax increases or rate increases in this budget.

Mayor Coleburn asked if anyone from the public would like to come forward and speak at this time.

There were no comments.

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing and opened the regular meeting.

MINUTES

Councilman Green made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented the Minutes of the May 7th and May 18, 2009, Council Meetings. 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

VISITORS

1) Barbara Tucker, 608 E. Broad Street, addressed Council regarding a sewer problem at her home. She feels there are a lot of problems with the sewer line on Broad Street. She stated that she has not done anything that has caused the problems.

Mayor Coleburn asked Mrs. Tucker did the sewer back up into her home.

Mrs. Tucker answered, yes, and there is a terrible odor. Sewer backed up in her basement this morning but she's very happy that her upstairs was not damaged.

Manager Palmore stated that as soon as we got the call this morning we went down and tv'd all the sewer lines and could not find a problem with the Town's line. He explained that we had over 2 ½ inches of rain within a short period of time this morning and that is what caused this problem. We contacted our insurance company immediately and we have also contacted Francisco Cleaning Service and he is on standby for tomorrow. He added that payment for cleaning service depends on the insurance company. He explained that Mrs. Tucker lives at the end of the street and there is very little fall from the sewer line to her home. She reported a odor about a week or so ago and we went up and cleaned the line. He feels that something caused this to backup and we are in debate with the insurance company and he hopes it will come out on Mrs. Tucker's side. He stated that we have done everything we can and he recommended to Mrs.

Tucker that she put in an electric valve in case something like this ever happens again. Manager Palmore also told Mrs. Tucker that she should put in a septic tank and a pump like her neighbors have done. He feels we will get a remedy from the insurance company in the morning but she needs to understand this is a one shot deal and she is going to have to take corrective action to remedy this situation.

Mrs. Tucker stated that she has not had a problem since she moved into the home in 1971.

Manager Palmore stated that you have to look at the entire situation and the buildup in the neighborhood.

2) Janette Baranishyn addressed Council regarding the Armory. She stated that the last couple of weeks have been frustrating for her organization and herself personally. She wants to clarify several things. She stated that the "Friends of Blackstone" is not an arts organization. Their charter is --**economic development through historic preservation. She stated that they would not have been good stewards of their mission if they had not stepped forward when Council voted to demolish the Armory.** Their initial project was meant to be Armbrusters however they were not able to make that work so they then decided to purchase the old Schewel's Furniture building on North Main Street. Since they purchased that building, they have remodeled it for reuse; they have installed two new air conditioners, two new furnaces, performed extensive roof repairs, restored the front window and the side window, rebuilt the facade and boot strapped the antique craft mall. Their investment in this project exceeds \$250,000, which was primarily funded through grants, donations and small loans. She stated that the Antiques and Crafts Mall has been in existence for two years and their sales last year increased 40% over the year before. In 2009, they are on target to significantly increase total sales again. She stated that for those who continue to question the viability of the mall, she stated that they are viable and they intend to be here for a very long time. She continued and stated the Friends of Blackstone's initial request was to donate the Armory to them or to another worthy organization. Mrs. Baranishyn reminded Council that during their first request, she pointed out that the restoration of the building would be a challenge for them and she reiterated that the situation is the same now as it was then. It would still be a challenge for her organization to restore the old Armory. She stated that she was persuaded to consider a lease with the Town but unfortunately it did not work out. Ms. Baranishyn has found it extremely difficult to raise funds because the Armory is not under a lease or owned by this group. She reminded Council that the option of selling the Armory was available when they decided to demolish it. During the current economic issues, she certainly understands the renewed interest. She stated that she feels like a bride left at the alter. She assured Council that she has not lost interest in the Armory. In their Council packet is information on saving the Armory. She asked that, if Council decides to sell the property to another organization, she wants them to consider a reuse of the building that generates business and creates jobs. She stated that at the end of the day the Friends of Blackstone did save the Armory because it is still standing.

3) Beverly Ambs asked is there an update on the hospital issue she has spoken to Council about several times in the past.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he has not talked to anyone about this in over a month.

Manager Palmore answered that he will continue to question the interested party until they make a final decision.

Mrs. Ambs asked why have we not spoken to the other organizations with regards to a hospital locating here. She feels that there are a lot of other places and organizations that could give the Town what it needs, other than the group that the Town is currently talking to.

Manager Palmore answered that he was directed by Council to work with this one group.

Mayor Coleburn stated that Council decided not to send a letter to any other organization and to only work with this one group for now..

Mrs. Ambs stated that she feels that they have had enough time to consider this and we now need to talk with other organizations and see what they have to offer.

Manager Palmore stated that he went and talked to Bon Secours and asked them about this issue. At that time he learned that they had already been looking into locating a 20 bed emergency center here. They had also looked at a piece of property in Blackstone. He stated that he would like another month to work with this group.

Mrs. Ambs pointed out that other medical groups have not been asked.

Manager Palmore agreed but stated that this group has made a considerable investment in Blackstone.

Mrs. Ambs replied that an emergency center does not include hospital beds, etc.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he applauds the Town Manager's commitment to Bon Secours but he feels it would be a good idea to look at other options now.

Mrs. Ambs stated that this does not include a hospital where patients can stay. She sees her neighbors and they are all getting older. She also sees how important it is to them to have a hospital close by so their friends and family can be nearby to support them when they are ill.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he does not feel that the Town Council should decide if a hospital comes here. It should be the market place that decides that. He suggested contacting Bon Secours and see what they have to say.

Manager Palmore stated that he does not have a problem putting the question to them and see what they say. If they don't want to do it, then we can go elsewhere.

Mayor Coleburn asked to put this on the July and August Agendas.

Councilman Hill stated that we can make contact and support it but they have to decide whether or not they want to come in and put a hospital here.

Councilman Green agreed with Mayor Coleburn and stated that if the zoning supports it there is not much we can do about either way. He added that he is not a big fan of the Town getting into private enterprise. He does not feel that we should keep going out of our realm.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Mrs. Ambs.

4) Tuckie Kile addressed Council regarding a wind storm that knocked over the tombstone of Sigar Gravatt at the cemetery. She stated that the tombstone has been reset but she wonders if it would have been reset if she hadn't done anything about it. She stated that you cannot see Mr. Walden's father's grave because it is covered in debris.

Manager Palmore stated that he intends to get a crane to lift the tree up so we can get it out of the cemetery. He explained that the Town does not have the equipment to do this. He hopes that we can get the crane in there by Friday. He added that we have tried to get a crane in there several times but it has just been too wet.

5) Ann Hoover addressed Council and stated that the Thomas family is in favor of keeping history and culture in Blackstone. She asked for help in getting rid of squirrels in her yard.

Mayor Coleburn answered that there is a law in Town that prohibits discharging of firearms in within Town limits. He explained that it is the Chief of Police's authority by Code to issue permits to shoot squirrels and he has chosen not to give out permits.

Mrs. Hoover stated that she went to the Civil War Re-enactment this past weekend and she feels that we need to get some kind of sign on or near Main Street so people will know where the Carriage Museum is. She added that no one was at the Carriage Museum at all last week. She feels we need to advertise it and get the word out.

Councilman Hill asked who has the brochures and can we get them to the different visitor centers in Virginia.

Manager Palmore answered that Robert Thomas, Marie Thomas' son, is running the Carriage Museum and he is distributing the brochures. He added that there is a hefty fee to get brochures into the visitors centers but he will be happy to look into this again. He also added that we do need to get the word out but in places farther away from here. Mr. Thomas is working on bringing more and more people into the Carriage Museum.

4) Birdie Daniel, Brunswick Avenue, addressed Council and asked do we have someone who represents our Town as an economic development person. She feels we need someone who can get this information out.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he looks at this Council and himself as cheerleaders but this is a natural for the Chamber of Commerce, DBI and in some cases Nottoway County Economic Development.

Manager Palmore added that Steve Ferguson with Nottoway County represents us and does a great job.

Manager Palmore stated that we had two businesses to move Downtown in the last two weeks and DBI has been working hard to get people into Town. DBI is also helping us with Downtown Revitalization. One of the main reasons this group was formed was to bring people to Blackstone.

Councilman Green feels that the Chamber of Commerce should be tackling this issue.

Councilman Hill feels that we need to get a current brochure and get some good photographs and have some way to distribute this brochure and not just in Town.

Manager Palmore agreed and stated that Mr. Thomas has done a great job with this but he feels we do need to get outside our service area. He stated that you can get some of the best food in the country right here in Blackstone. He agreed with Councilman Green and stated that he has always felt that this is a Chamber of Commerce function.

Councilwoman Wynn asked that we provide copies of the brochure to Bon Secours, when it is complete.

Mayor Coleburn asked Councilman Green and Councilman Quicke to move forward with DBI on producing a brochure and getting it distributed.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Tony Bradford made the report for the Fire Department for the month of May. He stated that in every restaurant and hotel you go into at Virginia Beach, there are brochures. He added that a hospital in this area would be a good thing for everyone. Fire Chief Bradford

stated that they were recently notified that the Fire Department received funding for a Smoke Detector Grant from the Health Department. He stated that Jason Krotzer asked for 50 smoke detectors and he got 50. He explained that this grant will save the Fire Department money. He stated that the Fire Department is working with Mrs. Craig at the Blackstone Primary School and they got back 35 requests from parents for smoke detectors. He also informed Council that Sam Nunnally put in for another grant with the Department of Fire Programs and we received that grant also in the amount of \$1,955 to purchase a portable laptop, a projector, etc. He stated that this was not a matching grant, so the Town will not have to pay out anything to receive this money. This grant will also pay to install another dry hydrant in the County.

Manager Palmore stated that several months ago, Council authorized the Fire Chief to seek bids on a new fire truck. The Fire Department's Committee has met and recommends to Council to purchase the Pearce Fire Truck in the amount of \$359,996. He explained that Pearce is the only company that met the specifications 100%. If we prepay \$137,134, we will receive an additional savings of \$6,265. The big question is, "How will the Town pay for this truck?" If we accept the bid of \$359,996 and take the discount of \$6,265, that brings the cost to \$353,731. The total FEMA Grant that we received is \$237,500. The Town already obligated itself at the time of the application that we would give a pay a 5% match which would be \$12,500 bringing the total cost of the truck to \$250,000. The difference in the cost of the bid and grant amount is \$103,731. He added that the Fire Department has agreed to pay \$50,000 out of their funds. He stated that Council made the wise decision many years ago to set aside capital outlay funds for fire equipment. Out of those funds we are proposing to cash in two CD's one in the amount of \$75,721.71, and the other in the amount of \$11,412.29, for a total match of \$137,134. He asked Council to authorize him to sign the necessary documents in order to receive this grant.

Mayor Coleburn asked if FEMA has approved this truck.

Fire Chief Bradford added that the other two companies that bid on this truck did not meet the exact specs.

Mayor Coleburn stated that this is the Wildland interface truck that is going to be used in the County.

Councilman Green asked where is the County's part in this amount. He also asked if FEMA is okay with us not taking the lowest bid.

Fire Chief Bradford already checked with FEMA and told them what the issue was and they understand that in order for us to get what our locality needs, this is the truck we need to go with.

Councilman Green made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign the necessary documents, to make the down payment of \$137,134, and to order the truck. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hill.

Discussion:

Mayor Coleburn asked if after cashing in these two CD's, will we have any money left for the next truck or piece of equipment we may need.

Manager Palmore answered that we have about \$45,000 left.

Councilman Hill asked where did this money come from for the CD's.

Finance Director Wells answered that some of it came from the Town, some from the County.

Councilman Hill asked, is it not correct that some of the money, that has been set aside in CD's for this truck, came from the County

Manager Palmore answered, that is correct, but the Town pays full operation of the Fire Department that is why we were able to take the money from the County and buy the CD.

Mayor Coleburn stated that the County gives us \$24,000 a year and we put this money in a CD. He added that this is decal money. He agreed that it is tough to pay \$100,000 for a truck that is primarily going to be working in the County.

Councilman Wilson asked will this be in this year's or next year's budget.

Manager Palmore answered next year's budget because we won't get the funds in until next fiscal year.

Council discussed this further.

Fire Chief Bradford assured Council that this truck will be able to take care of Blackstone and also help in the County. This truck will replace Engine 4 which is a 1984 Engine.

The motion being made and seconded to purchase the new Pearce Urban Interface Pumper 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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Wilson made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$561,648.35. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.

Discussion: Councilman Quicke asked about two bills to Superior Builders.

Finance Director Wells answered that these bills are for work done in the Castle’s Trailer Park project

Councilwoman Wynn stated that she is happy about the short term loan.

Mayor Coleburn agreed that is great to see that the short term loan has been paid off.

Vote:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Property Committee - Councilman Green, Chairman of the Building and Property Committee stated that they need more time to gather information before they can make a recommendation.

BANNER POLICY

Town Attorney Walden stated that the way a Council acts is through Ordinances and if you want something to be binding this is the way it must be done. He added that he has followed this issue in Richmond and Lynchburg and they are very concerned about equal protection of all groups. He reviewed the proposed Banner Ordinance with Council.

Councilman Hill made a motion to adopt the attached Banner Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker and approved unanimously.

Discussion: Councilwoman Wynn asked can the school alumni organizations put up banners under this new ordinance.

Town Attorney Walden answered that under this Ordinance, only non-profit organizations can apply and it would then be up to Council to decide if they would be given permission to put up a banner.

Town Attorney Walden explained the Indemnity Agreement included in the Ordinance.

Mayor Coleburn asked would this Ordinance prevent someone from coming to Council and asking for a banner.

Town Attorney Walden answered, that anyone can apply and it would then be up to Council to decide but under the ordinance, only non-profit organizations can apply.

Councilman Quicke asked could the Town put up a banner.

Manager Palmore answered yes, but he also cautioned about putting up banners on Highway 460 East and West bound because this is VDOT property.

Richard Eaton asked should the fee apply to the Chamber of Commerce also.

Manager Palmore answered yes, it would apply to everyone.

Councilman Hill stated that if we charge one group we need to charge them all.

Councilman Green stated that he feels that the Chamber should pay the fee just like everyone else. If a group wants a banner put up then they need to be willing to apply and pay the fee.

Mayor Coleburn asked what if someone forgets to apply for a banner how would we handle that.

Manager Palmore stated that we could poll Council when they do apply.

Vote:

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

Councilman Hill - Aye
Councilwoman Thompson - Aye
Councilman Tucker - Aye

ARMORY

Manager Palmore feels we need to study this further. His feeling is the Buildings and Property Committee would like Council and the citizens to visit Mr. McCormack and see his properties in Petersburg. He stated that we have done everything Ms. Baranishyn and her group asked us to do in their original proposal. He added that he needs to sit down with Ms. Baranishyn and talk about this.

Mayor Coleburn asked would we need to consider having a public hearing on the sale of the Armory if it comes down to that.

Manager Palmore stated that the last public hearing was for anyone who was interested in the Armory to come forward.

Councilman Green stated that his committee is going to ask for another public hearing on this issue.

Manager Palmore stated that we need to keep all our cards on the table.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he feels the earliest any kind of decision will be made on the Armory is August.

Sam Moncure, a citizen from the audience, stated that the Town voted about a year ago to demolish the Armory. At that time, the "Friends of Blackstone" came forward with a good plan. This group was offered a lease arrangement with certain conditions that would have let this property be donated to the "Friends" after a certain period of time. For various reasons, the "Friends" decided not to accept this lease. He stated that the Town did exactly what they said they would do. At the recent public hearing on the Armory, a man came forward and offered to buy the Armory and put approximately 22 apartments in it. Mr. Moncure stated that he has heard comments from many different people and the majority feel that we need to sell the Armory and put this property back on the tax roles. These apartments would increase electricity sales, water sales and also increase business Downtown. He stated that he takes his hat off to the "Friends of Blackstone" and particularly Ms. Baranishyn for her hard work. He feels that the Buildings and Property Committee needs to consider the financial impact.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Mr. Moncure for a very accurate recital of the facts.

NUISANCE ORDINANCE

Councilman Green made a motion to adopt the attached Nuisance Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and approved as follows.

Discussion: Councilman Quicke stated that his understanding of the Nuisance Ordinance is when a notice of Nuisance is issued, than the person who is being charged with a nuisance has 10 days to abate and if they don't abate in that 10 day period, they also have a period of time to ask for a hearing. If they do this within the 10 day period then there is no fine but if they don't there will be a lien put on the property and an additional \$50 administrative fee charged.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he is being asked what is the big deal if this is not being enforced. He feels that we need to instill in our officers and employees that we need to pay attention to these type things.

Manager Palmore stated that in the past we have enforced this on a complaint basis. If a neighbor or another citizens calls we will make sure the offender received notification and we will follow the ordinance as written.

Councilwoman Thompson asked are chickens allowed in Town.

Manager Palmore answered, no mam and he knows what Councilwoman Thompson is referring to and he will take care of it.

Councilman Quicke stated that Councilwoman Wynn has done a wonderful job with this Ordinance as well as Town Attorney Walden.

Councilman Hill stated that he feels if we are going to go out and get the public to cut their grass we need to be mindful of the Town's grass as well.

Manager Palmore stated that he understands what Councilman Hill is saying and agreed.

Vote:

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

DMA MOVE TO SANDSTON

Mayor Coleburn stated that he is still in contact with Nottoway County on this and there are some other avenues being explored.

Councilwoman Wynn asked won't there still be some troops training at Pickett.

Mayor Coleburn answered, yes, Pickett is still alive and well.

Manager Palmore reviewed the letter from Governor Kaine and stated that he is not happy with the way this is being handled but added that this is not over yet. He stated that it is going to cost \$2.5 million to move the headquarters from Pickett back to Sandston and this is not being done with Federal funds.

ERIC NASH ISSUE

Manager Palmore stated that he met with Mr. Nash last week and he seemed to understand where he was coming from. He explained that we received a bill from a plumber without a phone call or any explanation. He stated that Mr. Nash used an old sewer tap from an existing home. Manager Palmore doesn't understand why any plumber would go to a home with a sewer problem and not pop the Main to determine where the back up had occurred. The plumber should have called the Town if he thought it was our problem. He stated that any citizen can call the Police Department 24 ours a day if they have a problem and we will get our men on the job. It's the same situation if your electricity goes out. You call the Police Station. It is our emergency 24 hour service. Manager Palmore explained that it is the principle of someone else deciding that it is a Town bill rather than calling us to take care of it. He stated that the other issue that Mr. Nash mentioned in his letter was the fill dirt in his yard. He agreed that Mr. Nash did talk to him back when he was planning to build his home and at that time, Manager Palmore thought he was going to have plenty of dirt but that was not the way it turned out at the medical building site. We ended up having to buy dirt because we didn't even have enough to finish the job. Manager Palmore has offered Mr. Nash to pipe his driveway at no charge other than he has to pay for the materials and pipe. This is the same as we do for every citizen under the Town's pipe policy. He added that he will give him enough dirt to cover the pipe and Mr. Nash can push it where ever he wants it. Manager Palmore stated that Eric Nash agreed to this last week when he talked to him.

Mayor Coleburn asked is it the Town's policy to provide dirt to citizens.

Manager Palmore stated that we have a list for people to sign up if they are interested in getting dirt. Everyone has to understand that the dirt is delivered as is with roots, glass, cans, or whatever. The dirt will not be filtered by the Town and is only available when the Town cleans ditches and has extra.

Mayor Coleburn asked do we have a welcome packet for new comers.

Manager Palmore stated that he hopes maybe DBI can work towards this.

Councilman Green stated that years ago the Chamber of Commerce had something like this but that was a long time ago.

NEW MEDICAL BUILDING

Manager Palmore stated that a mistake was made when the letters were put up on the new medical building. Councilman Green made a motion back in July of 2008, to name the new building the “James S. Harris Medical Center” but due to a mistake, it now says “Building” instead of “Center”. Manager Palmore stated that we will need a motion from Council tonight to rename it the “James S. Harris Medical Building.”

Councilman Quicke asked what would it cost to fix the mistake.

Manager Palmore stated that he does not know, he didn’t ask.

Councilman Green stated that everyone called the other building the medical center and that is why he likes the name.

Manager Palmore stated that if they take it down and redo it, it will not line up properly and if Council decides to keep it “Center”, than it won’t be fixed by Saturday for the dedication ceremony.

Councilman Hill stated that he has mixed feelings on this. He stated that ultimately we got what we wanted because the building does say James S. Harris which is what is most important.

Council discussed this further.

Councilwoman Wynn made a motion to rescind a previous motion to name the new medical center, the James S. Harris Medical Center. The motion to rescind was seconded by Councilman Wilson. Vote:

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

Councilman Green made a motion to change the name to the “James S. Harris Medical Building.” The motion was seconded by Councilman Hill. Vote:

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

Manager Palmore handed out a payment schedule showing how much Bon Secours will be paying the Town monthly for the new medical building. He stated that the first payment is \$26,396.54 but after that, the monthly payment will be \$22,331.43. This figure does not include the annual \$3.50 per square foot maintenance fee. Manager Palmore informed Council that we are running into a problem because any money left over from the Bond that we don’t use, cannot be turned back in to VML. We will have to find some way of spending it on this project. It cannot be spent elsewhere in Town, only on the medical building. He stated that the final interest rate was 5.12%.

Council discussed this further.

Manager Palmore stated that our men did an outstanding job making sure this project was done on time and he is proud of all of them and he thanked them for their hard work. He stated that he promised Council that this project is not going to cost the taxpayers one dime and it won’t. We are going over everything very carefully to make sure we get all our money back.

Mayor Coleburn stated that this building was \$3 million project and added that this is something to be proud of.

Councilman Wilson asked about the name on the Bond documents. Will that have to be changed as well

Manager Palmore feels this is fine but he will check with VML/VACo and make sure it does not cause a problem. He added that the brick wall is finished and he would like to put up a plaque on that wall, to recognize this Council. The Town Attorney is working on the wording for us. He feels it is a good idea for future generations.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

Downtown Revitalization - Manager Palmore reported that we did not get the Downtown ISTE A Grant we recently applied for. We scored the highest of any new applications but DHCD made the decision not to take on any new projects but to finish the ones that are currently underway.

Councilman Quicke asked how much was that grant.

Manager Palmore answered around \$1.1 million and that included signage that would recognize the Carriage Museum and Schwartz Tavern and would also make all the signs uniform. DBI requested \$61,000 for signs. It is unfortunate that we didn't get the grant but we can apply again.

Manager Palmore stated that we recently learned about a CDBG grant, that had to be in on Friday afternoon, for grading the Industrial Park. We hope to partner with the Southside Virginia Community College. In the grant application, we are asking for \$150,000 from CDBG for grading the Industrial Park and we plan to use the Community College to do the in-kind work

Councilman Green asked if there is a Cap that we have to be under to receive additional grant money.

Manager Palmore answered, yes sir. The Cap is \$2.5 million and we are under that amount.

Council discussed this further.

Councilman Hill asked will this project be included in this year's budget.

Manager Palmore answered yes, because this will spread out over three years.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to apply for this grant to grade the Industrial park in the amount of \$150,000 with an in-kind match of \$135,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thompson and 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

Manger Palmore asked for permission from Council to divert the traffic on North Main Street, during the new medical building dedication ceremony on Saturday morning, and to work with the Police Chief to make this happen. He added that we plan to have a shuttle bus to take people from Downtown to the site.

Councilman Green made a motion to close North Main Street near the Medical Center from Tavern Street to Dinwiddie Avenue on Saturday, June 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hill. Vote:

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

RATIFY POLL TAKEN ON APRIL 28TH - ALFRED V. TUCKER AWARD

Mayor Coleburn stated that he purposely asked the Town Clerk not to Poll Councilman Tucker on this because he wanted to honor him. Mayor Coleburn stated that he thought it would be appropriate to honor Councilman Tucker in this way since he was injured doing a very good deed for someone else on the most dangerous road in Nottoway County. He would like in the future, when we give out awards to honor individuals for helping their fellow man, that we name the award the “Alfred V. Tucker Award.” All those present applauded Councilman Tucker.

Councilman Hill made a motion to approve the following Poll taken on April 28, 2009, to approve naming all future awards of service to individuals in the community who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help their fellow man, the “Alfred V. Tucker Award.”

Vote:

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

(Councilman Tucker was not polled.)

The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke and 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

RATIFY POLL TAKEN ON MAY 27TH - FLOOD PLAIN ORDINANCE

On motion by Councilman Quicke, seconded by Councilman Wilson to ratify the following poll taken on May 27th to adopt the attached Flood Plain Ordinance.

Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	<i>(unable to contact)</i>
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	<i>(unable to contact)</i>
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

The motion to ratify 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

DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS

Mayor Coleburn feels that if someone sees a snake in Blackstone they should have permission to shoot it. He is going to bring this back to Council next month.

Council discussed this further.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT LETTER

Manager Palmore referred to the letter we received recently from the Health Department regarding the E-Coli limits being high. He stated that he never realized how much cow manure can affect our water.

Council discussed this further.

Manager Palmore stated that he feels that the Town may have to consider partnering with Nottoway County on building fences and other things to correct this problem.

REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN - UPDATE

Manager Palmore recommends that Council authorize him to sign the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

Councilman Quicke made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign so we will be included in the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn.

Discussion:

Councilman Hill asked will this cost us anything.

Manager Palmore answered, yes sir, if we join, but we are looking at an engineering firm to cut the costs and we have plenty of time to withdraw, if we choose.

VIRGINIA ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Manager Palmore stated that Assistant Town Manager Dunn brought this to his attention and he checked into it with Tinker Barnes at Social Services. He explained the Energy Assistance Program and stated that once they are approved by Social Services we will receive paperwork telling us who has been approved for assistance. In order for this to work, we have to agree that we will wait for our payment from the State and we won't cut anyone off that has been approved for assistance. He feels it is a good deal because the Town is getting money from the State to assist with this program. This is going to be more work for us as far as record keeping but it also guarantees us our money and it benefits the elderly and those receiving assistance.

Councilman Quicke asked will Social Services approve the applicants and guarantee payment.

Manager Palmore answered, yes sir.

Councilwoman Wynn made a motion to become a vendor in the Virginia Energy Assistance Program and to authorize the Town Manager to waive the associated fees. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker.

Discussion: Councilman Hill asked will we charge a penalty if it isn't paid on time.

Manager Palmore answered, that this does not obligate us for anything except for electricity. We will not charge a penalty if they are approved through Social Services and we have received their paperwork.

Assistant Town Manager Dunn stated that Frank Harris with Southside Electric said that their revenue has increased substantially since they signed up with this program because payment is guaranteed.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Mayor Coleburn stated that he wants to ask the County Building Inspector to condemn the old Armbruster's Restaurant building on Church Street.

Council discussed this further.

MISCELLANEOUS

Manager Palmore talked to Council about Ward Transformer and stated that they are projecting the cost to the Town will be around \$170,000. He does not know how we can obligate to pay something when we don't know exactly how much it is going to cost.

Attorney Walden stated that they knew the price on Phase 1 but not on Phase 2. They are offering us a settlement of \$103,000 to cash out and go away but this is not final if they have cost over runs. We were supposed to have decided on this today but now they are extending the deadline to the middle of July for administrative procedures. He stated that he has talked with Bill White who is representing a group of about six different organizations and Attorney Walden's recommendation is to go ahead and join this particular group. He also recommends that we retain Bill White, who is a specialist, to monitor this for us. He added that we can work it out so that we are billed monthly.

Councilman Green made a motion to hire Bill White to represent us in the Ward Transformer issue and also to get a monthly report on this issue and how much money is being spent. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke and 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

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

On motion by Councilman Hill, seconded by Councilman Tucker to close North West Avenue up to Division Street for the National Night Out Against Crime on August 4th. Vote:

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

POLICE REPORT

There were no comments on the Police Report.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ann Hoover commended Council for cutting the budget.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Green made a motion to go into Closed Session according to the following:

Virginia Code Section 2.1-3711
Sub Section A
- Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property

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

Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting back in Open Session.

Councilman Green 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 Quicke and 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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council at this time, Mayor Coleburn continued the meeting to June 29, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

_____ APPROVED AND ADOPTED

TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

