

Minutes of a Continued Meeting of the Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia, held in the Council Chambers located at Mitchell's Restaurant, 403 N. Main Street, Blackstone, Virginia, on Thursday, November 6, 2008, at 12:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

Mayor: William D. Coleburn

Council Members: L. Benjamin Green, John W. Hill, Jr., Barbara Thompson,  
Constance T. Wynn

Town Attorney: Kennon C. Walden, Jr.

Town Staff: J. Larry Palmore, Town Manager; Joan R. Palmore, Town Clerk

DBI: Lafayette Dickens

Those Absent:

Council Members: C. Duncan Quicke, Alfred V. Tucker, J. A. Wilson, Jr.

Mayor Coleburn called the meeting to order and welcomed Kyle Meyer with the Virginia Main Street Program and Elise Tinsley with National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Kyle Meyer stated that the purpose of this meeting is to get a feel for Blackstone's needs on the Downtown Revitalization Project.

Elise Tinsley asked the Council Members what positive things do they see happening.

Councilman Hill stated that he feels this project has brought the Downtown merchants together.

Mayor Coleburn sees lots of energy going into the revitalization.

Councilman Green stated that DBI is working very hard and he can see the improvements that are being made.

Manager Palmore stated that the merchants are having a sales drive on November 28<sup>th</sup> and will be staying open until 10:00 p.m., that night. He feels this is a good thing for Downtown and they should consider doing it more often. He also sees added volunteers. Manager Palmore informed Elise and Kyle that Council voted unanimously at its last Council Meeting to

appropriate funds to help DBI rent first floor office space Downtown. He feels this is very important because DBI is going to become more and more valuable to the Downtown merchants. He added that the merchants are excited.

Ms. Tinsley asked about recommendations for DBI.

Mayor Coleburn feels that DBI needs to remember to educate and remind its customers about its message and mission.

Councilman Green feels that it is important that DBI have good signage.

Councilman Hill stated that they need to keep motivated and not become complacent.

Manager Palmore added that they need to keep their eye on the ball and it will all come together.

Mayor Coleburn feels that it is important to embrace questions about finances in order to deflect and minimize criticism.

Manager Palmore asked Kyle and Elise where do they feel DBI should be.

Mr. Meyer answered that DBI is right on target.

Ms. Tinsley stated that she is very happy with DBI and the way Blackstone has responded as a whole.

Ms. Tinsley then asked what is something that we can do in order to keep track of the funding.

Manager Palmore feels that it is important to keep up with volunteer hours and track new people and residents.

Councilman Green stated that DBI needs to work towards being self sufficient.

Council discussed ways of encouraging Nottoway County to be involved.

Mayor Coleburn feels it is very important to take before and after photos to document where we came from and how much we have accomplished.

Manager Palmore stated that we have contacted Dominion Power and they are going to do a before and after video for us. He added that the Epes/Jackson building will be the first facade to be revitalized. He stated that now is when we have to get the merchants sold on spending more money on their property, which is going to be hard.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Kyle and Elise for meeting with the Council and adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

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MAYOR  
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

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

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