

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 Monday, October 22, 2007, 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 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: None

Mayor Coleburn called the meeting to order and Councilman Green 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 with correction the Minutes of the September 17, 2007, Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker.

Vote:

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

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

**VISITORS**

1. Sharon Harrup, Joyce Taylor, and Scott Lewis, all with the Chamber of Commerce came forward to address Council. Ms. Harrup stated that they are here to thank the Town Council, Town Manager and staff for all they did to help with the recent Arts and Crafts Festival. She stated that the Chamber made over \$15,000.00 on this event. She added that they intend to change the hours next year to open at 10:00 a.m., on both Saturday and Sunday. She stated that over 40 crafters have already signed up for next year.

Scott Lewis and Joyce Taylor also thanked the Town and the work crews for all their help.

Mayor Coleburn expressed appreciation to the Chamber for all their hard work on this event.

Manager Palmore also thanked Ms. Taylor, Ms. Harrup and Mr. Lewis. He stated that it seems that this year the event went much smoother than in the past and he knows this is because of these individuals. He added that he feels we need to thank Bobby Daniels for all he does for the Town and for the Arts and Crafts Festival by way of the tractor show.

2. June Buntin, 505 College Avenue, stated she is here to talk to Council because she is concerned about our water supply. She is very worried that we are doing nothing about getting the public aware about conserving water. Mrs. Buntin added that all over the country we are experiencing very weird weather patterns. She suggested asking the public to voluntarily restrict water usage by not watering lawns, etc. She is very serious about this issue and she hopes that Council will take this seriously.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he is concerned about this also. Although, he feels that voluntary water restrictions will not work; the restrictions would need to be mandatory.

Councilman Quicke feels that Mrs. Buntin's concerns are valid.

Mrs. Buntin stated that she remembers a number of years ago when California was having such a hard time, people were using bath water and dish water to water their plants.

Manager Palmore stated that he checks the water supply three or more times a week. The water is coming over the dam right now and we are monitoring it closely. If the water stops running over the dam, we will have nine months worth of water left. He agrees that Mrs. Buntin's concerns are valid and if Council wants to make mandatory water restrictions it would need to be done by an ordinance.

Mayor Coleburn asked, if we conserve water today wouldn't it help.

Manager Palmore explained that the pool is full and water is still going over the dam. We cannot raise the dam so therefore we cannot control the water that goes over it.

Councilman Green agrees with Mrs. Buntin's concerns, but he feels that as long as we don't have a shortage, he does not feel that government should meddle in citizens' private business.

### **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Assistant Fire Chief Tony Bradford gave the report for the Fire Department for the month of September. He stated that he reported last month that one of their engines was on reserve status. He informed Council that this engine is now up and running so they are back up to full fleet. He also informed Council that there will be a Blood Drive at the Fire Station from 10:00 a.m., to 2:00 p.m., on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will also be a fund-raiser for the Fire Department.

### **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Councilman Wilson made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$948,180.01. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn.

Discussion:

Councilman Wilson asked are we paying \$3,000 each month to Nottoway County to dispose of sludge at the landfill.

Manager Palmore answered, he believes that amount is for two months.

Finance Director Wells confirmed that the \$3,000 is payment for two months .

Councilman Wilson suggested meeting with a company called Recyc Systems, Inc., and look at putting in a pad and dump the bio-solids on that pad. He feels this will help the County also.

Manager Palmore answered that we offered several years ago to put a pad at the Sewage Treatment Plant and Fort Pickett never showed any interest.

Council agreed by Common Consent to talk to Recyc Systems, Inc., about bio-solids.

After further discussion, the motion to pay the bills 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**

*Street and Light Committee (Name Road Leading into Industrial Park and Halloween).*

Councilman Tucker, Chairman of the Street and Light Committee stated that they met about naming the road going into the Industrial Park by the bus shop and their recommendation to Council is to name the road BABS Lane. They also talked about Halloween and Police Chief Kuzmiak is going to work on a plan to help with traffic on Brunswick Avenue.

Manager Palmore added that we are considering making traffic on Brunswick Avenue one-way for Halloween evening.

Chief Kuzmiak stated that his proposal is that from 6:00 p.m., to 9:00 p.m., traffic will be one-way going South on Brunswick Avenue and he added that Police Officers will be at every intersection.

On motion by Councilman Tucker, seconded by Councilman Quicke to name the road leading into the Industrial Park BABS Lane. Vote:

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

After some discussion, Councilman Hill made a motion to make Brunswick Avenue one-way traffic to begin at 5:00 p.m., and the ending time will be left up to Police Chief Kuzmiak's discretion. 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
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

### **VIRGINIA MAIN STREET PROGRAM - ADOPT REPORT**

Councilman Green stated that he supplied Council with a copy of a report on the Virginia Main Street Program. He added that the National Main Street Association and the Virginia Main Street Association are very pleased with our progress. He stated that we are ahead of schedule. Friday morning the Employment Committee of the Virginia Main Street Program is interviewing three individuals for the Director's position. Councilman Green added that Citizens Bank donated \$5,000 to the Virginia Main Street Program which is very much appreciated.

Councilman Green made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign the letter of Agreement on the Virginia Main Street Program. 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
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

### **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Mayor Coleburn stated that if Council would like for him to, he will be happy to appoint someone to serve on the Blackstone Industrial Development Authority.

Council agreed by Common Consent for Mayor Coleburn to appoint someone to the Blackstone IDA.

## **2010 CENSUS**

Manager Palmore stated that we need three to five people for this committee.

Assistant Town Manager Dunn informed Council that he went to a training session last Thursday on the 2010 Census. The Census Department will send us a list of all the streets in Blackstone and he added, it is very important for us to make sure the addresses are correct. He clarified that we aren't counting heads, we are counting houses.

Mayor Coleburn feels we need to pay attention to new homes and make sure they are included.

Council discussed this further.

Mayor Coleburn suggested having each Council Member pick someone from their Ward and the At-Large members pick someone to be appointed to the committee. He stated that we will plan to do this next month at the November Council Meeting.

## **MEDICAL CENTER - LEASE AGREEMENT/PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Manager Palmore stated that the Bon-Secours people have not gotten the latest changes to the Town Attorney for his review. He added that we are probably going to need to have a Special Meeting later on this week after we get that from them.

Councilman Wilson asked the Town Attorney about the maintenance on the new building.

Town Attorney Walden explained that we are not looking to be responsible for anything. This would be passed back to the tenants. He added that we need to wait until we get the draft back from Bon-Secours.

Manager Palmore explained a proposed drawing of the new medical center building he had just handed out to Council. He then went over the proposed budget figures provided by Bon-Secours.

Council discussed this further.

Attorney Walden feels we need a little cushion to make sure we are covered in case something happens.

Manager Palmore informed Council about the meeting he had recently with a dentist that is interested in locating in the building. He stated that the same rules do not apply to the dentists as they apply to the doctors with regards to the Federal sliding scale.

Manager Palmore stated that he has had quite a few people come to him asking for permission to go into the old Gene's Service Center building and the old Dairy Freeze property and remove some of the materials such as garage doors, shingles, etc. He asked for Council's permission to allow people to do this.

Attorney Walden feels that if we do allow this, these individuals will need to sign a form releasing the Town from all liability.

### **BIRD ROAD CULVERT**

Manager Palmore reported that we are well underway on this project. All of the easements have been obtained and hopefully we will complete this project within the next four weeks. The culvert has been delivered and we hope to actually install it within the next two weeks. Everything is going fine.

### **CAROLINA TRANSFORMER**

Manager Palmore stated that everyone involved has finally agreed on a settlement. The Town would need to pay an additional \$24,611.00. He added that we are going to have to go after the other localities that chose not to share in the cost. He explained that some of these other localities and entities are much larger contributors than we are so we will get some of our money back.

### **AEC - PHILIP SERVICES SUPERFUND SITE**

Manager Palmore handed out information to Council on some old paint that needed to be disposed of several years ago back when Philip Vannoorbeeck was working for the Town. Philip followed the procedures for disposal to the letter of the law when we disposed of the paint and now AEC - Philip Services Superfund site has become contaminated so they are offering us a settlement amount of \$3,149.00 to pay for our portion of cleanup of the site.

Council discussed this issue further.

Mayor Coleburn tabled a decision on this until the November Council Meeting.

### **ON GOING PROJECTS**

*Armory Authority* - Still working on this issue.

*Bus Shop* - Poured the concrete on the administration part of the building this morning.

*Carriage Museum* - Holding tours for school children.

*Castles Trailer Park* - We are going to have to get a new appraisal on this property.

*South Main Street Reconstruction* - This is just about over. They are down to 10<sup>th</sup> Street now. There is no other way to do this than the way it has been done. He added that the street will be washed down after we are finished.

Steve Short with Volkert & Associates, stated that we have anywhere from a two to three days of operation left to complete the base coat.

Manager Palmore stated that the Colony Construction, Volkert & Associates, and the Town Employees have done a great job on this. He added that we will be done soon and the problems that they have had with the traffic is unbelievable.

**BVFD - SLATE OF OFFICERS**

Councilman Green made a motion to approve the following slate of officers for the Blackstone Volunteer Fire Department for 2007/08.

Tony Bradford	-	Chief
Sam Nunnelly	-	Assistant Chief
Buzz Bryant	-	Captain
Doug Fisher	-	1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant
Bubba Hart	-	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant
Jason McGrady	-	Treasurer
Eric Stiles	-	Secretary

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
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

**VDOT RESOLUTION - URBAN CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

Councilman Green made a motion to approve the attached Resolution on the VDOT Urban Construction Program. 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

Councilman Green asked how much will we have to spend if this goes through?

Manager Palmore answered, 2%.

**[TOWNOFBLACKSTONEVA.COM](http://townofblackstoneva.com) - BILL PAY; TOWN CODE**

Manager Palmore informed Council that citizens can now pay their utility bills On-Line on our Website at [townofblackstoneva.com](http://townofblackstoneva.com), and they can also look up Town Code information. He stated that Town Clerk Palmore and Adam Craig are responsible for upgrading our web-site. He added that Adam has done an outstanding job. Manager Palmore informed Council that Adam did all of this free of charge and he hopes we can get him to a Council Meeting so we can thank him in person. He stated that Adam was an Eagle Scout when he started this project and although the project was not approved, Adam finished the job for us and we really appreciate his hard work. Manager Palmore suggested that maybe we can do something for him at the December Council Meeting.

**MAYOR’S MINUTE**

Mayor Coleburn noted that we are still moving forward on the community warning system.

**POLICE REPORT**

There was no comment on the police report.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

There were none.

**CLOSED SESSION**

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

Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711  
Sub Section A  
- Economic Development

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson and approved unanimously.

Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	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 Tucker and approved as follows. Vote:

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

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

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MAYOR  
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

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

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

