

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, September 17, 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.

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 Members: Constance T. Wynn

Mayor Coleburn called the meeting to order and Councilman Hill 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 August 27, 2007, Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke.

Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye

Councilman Hill - Aye
Councilwoman Thompson - Aye

(Councilman Tucker was absent during this vote)

VISITORS

1. Karen Waldrop, Brunswick Avenue, stated that she does not want to be the witch of Blackstone but she feels something needs to be done about Halloween this year. She feels this situation is a disaster waiting to happen because of the heavy traffic on Brunswick Avenue and the many children running around. She suggested having the BABS bus pick up the children and bus them to the homes to trick-or-treat. As an alternate plan, she asked Council to consider using the Memorial Center or the Armory and hold a Halloween program at these locations for the children. She stated that little children are running helter-skelter up and down Brunswick Avenue.

Councilman Green stated that he used to live on Brunswick Avenue and he certainly understands what Ms. Waldrop is saying. He is concerned about this as well. He stated that he is not sure about how we would use the BABS buses.

The Council discussed this further.

Councilman Hill suggested getting a civic group to work on putting a program together at the Memorial Center.

Mrs. Janet Bunnell, Lunenburg Avenue, suggested having a designated parking area along Brunswick Avenue. She does not feel that we should have a designated town-wide Halloween in a building because she thinks the magic of Halloween is the trick-or-treaters.

Mayor Coleburn referred this to the Street and Light Committee (Tucker, Quicke, Wynn) to meet with the Police Chief on this.

2. Janet Bunnell, Lunenburg Avenue, stated she is concerned about the huge amount of traffic on Lunenburg Avenue. She feels Brunswick Avenue should help to bear the brunt of the traffic because we are all citizens of Blackstone and this should be a shared experience.

Manager Palmore answered that we cannot have alternating detours because that would cause mass confusion. He informed those present that we are required to file our detour routes with VDOT and gain their approval, which has been done. He further explained that the number of houses on Lunenburg Avenue does not compare to the number of homes that face Brunswick

Avenue. Also Brunswick Avenue has many more small children than on Lunenburg Avenue. He stated again that there is no way we can have alternating detours. Manager Palmore added that we are ahead of schedule on the South Main Street Project and he is very proud of the contractors and the Town workers for all their hard work.

Councilman Green addressed Mrs. Bunnell. He stated that he shares her pain. He has brain stormed with the Town Manager on this and there is absolutely nothing else that we can do. He has had numerous meeting with the Police Chief and he assured Mrs. Bunnell and Mrs. Tuckie Kile (who was present in the Council Chambers) that there is nothing else that we can do. He thanked the Police Chief and the police force for all they have done to patrol this area. He added that we have a better Main Street in our near future and he hopes we can all focus on that. He stated that there are 48 homes that are facing Brunswick as opposed to seven that face Lunenburg.

Manager Palmore stated that our goal is to make it as painless as possible. Our Public Works Department is probably going to have to work all night tonight and he agreed that the Police Department has done an excellent job in this area.

Councilman Tucker entered the meeting.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Assistant Fire Chief Tony Bradford gave the report for the Fire Department for the month of August. He stated that Engine #3 is back in service. He also informed Council that all virus testing results on the EMT's mentioned at the last meeting, came back negative and we are all very relieved about this. Assistant Chief Bradford stated that the Fire Department's Annual Boot Drive was a great success as they are up about \$1,000 from last year. He also stated that they made about \$600 on the Rodeo. He invited the Mayor, Council Members, Town Manager and Police Chief to an **EMS recognition dinner at the Fire Station on October 18th**. He added that there is a possibility that this date may change and he will let us know if it does. Assistant Chief Bradford stated that he brought Jason Krotzer with him tonight because he is very proud of what Jason has done for the Junior Fire Department. Last year, in October, we had only seven Junior members and now this year we have eleven members on the roll and have already gotten three more applications since last Monday. As of the next meeting, the Juniors will have doubled their membership in a year. He wanted to recognize and thank Jason for his efforts in making this happen.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Tony and Jason for all they do and he asked about the Fire Department Open House.

Assistant Chief Bradford answered, that it will be held on Sunday, October 7th.

Councilman Quicke asked if the Fire Department has ever considered holding a fire fighters competition in Blackstone.

The Council discussed the competition.

Manager Palmore asked the Assistant Chief if the EMT's, that had the medical testing done, have to go back and have a series of tests before they are cleared.

Assistant Chief Bradford answered, he believes so but added that things are looking good right now.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Hill made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$679,830.93. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson. After some discussion the motion was approved as follows. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	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). Chairman Tucker stated that they have not met regarding this issue.

Councilman Green added that he asked Councilman Tucker to table this issue because they both have the same name they would like to use for two different projects.

Building, Grounds and Cemetery Committee - Chairman Green asked Council to review the report included in the Council Packet.

Chairman Green handed out a report on the Virginia Main Street Program and stated that this report outlines the Virginia Main Street Program and also includes the Minutes and Treasurer's report from the last Downtown Blackstone, Inc., meeting.

Manager Palmore suggested that Council take the opportunity to read this report and be prepared for adoption at the October Council Meeting.

Councilman Green informed Council that they have five people who have applied for the Executive Director position.

OCEANA NAVAL BASE - FORT PICKETT AIRFIELD

Manager Palmore reported that he feels good about the recent meeting the Council and the Board of Supervisors had with Senator John Warner. He feels that we need to wait and see what is going to happen. He added that Governor Kaine has delayed releasing the list until the middle of November.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mayor Coleburn asked the Town Clerk to put this item back on the Agenda in October.

ONLINE UTILITY EXCHANGE

Manager Palmore recommends, after talking with Attorney Walden, that we drop this issue for several reasons.

Council agreed by Common Consent to drop this issue.

RATIFY POLL TAKEN ON SEPTEMBER 12TH - ROTARY PARADE PERMIT

Councilman Green made a motion to ratify the following poll taken on September 12th to approve a parade permit for the Blackstone Rotary Club for Saturday, September 15th.

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

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

BIRD ROAD CULVERT - RESOLUTION

Manager Palmore stated that we have run into one property owner that has not been so willing to work with us on this project so we need for this Resolution and Certificate of Take to be adopted so it can be settled in Court.

Councilman Green asked about the Certificate of Take. Are we seizing this land or do we just want an easement.

Manager Palmore answered that we want a permanent easement so we can complete this project. He added that this is a dangerous situation and explained that there is hole that needs to be fixed that is probably 12 to 14 feet deep. He stated that the certificate will be filed after the appraisal and that amount will be filled in on the Certificate. Manager Palmore added that no one lives at the residence in question.

Councilman Hill made a motion to adopt the attached Resolution and to authorize the Certificate of Take on the Bird Road Culvert project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and approved unanimously. Vote:

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

ON GOING PROJECTS

Armory Authority - Manager Palmore stated that he and several others talked with the Armory Authority and let them know of our desire to meet with an Economic Development prospect who may have some interest in the property. We hope to meet with this prospect soon and we will keep the Armory Authority informed.

Bus Shop - Groundbreaking Ceremony - Wed, Sept 26th at 10:00 a.m. Manager Palmore asked that we plan to meet with the economic development prospect as soon as we get through with the groundbreaking ceremony.

Carriage Museum - Manager Palmore thanked everyone for their hard work on the Carriage Museum. He stated that we took in about \$80.00 over the weekend in donations and we hope to have this building open full time by next summer.

Downtown Revitalization - This project is moving along well.

Castles Trailer Park - This project is also moving along well. Manager Palmore stated that we have a meeting with Denise Ambrose, with DHCD on October 3rd at 10:00 a.m.

Medical Center - Manager Palmore stated that we need to make a repair to one of the tanks that we took out of the ground on Gene Davis' property. He added that the the soil tests came back fine but we have two more tests that we need to take that we did not know about before. He stated that we had a good meeting with Bon-Secours and documents are being drawn up for Council to consider signing. We look forward to continuing negotiations and will come back with a full report very soon.

South Main Street - Manager Palmore reported that asphalt will be going in tomorrow. He then introduced **Steve Short, Senior Construction Inspector, with Volkert & Associates**. He stated that Mr. Short is the inspector on this project.

Mr. Short stated that if all goes well, Saturday morning they will do the North Bound switch. Traffic will still be going the same way just on the other side of the street. He added that right now they are ahead of schedule and he would say they are over half-way done.

Mayor Coleburn asked the inspector if Thanksgiving would be a good projection date for completion of the project.

Mr. Short answered, they will work towards Thanksgiving.

Council discussed this project further.

Manager Palmore is pleased with the contractors overall but, he feels they should have used more shovels instead of back hoes in digging because of the many broken water laterals.

ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Manager Palmore reported that he was told yesterday evening that they estimated over 4,000 people went through the gates at the Arts and Crafts Festival this past weekend. He stated that it was a great weekend. He thanked Bobby Daniels for all the chicken he made and provided for everyone at that Festival. He also thanked Larry's Car land for moving their cars and for the flag in the lot. Manager Palmore added that he believes the festival is approaching out-growing its current location.

UTILITY ACCOUNT WRITE-OFFS

Councilman Green made a motion to write off delinquent utility accounts in the amount of \$20,328.89. After discussion, the motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke and approved as follows. Vote:

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

CHANGE OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING TO THE 22ND

Councilman Wilson made a motion to change the October Council Meeting to October 22nd due to the Virginia Municipal League Conference being held on the third Monday. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green and approved as follows. Vote:

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

Manager Palmore stated that we may need a Called Council Meeting prior to the next meeting.

EXTEND CONTRACT - SOUTH MAIN STREET

Manager Palmore informed Council that we need to replace the asphalt, grind down two inches and put two inches back, on Dinwiddie Avenue, Brown Street and Mill Street beside Shiloh Baptist Church. He stated that the estimate to do the work on Dinwiddie Avenue is \$36,000. He added that all of this will be paid out of VDOT Maintenance funds—some will come out of Primary and some out of Secondary. He stated that if all goes as planned, this work will begin on Thursday and it will probably be a three to four day project.

Councilman Hill asked about putting asphalt back on Lunenburg Avenue.

Manager Palmore answered that we have to put it back on Main Street first.

2010 CENSUS

Manager Palmore stated that he would like for Assistant Town Manager Dunn to work with the Census Bureau on the 2010 Census and for Council to appoint a citizen committee to work with him.

Mayor Coleburn asked that each member of Council bring a name to him at the October 22nd Council Meeting for appointment to a citizen committee.

SPEED LIMIT SIGN ON WEST ENTRANCE ROAD

Manager Palmore recommends that we get VDOT to do a traffic study on North West Avenue and North Main Street.

Mayor Coleburn asked the Town Attorney about the 45 mph speed limit sign that was discussed at the last meeting.

Town Attorney Walden answered that he would prefer to discuss this in Closed Session.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Mayor Coleburn thanked the Police Chief for all the police department has done on Lunenburg Avenue during the South Main Street reconstruction.

POLICE REPORT

There were no comments on the Police Report. Police Chief Kuzmiak spoke to Council about the Soap Box Derby at the Arts and Crafts Festival, it was a great success.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilman Wilson asked about the red, yellow and green blinking light on Courthouse Road coming through the underpass. He feels it should be a caution light because it looks like a stop light before you get there.

Manager Palmore answered that he will look into this.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were none.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711
Sub Section A
-Legal Matters

The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke 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 Quicke 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 8:25 p.m.

MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

_____ APPROVED AND ADOPTED

TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

