

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, December 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., 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:

Mayor Coleburn called the meeting to order and Councilwoman Wynn 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 December 17, 2007, Council Meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke.

Discussion: Councilman Green stated that he objected to a paragraph in the November 17, 2007, Minutes on page 16 and read a statement he had prepared as follows:

I have no intention of asking that the Minutes be changed this evening, I learned that lesson last month. But, I would like the record to reflect that I object to a sentence on page 16 that states "Councilman Green asked the Police Chief several questions about a report he had

asked him to prepare.” *I asked only one- two part question–What are we doing to get a full-time investigator, it’s going on two years now, and what can this Council do to help. More importantly, I never asked nor directed Chief Kuzmiak to file a report, orally or in written form. What I did was visit the Police Chief, as a citizen of our fair Town to personally state my appreciation for his efforts and specifically praise him for the wonderful job done Halloween night on Brunswick Avenue. While I was there, I asked the Chief to be prepared to answer a few questions that citizens have been asking me and I did this as a courtesy, not a directive. I wanted to make it clear to him that I was not attacking our Chief and that I only wanted these answers for my constituents. I am under the impression that as a member of this Town Council, I have a right to ask the Police Chief questions during a Council Meeting and I have not been informed by this Mayor or any member of this Council, nor have I found it in the Code or in the Charter that a Council Member’s questions are to be screened or censored before asked in a Council Meeting and with that in mind, I had no idea that providing this courtesy to our most capable Police Chief would be a problem and not in my wildest dreams would I have imagined that these seven questions would take all weekend for him to answer and again, what would have happened if I would have just asked these questions without advance notice? I feel confident Chief Kuzmiak would have been able to answer the biggest majority of these questions without much trouble at all as I have find him to be on top of his department and of its assets. I greatly appreciate Chief Kuzmiak’s desire to share my questions and his answers with my colleagues on Council. I did not ask, direct or even want such a detailed report. Chief Kuzmiak’s report is addressed to Mr. Larry Palmore and Councilman Green and it states the following. Councilman Green then read the first paragraph of the attached report. Councilman Green continued, again, I appreciate Chief Kuzmiak’s sentiment and his actions. What I see is a Police Chief making an effort to communicate with Council and the citizens about his department. The Chief just did a lot better job at what I was trying to do. I wanted my questions answered. I wanted Council to hear these answers and maybe an article would be in the local paper that would address these questions for our citizens. I admit that I am eager and I’m head strong. I lack the experience of my colleagues and it’s a fact there is no orientation or classes to take to educate one on how to be a Council Member. I may sometimes say or do the wrong thing but please understand that my intentions are to represent the citizens. During last month’s meeting I sort of felt like I had a bad case of onion breath with Council, with Mr. Palmore and with Staff. I deeply respect and appreciate my colleagues on Council and the Town Staff and I share the Mayor’s thoughts from his wonderful letter to Council this weekend. He states that he regrets that we have not had many opportunities to spend more time together, away from Council Chambers, in social or informal settings. I assume that since I am the new kid on the block and the fact that I have a big mouth might be the reason that citizens approach me on a regular basis. I am very blessed to own and operate a business within the corporate limits of this Town and it affords me the chance to see quite a few citizens every day. We have quite a hectic schedule around the Green house and therefore I make frequent trips to the market as well as other errands around Town and citizens seem to be comfortable approaching me and they ask me questions and I feel like it is my duty to know these answers or provide them in a timely fashion. I have no desire to make anyone uncomfortable or increase their work load. I just want to have the tools to attend to my duties. So, in the spirit of the season, I want to offer my apology to anyone that I may have offended or*

inconvenienced this year. I want to be an integral member of this Council. I want to contribute to our discussions, and on projects, all the while representing our citizens in a manner that is cooperative and respectful of the Council, Mayor and Staff. So, when I don't accomplish this, I ask Council. Please pass me a mint when my onion breath shows up.

Councilman Tucker entered the meeting.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Councilman Green and asked for comments from Council.

No members of Council commented but Manager Palmore asked that this be carried into our January Work Session because he feels that we need to discuss this further.

The motion made and seconded to dispense with reading and approve the Minutes as presented was approved as follows. Vote:

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

VISITORS

Mayor Coleburn welcomed Adam Craig to the podium.

Manager Palmore stated that the way we came to meet Adam Craig is because David Lee Wilkinson recommended that we contact Adam and see if he could help us upgrade our Town Website. He thanked Adam Craig for all he did-- the hard work and many hours he spent on this project for the Town.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Adam Craig and presented him with a plaque and a check.

2. Janette Baranishyn, spoke to Council about the Armory and the recent decision made by Town Council to demolish this structure. She feels that the Armory is part of Blackstone's history and should not be lost or forgotten. Like a lot of other people in the community she read the article about Council's decision to tear the Armory down and as a businesswoman she recognized the concept of a business investment. The Armory has not been a producing asset for Blackstone. It expends tax dollars with little return. It is also her understanding that having the Armory and the Memorial Center owned by the Town has prevented the Town from getting many funds. She asked that Council donate the property to Friends of Blackstone, a 501-C3 public charity. Mrs. Baranishyn stated that she does not request this lightly. After some analysis

and a lot of number crunching, she thinks it is feasible. She wants the Armory to become self sustaining and become part of the community. She added that the Armory is already situated in what could become a museum complex for Blackstone complementing the Carriage Museum and Schwartz Tavern. As most of the folks in this room know, museums are not self supporting. Without going into to many details, she is working on other funding sources that are not available to the Town. They have identified 26 potential funders. She asked that Council reconsider their decision to demolish the Armory. She asked that it be donated to the Friends of Blackstone or another worthy charity.

Councilman Green stated that if Janette thinks it can be done, than he is convinced. His understanding is that it is a good possibility that we are going to have a work session in January and he would like to request that Tilley Conley and other members of the Armory Authority be invited to the meeting.

Mayor Coleburn would like to focus on goals at the Work Session.

Councilwoman Thompson agrees with Councilman Green, if it can be done, she feels like Janette can do it.

Councilman Green asked the Town Manager how he would like to proceed.

Manager Palmore answered that we can leave things as they are right now but added that we may want to give this property to a particular charity, first we need to find out if we can do that. We may have to put it up to the market and whoever gets it, gets it.

Mayor Coleburn asked that Town Staff meet with these groups.

Councilman Green asked if the Building and Grounds Committee should meet with these groups.

Councilman Hill feels this needs to be open for discussion by the whole Council.

Manager Palmore stated that it will be at least June or July before we can demolish this building.

Councilman Wilson added that the money would need to be appropriated in next year's budget in order for us to demolish the building and that won't happen until after July of next year.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Tony Bradford gave the report for the Fire Department for the month of November.

Councilman Wilson stated that he enjoyed the Fire Department Christmas supper.

Councilwoman Wynn stated that she has not been well and her absence at the different Christmas dinners is not because she doesn't care.

Fire Chief Bradford stated they had their lunch with Santa which was sponsored by the Women's Club. That went well and the stew they did in conjunction also went well. He added that they also participated in the Blackstone, Crewe and Burkeville Parades. He thanked everyone for attending the Annual Banquet. Fire Chief Bradford stated that First Responder of the year is Ben Prosis and Officer of the year is Ray Armes. He then went down the list of awards received by others in the Department. He informed Council that they also had one member participate in the Shop with a Cop Program sponsored by the Police Department. Fire Chief Bradford thanked the Town Council and the Town Manager for the emergency signs that are up on Barco Road and North West Avenue. He informed Council that four of the Junior Firefighters have passed Firefighter 1. This is outstanding. They can now answer active fire calls with the regular department. Fire Chief Bradford wished the Council a Merry Christmas.

Manager Palmore stated that he has been paying close attention to the Fire Department and its membership which has 46 on the rolls right now. The Town Council and the Fire Department are doing something right because other localities are having a hard time getting volunteers.

Mayor Coleburn feels that the Department is doing a good job recruiting.

Chief Bradford stated that Jason Krotzer is in charge of that and he is doing an outstanding job. Right now he has thirteen Juniors with three applications ready to be approved. He believes the number of members can be attributed to be the Town Council because knowing that he has their support is what makes the difference.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Hill made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$630,323.65. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker.

Discussion: Councilman Hill asked several questions.

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

DBI - Minutes of the December Meeting (*Included in Council's Packet*)

Mayor Coleburn asked if Council Members had questions on the Downtown Blackstone Minutes.

There were none.

Manager Palmore stated that WalMart has donated \$1,000.00 to DBI as well as \$625.00 to the Shop with a Cop Program.

Councilman Green thanked WalMart for this.

Mayor Coleburn commented on how great it is for WalMart to support the community.

Councilman Green asked the Town Clerk to schedule a Building and Grounds Committee Meeting for sometime in January.

INSTANT ALERT SYSTEM

Mayor Coleburn turned the gavel over to Council President Wilson on this issue because Mayor Coleburn's wife is an employee of Honeywell and he does not want any appearance of a conflict of interest.

Manager Palmore went down a list comparing Honeywell's System with the Twenty First Century System. It is clear that Honeywell is the low bidder and the best for Blackstone. He added that we received a loan and a grant. The loan was in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Councilman Green asked if we have budgeted for this.

Manager Palmore answered yes sir.

Manager Palmore explained how the system will work.

Councilman Wilson asked if the County is involved.

Manager Palmore answered, yes sir. We hope to stretch this out County-wide.

Councilman Quicke asked if the homeowner will be given a choice of what numbers they would like to be contacted on.

Manager Palmore answered, yes sir. They will provide us with a list of numbers and how they wish to be contacted.

Councilman Hill asked if the siren will come in under this too.

Manager Palmore answered, that the siren is separate from this. He clarified that this is the same, just a separate portion of the grant.

Councilman Green made a motion to issue the contract to Honeywell Incorporated. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn 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

Mayor Coleburn made no comment on this issue.

2010 CENSUS

Mayor Coleburn had asked for names of individuals to be appointed to the 2010 Census Committee. The following names were submitted by the Council Members listed.

Councilwoman Wynn - Branch Parker
Councilman Hill - Bob Buntin
Councilman Quicke - Terry Conley
Councilman Green - Richard Nichols

Council Members Thompson, Tucker and Wilson will submit names to Mayor Coleburn at a later time.

JET BROADBAND

Manager Palmore stated that we have been in contact with them since the last Council Meeting. He added that enclosed in Council's packet is an email we received from Jet Broadband for Council's information. He informed Council that the Town Clerk has an appointment with Jet Broadband on December 26th so they can teach her how to run the new system.

BON-SECOURS LEASE AGREEMENT

Manager Palmore stated that we held out to the end on the contract and we finally got it the way we wanted it. He feels this is one of the best leases that he knows anything about.

Councilman Wilson stated that he appreciates all that the Town Manager and Town Attorney did to get this worked out.

Manager Palmore stated that he appreciates Council. He showed Council a picture of the proposed Medical Center.

Manager Palmore stated that we need to get the Dairy Freeze out of the way first. He hopes we can get started working on the pad before the first of the year and we hope to get the necessary permits in place by tomorrow.

Mayor Coleburn stated that we put together in less than six weeks, one of the best grant applications that the State has ever seen.

ON GOING PROJECTS

Bus Shop - The frame is going up.

Castles Trailer Park - The appraisals are back.

South Main Street Reconstruction - Virtually done with this, we still need to do some minor repairs and striping.

RATIFY POLL TAKEN ON DECEMBER 6TH - RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BON SECOURS GRANT APPLICATION

Manager Palmore stated that the dentists in Blackstone also sent letters of support as well as Nottoway County.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to ratify the following poll taken on December 6, 2007, to approve the attached Resolution supporting Bon-Secours Grant Application for the dentistry portion of this grant. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	(Unavailable)

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

RESOLUTION - MARINES

Councilman Hill made a motion to adopt the attached Resolution thanking the Marines. 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

GRANT MANAGEMENT FOR CASTLES TRAILER PARK - SOUTHSIDE OUTREACH GROUP

Manager Palmore informed Council that a life long friend of Blackstone, Gladys Vassor, passed away right around Thanksgiving. He stated that she helped us with many, many projects and he added that he always knew he had an ace in the hole when he had Gladys behind him. He recommends that we turn the grant management for the Castles' Trailer Park Project over to the Southside Outreach Group.

Councilman Wilson asked can we do this.

Manager Palmore stated that this complies with DHCD requirements and we did rebid it. Earl Howerton who is the manager of Southside Outreach Group worked with Gladys on many of our projects so he is familiar with Blackstone.

Councilman Green made a motion to hire the Southside Outreach Group for grant management services on the Castles Trailer Park Project. 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

VUMAC PLAQUE

Mayor Coleburn showed Council a plaque that was presented to him, on behalf of the Town, by VUMAC (Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center. He explained that this plaque was given to thank Blackstone for being a member of the Jamestown 2007 Community.

PICTURE - WILLIAM CLARKE

Mayor Coleburn showed Council a picture that was painted by William Clarke and presented to the Town at a recent function. He stated that William wanted to do a picture that is inclusive of everyone which is what he did.

WORK SESSION - JANUARY 8, 2007, at 5:30 p.m.

Manager Palmore stated that over the weekend, he sent the Members of Council a request from the Mayor to hold a Work Session on Tuesday, January 8th at 5:30 p.m .

Councilman Green made a motion to hold a Council Work Session on Tuesday, January 8th at 5:30 p.m. 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

RESCHEDULE JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING TO JANUARY 22ND

Councilman Hill made a motion to reschedule the January Council Meeting to Tuesday, January 22, 2007. 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

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Mayor Coleburn stated that this has been the first full calendar year that he has been the Mayor. He really believes that people will look back on 2007 and say, Wow! Look at all the projects the Town has undertaken. He then gave Christmas presents to the Council Members and he also presented gifts to the Town Staff.

Councilman Green thanked the Town Manager, Chief Kuzmiak and David Ostrander for the wonderful job they did during the parade this year. He added that the motorcycle is a great asset to the Police Department. He thanked Chief Kuzmiak and David Ostrander on behalf of Town Council, DBI and the Chamber.

Mayor Coleburn commented that the motorcycle really added another layer of protection for the crowd control during the parade.

Councilman Green also liked that the motorcycle is so agile and stated that it is quiet, cheap, and came fully equipped and ready to go.

Manager Palmore thanked the Police Chief and his department for their presence at the parade. With their pre-planning and hard work, he doesn't think we had an incident. He added that the Sheriff's Department and the Public Works were also involved. He stated that this has been a big year but this coming year, is probably going to be even bigger.

Manager Palmore thanked the National Guard for the use of the platform for the judges.

Manager Palmore added that we had a serious fire at one of the generating plants in Manassas and four of the units were badly damaged. He stated that the insurance is covering the replacement cost of these units.

POLICE REPORT

Police Chief Kuzmiak thanked David Ostrander and the Public Works Department for all

their work with the parade. He also stated that the Shop With a Cop Program was very successful this year as well. He is thinking about turning this into a County wide program so we can go help all the children in the County that need it.

Mayor Coleburn wished everyone a very Merry Christmas!

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were none.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Quicke 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 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

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

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

APPROVED AND ADOPTED

TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA