

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia, held in the Council Chambers, located at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

Mayor: L. Benjamin Green

Council Members: Wesley Gormus, Lloyette Wynn, Christopher Page, Carolyn Williams, Nathaniel Miller, Eric Nash, Jake Allman

Town Staff: Philip Vannoorbeeck, Town Manager; Jennifer Daniel, Town Clerk

Town Attorney:

Those Absent:

Special Called Meeting of the Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Town of Blackstone, I call a Special Meeting of the Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia, to be held in the Town Council Chambers, located at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 10, 2023, for the purpose of considering the following:

- 1. Committee Appointments*
- 2. Robert's Rules of Order*
- 3. Policy Manuals*
- 4. Council Goals*
- 5. Schwartz Tavern Request*
- 6. Dangerous Dogs*
- 7. Closed Session – Personnel - Administration*

Mayor Green opened the meeting and asked Councilman Nash to say a few words.

Councilman Nash thanked the new members for stepping up to the plate to serve this Town. He said he was new once and asked the new members to reach out to him at any time. He said he had been on Council for 12 years, but was still learning.

Councilman Nash said remember we are here for the citizens and not ourselves.

Councilman Nash delivered the invocation.

1. Committee Assignments

Mayor Green said a copy of the assignments had been provided to Council, and asked if there were any questions.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve Mayor Green’s Committee assignments as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

Mayor Green asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye

Mayor Green asked if there were any nominations for Council President. He said this position would have the Chair in his absence. He said he would like this position to be a leadership role so if we attend meetings or boards that he has a liaison with the Council.

Councilman Page made a motion to open the floor for nominations for Council President. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Councilman Allman nominated Councilman Nash. There were no other nominations.

Councilman Miller made a motion to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Page.

Mayor Green asked for a Roll Call Vote for the appointment of Councilman Nash as Council President.

VOTE:

Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye

2. Robert's Rules of Order

Mayor Green said it has been the Policy of Council to follow Robert's Rules of Order when applicable to Policies and Town Code. He said he would like to continue this.

Councilman Nash made a motion to continue following Robert's Rules of Order. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn.

Councilman Nash asked Clerk Daniel to provide current copies for Council.

Mayor Green asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye

3. Policy Manuals

Mayor Green said Policy Manuals were provided to each member of Council tonight.

4. Council Goals

Mayor Green asked Council to provide by the January 23rd Council Meeting, a list of what Council wants to focus on, and a list of goals. He said he would like to discuss them at the February Council Meeting.

Councilman Allman suggested putting the list in front of the Council Packet to remind us every month.

Mayor Green asked Councilman Nash, Chairman of Account and Finance, for a financial report the first of every month for things relevant to Council in keeping up with finances.

5. Schwartz Tavern Request

Mayor Green said this request had been rescinded.

6. Dangerous Dogs

Mayor Green asked if there was anyone here to speak on dangerous dogs, if so, please come to the podium.

Ms. Tyler Scott – 811 Brunswick Avenue

Ms. Scott said she owns a 14lb Terrier, and if she is attacked by an aggressive dog that is loose, she has no chance. She said last week there was a loose dog at the entrance of the Cemetery. She said also last week there was a pack of baying dogs across the street from her house in the woods. She said her neighbor called the police. She said a few years ago she was able to scare a pit bull away. She said her and her dog's luck was going to run out.

Ms. Scott said she used to avoid where aggressive dogs live, but now they are all over. She said she did not have a kennel nor a fenced in yard. She said her dog is always on a leash, and walking is good for the dog and herself. She said there have been attacks on people's pets, people, what's next. She said Mayor Green said to her on the phone the other day, it is not if there is an accident, it's when.

Ms. Scott believed this was going to escalate if we don't take more stringent measures. She said it is like dogs have been put ahead of people's safety. She said her neighbor Linda Blevins, who is 75 and lives on Sixth Street, could not be here tonight, she was recovering from a fall. She said Ms. Blevins has a dog that she walks a couple times a day, and is now afraid to walk her boxer because she is not able to break up a fight between a boxer and a pit bull.

Ms. Scott urged Council to help.

Ms. Pat Spadaccia – 407 Sixth Street

Ms. Spadaccia said she has a 32lb dog that she walks all the time, and walks herself as well. She said there have been several occasions that she has had incidents with dogs. She said your first instinct when seeing another dog coming towards you is pick your dog up, but that is not good because then you are face level with that dog. She said it is a shame that we have to worry about other dogs now, especially elderly, and now they cannot walk because of other dogs.

Ms. Spadaccia said she was told Ms. Nancy Wallace had another incident yesterday, and the police were called to her house on Ridge Road because of a pit bull after Ms. Wallace's dog.

Mayor Green said he lives in the neighborhood of Ms. Spadaccia, and he has noticed that there are young families now walking in the area, and he is concerned.

Councilman Page said he lives in the same area, and asked Ms. Spadaccia if there was a particular area where the dogs are. Ms. Spadaccia said there is a dog on Academy and Fifth Streets that she watches. She said there are some on Brunswick but they are either in the window or in the fenced area.

Ms. Spadaccia said people with dogs should also have to have their dog's shots up to date.

Ms. Joanne Moorefield – 400 Seventh Street

Ms. Moorefield said she has two grandsons that are young, that often visit. She said a few years ago she was strolling her grandson and a German Shepherd started circling the stroller, and some neighbors called the dog away until she could get out of the area. She said since then, she started walking in the Cemetery. She said she saw someone drive up in the cemetery, let the dogs out of the car like it was a dog park. She said again the dogs approached her, her grandson and her son.

Ms. Moorefield said another problem is the dog poop.

Councilman Miller asked if dogs were allowed in the Cemetery. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes, but they should be leashed. He said the Cemetery is considered an open space and families can come 24/7. He added it is not necessarily open for just anybody to walk through, or loiter, but it is open to the families.

Councilman Allman said he was asked to speak on behalf of his neighbor. He said she has had two instances, one a few years ago where a pit bull attacked her elderly dog and punctured its lung and the dog did not make it. He said and now two weeks ago, her dog she adopted after losing her previous dog, was attacked and had to be patched up. He said this speaks to the frequency he has had to deal with, plus hearing from people in the neighborhood recently. He said this is a priority for Council, and certainly a priority for himself.

Councilman Miller said he has had a dog bite in his neighborhood too.

Councilman Nash said he asked Chief Kuzmiak why Nottoway could not write tickets in Blackstone. He believed Nottoway County was not permitted to write tickets. Chief Kuzmiak said they could not enforce the Town's Ordinances.

Mayor Green asked if any referrals come up, please let him know, he may want to come to the Committee Meetings. He referred the dog issue to Chairman Page for the Ordinance part of this.

Chief Kuzmiak said they were working very closely with Nottoway County Animal Control, not only with the dangerous dogs, but also dogs running at large. He said the Police Department does a lot of that enforcement, they have been on Taylor and Sullivan Street this week. He said Animal Control has set a trap for them. He said four dogs, owners were located, but one no owner has been found.

Chief Kuzmiak said Animal Control was not sure if they could write a summons for dogs at large because it is the Town's local Ordinance.

Councilman Nash said if a dog is loose, a ticket should be written.

Councilman Page asked Chief Kuzmiak if tickets were written for at large, which is a Class 4 Misdemeanor. Chief Kuzmiak replied, we do write that one.

Councilman Page asked Chief Kuzmiak if tickets were written for nuisance, because the Code says any violation of this Article is a Class 4 Misdemeanor. He suggested writing both in conjunction with each other. Chief Kuzmiak did not believe they had every written on that section, he would have to look at it again.

Mayor Green said he would like to reassure the audience and the people listening to this tape, that this is a priority, and asked Council to offer a motion.

Councilman Gormus made a motion to assure the people of Blackstone that the dog issue is a priority and the Town plans to take every step we can to protect the citizens. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Green asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye

Manager Vannoorbeeck said last year, he and Chief Kuzmiak started working with the County on access to the shelter. He said there is an extra officer in the Budget, and another officer, Mr. Jason Robertson, who has offered to be an Animal Control Officer for the Town. He said we planned to send Mr. Robertson to school, and have an outfitted vehicle, but we needed access to the shelter, and ran into a stone wall.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the County Administrator believed there would be some liability issues and didn't like the Agreement that was drawn up. He believed Councilman Page was going to try and resuscitate the process.

Manager Vannoorbeeck believed the County only has one Animal Control Officer right now, so there is no weekend coverage unless an emergency. He said the Town is willing to help, but it should start with getting the Ordinances in place.

Councilwoman Williams asked what the ticket fee was for a dangerous dog. Chief Kuzmiak said it is a Civil Penalty. Manager Vannoorbeeck said running at large is a Class 4 Misdemeanor. Councilman Page added a Class 4 Misdemeanor is no jail time, but a \$250.00 fine.

Councilman Nash said the problem is, if we are granted access to the shelter, there may not be room for another animal.

Chief Kuzmiak said the Town's Dangerous Dog Code is supposed to mirror the State Code, so even if the Town didn't have an Ordinance, it can still be enforced under State Code, and allows Animal Control to make the decision.

Councilwoman Wynn asked if there was possibility in funding to create our own shelter. Manager Vannoorbeeck said it is a possibility, but there is no funding right now. He said what the County has been talking about is \$2 Million plus for an animal shelter. He said the Town could do something that is not as expensive, but there are lots of liabilities that would come with it and cost.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there is also a solution to crowded shelters, that nobody likes to talk about, but in Amelia, they almost had to be instructed to put animals down. He said if the County does not want to do this, they should take the responsibility of getting them to volunteer groups or the SPCA, because dogs that are there for long periods of time are taking space away for dangerous dogs on the street.

Councilman Gormus said for Blackstone it could be a temporary shelter to get dogs out of the streets. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he would have to find out what the State allows.

Councilman Allman said he was all about solutions, but at the end of the day as a Nottoway County taxpayer, we are paying Nottoway County for an animal shelter and Blackstone cannot access it, this should be addressed at the County level.

Mayor Green said Councilman Page has done quite a bit of research, and has a fairly good relationship with Administrator Costin, and asked if Council would be agreeable to turn this over to Health and Ordinance, Council agreed.

Councilman Page said he has researched the Town, County and State Ordinances and they don't create a revenue stream for the animal shelter. He said he talked to Administrator Costin today to see if he would be willing to meet, and he was. He said Administrator Costin mentioned he would like to have the Town Manager, the Mayor, the Police Chief, the Commonwealth Attorney and County staff, along with a member of Council in attendance.

Mayor Green asked Council if they would agree to allow himself and Councilman Page to meet with County Officials, along with Chief Kuzmiak and Manager Vannoorbeeck. Council agreed by Common Consent.

Councilman Page said Administrator Costin has agreed to allow Council to tour the shelter at Council's pleasure. Mayor Green asked Manager Vannoorbeeck to take the lead on the tour.

Ms. Moorefield said it sounds like there will be great measures down the road, but her concern was tomorrow if she goes for a walk. She said she did have a concealed weapons permit, and asked at what point she could use that. Chief Kuzmiak said the rights are to defend yourself, you have to be fearful that an attack is imminent. He said always feel free to call the police.

Councilman Nash said once the word is out, and we have enough teeth in the Ordinance, he believed people would tend to their dogs better.

Councilman Miller said as long as people have dogs and cannot afford to take care of them, there is going to be a problem. He said sometimes when there is an issue, it is because a dog is hungry. He said you see dogs tied to a tree with no water, that is a problem.

Mayor Green said he carries, and asked if he had the right to protect his children, one was knocked down previously. Chief Kuzmiak replied, yes.

Mayor Green said this is a Special Called Meeting, with all seven members present, so we are free to move off the Agenda.

Mayor Green said in his neighborhood, the speeding on College, Brunswick and Lunenburg Avenues is awful at commuter times. He asked Chief Kuzmiak to look into this. He said he was also getting complaints about the truckers speeding on Dinwiddie Avenue and N. Main Street.

Mayor Green asked to have a Resolution for Mayor Coleburn drafted. He said Mayor Coleburn gave this Town 16 ½ years of his life, in the prime of his life.

Mayor Green said he has asked Manager Vannoorbeeck to bring Council up to date on the current projects.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said included in the Policy manuals is the Financing Plan. He said he presents this every two years to show where the debt is.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town was light on the Reserve Funds, and our Budget has grown dramatically over the past ten years, primarily in capital projects.

Councilman Nash said the reason why Manager Vannoorbeeck mentioned Reserves, this past week the Town had to borrow money short term so we don't dip into the Reserves. He said this was to fund the aeration project.

Cox Road Waterline

Manager Vannoorbeeck said in 2019, Mayor Coleburn wrote a letter to Nottoway County asking them to permit Blackstone to run a waterline on Cox Road, to the entrance of Military Road. He said the original cost estimate was just over \$1 Million. He said this was discussed because it would be a good location for growth, but there were also residents that had wretched wells, with brown water along Cox Road.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town for three years, never received a response, but was just recently provided a motion that the Town has the County's permission to adopt certain fees and run a water line, not to go past Military Road. He said the project is now twice as expensive, and there is a standing motion that Council would let this project sit for a while.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the County's motion did not say anything about mandating connection, so he needed clarification. He said we cannot run a waterline without customers because the water quality will be poor.

Councilman Gormus asked if you can mandate connections. Manager Vannoorbeeck said we can in Town. He said the County has to mandate it. Councilman Gormus said if you have a good well, you can be mandated. Manager Vannoorbeeck said you don't have to physically hook on, however, you will still get a bill every month, there will be a meter set in front of the properties.

Councilman Nash asked if those that are already there, are they grandfathered, or they must connect. Manager Vannoorbeeck said we cannot physically go on someone's property and disconnect them for their well, he said we try to entice, by waiving the tap fee, making connections at the Town's expense, disconnecting people from their well. He said if a customer comes back in two years and wants to connect, then that person would be responsible for all fees.

Councilman Gormus said what he had been reading in the paper, the Town is having uncertainty about this, but the piping from the source of water for the Town to the Water Plant is 80 years old. Manager Vannoorbeeck said that is correct, it was built in 1942. He said the Cox Road waterline issue was started because residents came to the Town.

Aeration System

Manager Vannoorbeeck said going across the Reservoir and looking to your right, you will see bubbles coming out of the water, that system broke down last year. He said this needed to be fixed and there was ARPA money to use, however staff applied for \$12 Million, which was going to be 50% grant and 50% loan. He said this was being offered by the Health Department, and included replacement of the line from the Reservoir to the Treatment Plant. He said a year later the Town has still not heard back, and has since taken \$567,000.00 out of pocket and paid for the Aeration System. He said this took money away from other projects, such as replacing water meters, the nodes in Town. He said this allows for electronic readings, instead of physically reading water meters. He said last month Council approved an invoice from Core and Main for \$204,000.00 for the nodes. Manager Vannoorbeeck said in order to pay this invoice, he went to Benchmark Bank and took \$204,000.00 out of the \$400,000.00 line of credit.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he spoke to someone at the Health Department, and was told the Town did not get the money for the raw water line or Taylor Bottom, but did get funded for the Aeration System.

MUMS – Mixed Use Main Street

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this is a new program that the Department of Housing and Community Development has announced this year. He said this is an enticement to find older and dilapidated buildings in downtown areas. He said this is to encourage mixed use, which includes residential and commercial in a building. He said he immediately thought about the Dillard Crawley Building, which is roughly 14,000 square feet, and is in atrocious condition. He said he has declared it blighted. He said several letters have been sent to the property owner, and one has been received. He said the week after Christmas, himself, the Mayor, Ms. Chastiddy Bryant, an appraiser, the Building Official, the real estate agent that has the building, and a gentleman that has interest in purchasing the building toured it. He said tomorrow he was meeting with the State Fire Marshall because of the concerns the Building Official has. He said the fire sprinkler system is not turned on, and the building is a fire hazard.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the MUMS Grant would be for \$500,000.00 to assist in acquisition and stabilization of the building. He said the appraiser would be giving a structural evaluation and appraisal. He said this would be a grant fund, with no local dollars.

Councilman Page said that building is connected to a good portion of downtown businesses, are we going to look at if the other businesses are in immediate danger. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the businesses are in immediate danger right now.

Councilman Page said the grant sounds like a long term solution, what is the short term solution. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he did not believe the property owner was going to do any work, and thought it would have to play out in the court system. He believed the quickest thing to do is buy it. He said there had been no response from the certified letters sent.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there is no action needed by Council tonight, but he would report more at the February Council Meeting.

Council agreed by Common Consent that they are in agreement with the actions Manager Vannoorbeeck is taking.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said with grant monies he asks Council for approval to apply, and then if approved, he gets authorization to accept and execute necessary documents.

Taylor Bottom

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we have talked to many residents through the years about a Block Grant for the Taylor Bottom neighborhood. He said it was his expectation that a Planning Grant would be brought to Council soon. He said a PER had already been done for this area using ARPA Funds. He said there are two concerns, but are not immediate, one being the age of the service lines, they have lead goosenecks. He said the second item is the age of the sewer system, when you see brick manholes, it is probably beyond the replacement capacity. He believed this grant would have a housing component and drainage.

East End

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there were two phases of the East End Project. He said the first phase is complete and are now working on the second phase. He said in the second phase, the water and sewer lines have already been replaced, and 11 residences have been renovated or built new. He said in this grant, which was \$1,250,000.00 for the second phase, and included water, sewer, housing and the last portion will be streets, and there is a bid out now for paving and curb and gutter. He said he had \$765,000.00 saved up and hoped it would be enough.

Mayor Green said Manager Vannoorbeeck shared with him, an inexpensive project next to Patriot Square that he would like to do. He said on Epes Street, the contractor put curb and gutter on his side of the street. Manager Vannoorbeeck added he did Tavern Street as well, at his expense.

Mayor Green believed that area was the gateway to all the nice work that had been done, and the opposite side of the road did not get curb and gutter during Phase 1 of the East End project.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this would not include a lot of engineering costs, you can just use the linear feet unit cost from the project. He said the current Policy is the property owner would have to pay for half the cost, with the current cost being \$60.00 a linear foot. He said he did not think it was practical to ask the property owners to pay for this.

Mayor Green asked Manager Vannoorbeeck to provide a dollar amount, and he would ask Council to consider the Town paying for this work. Manager Vannoorbeeck said to keep in mind, nobody in that neighborhood paid for curb and gutter, it was all paid for by grant funds.

Councilman Miller said the only other street that would not have curb and gutter in this project area is Hurt Street. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the rough estimate for curb and gutter on Epes Street would be \$35,000.00.

Councilman Nash said he would like to see the estimate before making a decision. He said Manager Vannoorbeeck was already concerned about having enough money to pave and finish Phase II.

Mayor Green said by Common Consent, Council authorized Manager Vannoorbeeck to get a cost estimate for the curb and gutter on Epes Street.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said on January 18, 2023, bids would be opened for curb and gutter and drainage improvements for Tavern, Broad, Dillard, Harris and Fitzgerald Streets.

Mayor Green said he would be in attendance for the bid openings because there have been some rumors that optics may not have been exactly right, and they will be recorded as well. Manager Vannoorbeeck said we don't cheat, there is always a witness.

Armory

Manager Vannoorbeeck said in 2020 a Referendum passed that the Armory would be renovated for a community center. He said community centers do not get grant money. He said in 2021 a tax increase was presented to Council to pay for the construction, and it was not approved. He said in 2021 during the pandemic, the Town received \$3.5 Million in ARPA Funds. He said the Referendum said the Town would spend \$2 Million in construction and renovations of the Armory. He said \$2.25 Million has been earmarked for the Armory from the ARPA Funds.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town has applied for four grants, and have received three of the four so far. He said the first grant is the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Grant in the amount of \$250,000.00. He said this has been received and being used for the removal of asbestos, an underground storage tank and lead based paint in the building. He said staff would be cleaning up the items being stored in the Armory. He said there may be enough stuff to have an auction.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the second grant applied for was for \$1 Million, through the Industrial Revitalization Fund from DHCD and had been received. He said the third grant that had been applied for was Tobacco Commission Funding in the amount of \$581,000.00, and was received last week.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said last year the architects revised the Armory renovation amount from \$2 Million to \$3.8 Million. He said we now have \$3.8 Million earmarked for the Armory renovations with ARPA Funds and the grants received.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the fourth grant application that has been applied for is through the Department of Agriculture for \$247,000.00 and would be a Rural Business Enterprise Grant. He said this would provide for a commercial kitchen, tables, chairs, linens, furnishings and technology improvements for the building.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Ms. Chastiddy Bryant's connections with Virginia State and Virginia Union have put the project over the top. He said Ms. Bryant actually knows the President of Virginia State.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said starting next week the Armory would be closed to any public activities because of the abatement projects. He said the ARPA Funds have to be spent by September 2024.

South Main Street

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Council has voted previously to extend curb, gutter and sidewalk on the west side of S. Main Street, which is the least expensive. He said this would include a cross walk at the traffic signal at Walmart. He said we plan to make an application for Revenue Sharing, which is due in February, and would be a 50/50 deal.

Brown Street Parking Lot

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this project has been 2-3 years in the making. He said the Town does have a lease with the Railroad for the parking area. He said there is a 25 space parking lot that is designed for this area. He said there is no grant money, but if the MUMS Grant were to go forward, this would include apartments, and this parking lot area would be overflow.

Gators Concession Stand

Councilman Page asked how the Concession Stand was coming. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Concession Stand was built; however, it is a shell. He said Mr. Andre Hicks needs to get water and sewer lines run to the building. He said we are trying to get the football grass growing.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Board of Supervisors voted last night on a calendar for their budget. He said what he read; Budget Requests are supposed to be submitted by the end of the week. He said the Town's Chairman of Account and Finance has limited him to \$10,000.00 for the renovations of the Concession Stand. He said Councilman Miller did apply last year for \$50,000.00 from the County, but it was not approved. He said he would like to ask this year for \$50,000.00 from the County to help finish Nottoway Gator's Concession Stand. He said it cost the Town \$66,000.00 to build the shell.

Councilman Miller made a motion to authorize Manager Vannoorbeeck to request \$50,000.00 from Nottoway County to go towards the Nottoway Gator's Concession Stand, towards the recreation of Nottoway. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Councilman Nash asked about the funds from the County towards the house on S. Main Street. Manager Vannoorbeeck said that request was already submitted, but they had not heard anything back.

Councilwoman Wynn asked about the crosswalk at Walmart, she said there are two entrances and thought there might be two crosswalks. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he was only planning on one crosswalk at the traffic signal. He said the sidewalk would terminate at the traffic signal.

Councilman Gormus said between Church Street and Tavern Street, there are six intersections, five of the six have stoplights. He said the busiest restaurant and beauty shops in Town, don't have one on Maple Street.

Councilman Nash said Mayor Green was actually on Council previously, when we voted, and is a standing vote, that beyond Tenth Street on S. Main Street, is to be 25 MPH. He said it is still currently 35 MPH. Manager Vannoorbeeck said that was on him, he needed to get that done.

Mayor Green asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye

Mayor Green said we have a new Mayor and a new Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. He would like to give each of us a chance to get our feet wet, and prepare a list that he and Council President Nash would set up a meeting to discuss. Mayor Green said it was agreed by Common Consent.

Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711

1/ Personnel - Administration

Councilman Nash made a motion to go into Closed Session for discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Green asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye

Councilman Nash 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 Page.

Mayor Green asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilman Allman	-	Certify
Councilman Nash	-	Certify
Councilman Miller	-	Certify
Councilwoman Williams	-	Certify
Councilman Page	-	Certify
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Certify
Councilman Gormus	-	Certify

Mayor Green said he would continue this meeting to Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. to interview the two candidates for the DBi position.

Councilman Miller said Council meeting with the DBi candidates is not how it was supposed to go, but if that's what Council wants to do, he was cool with it. He said when it was originally set up, it was to be with the Employment and Police Committee.

Clerk Daniel said next Wednesday there would be an Employment and Police Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m. She said this would be an hour before the Continued Meeting. She added Account and Finance would meet that Thursday at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Bus Budget.

Councilman Page asked if there was a timeline for the Animal Ordinance. Mayor Green said it was turned over to the Health and Ordinance Committee and as information is ready Chairman Page will update us.

Councilman Gormus said he was at the meeting when DBi interviews were discussed. He believed the Employment and Police Committee was supposed to interview the candidates and bring a recommendation to the full Council.

Councilman Allman said he was under the impression that the two candidates provided by DBi, Council would go with their recommendation, but maybe he misunderstood. He said they are the ones that will be working with the person.

Councilman Miller asked in the job description, doesn't it say other duties as assigned. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he assumed it said that.

Councilman Page said this is an issue he would be abstaining from; due to a conflict of interest he would be filing with the Clerk.

Councilman Nash made a motion allowing the Employment and Police Committee to work in conjunction with DBi to bring forth a candidate for the position. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Councilman Miller said Councilman Allman would be present also, as a DBi representative. Mayor Green said he would be in attendance as well, as a de facto member.

Mayor Green asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Page	-	Abstain
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye

Mayor Green said there is no need to continue this meeting now.

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Green declared this Special Called Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

February 27, 2023

APPROVED AND ADOPTED

TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA