

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, Virginia, on Monday, December 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

Mayor: Lafayette Dickens

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; Tony Mayton, Police Lieutenant; Zac Beares, Fire Chief; Karen Morris, Treasurer; Alex Wilkinson, Transit Director; Madison Williams, Utility Billing Clerk

Town Attorney: Attorney Harf - Zoom

Those Absent:

Mayor Dickens called the December Council Meeting to order.

Dr. Allen delivered the Invocation.

Mayor Dickens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Rezoning Request – TRC Blackstone, LLC

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

*The Blackstone Town Council shall conduct a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., December 15, 2025 in the Blackstone Town Council Chambers, 100 W. Elm Street. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider a request from **TRC Blackstone, LLC** to rezone four parcels totaling approximately one-half acre from the current R-2, Medium Residential district to the B-G, General Business district. The request, if approved would permit the development of a 21,000 square foot retail structure on the subject property and adjoining parcels. The rezoning request specifically applies to properties known as Nottoway County Tax Map number 50A38-7-A-19 through 22. The Town Council may act on this request following the Public Hearing. Any individual desiring to address the Town Council should attend the Public Hearing at the above stated date and time.*

Mayor Dickens opened the Public Hearing.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the property was on the east side of S. Main Street, just past Tenth Street. He said the total site was over 4 acres, and is currently bound by all four sides with General Business.

Mayor Dickens asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against the rezoning. There were no comments, so Mayor Dickens closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Miller entered the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the request from TRC Blackstone, LLC to rezone four parcels totaling approximately one-half acre from R-2, Medium Residential to G-B, General Business. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

MINUTES:

Councilman Miller made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on November 17, 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn.

Mayor Dickens asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

VISITORS:

There were no visitors.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Mayor Dickens asked to move some items around on the Agenda after the Fire Chief's report. He would like to move Appropriation #1, and New Business #1, #2 and #5, as they are related to the Fire Department.

Chief Beares said former Fire Chief Tomer, along with some from the County went to Texas to review the new radio system.

Chief Beares said they were still waiting to hear back on some grants. He said last month's training was search and rescue. He said the Blood Drive would be December 18, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Chief Beares said the Tanker that had been out of service for months, has been returned. He said Crewe had allowed use of their old tanker for the past 6 months. He said the Tower Unit was having warranty items fixed. He said the EMT class continues in Victoria.

Chief Beares said Mutual Aid talks continue with Pickett. He said their mutual aid stopped in February due to financial problems. He said on Pickett they must have 4 people on shift per day, so if they are short a person, they cannot provide help to the Town.

Chief Beares announced years of service, and said elections would be next month.

Chief Beares said Officer of the Year was Captain Dillon Jones, First Responder of the Year was Laurie Maitland, Phillip Armes ran the most fire calls and received the Anderson Mayton Award, Firefighter of the Year was Matthew Oakes. He said JJ Jones got his 30 year watch and past Fire Chief Dion Tomer received the Axe Plaque for ten years as Fire Chief.

Chief Beares said they left the banquet at 11:30 p.m. and was dispatched to the Mt. Nebo Church fire. He said they were still trying to find the cause of the fire.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. Appropriation #1 – Fire Department = \$50,650

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the appropriation in the amount of \$50,650.00 for grant funds received from the Department of Fire Programs for the Burn Building's prop thermal protection. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Councilman Nash asked if this was all grant funds. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes, he said Mr. Lee Williams applied for a larger amount of money, and this is the second amount from the first application applied for.

Chief Beares said it is in the budget for the County to provide \$10,000.00 annually towards the Burn Building.

Councilman Page believed Council should accept the grant before appropriating funds for it.

Councilman Nash rescinded his motion for the appropriation.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. VDFP – Grant Award – Fire Training Grounds – Prop Protection

Councilman Page made a motion to accept the grant funds from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs in the amount of 50,649.50 to repair thermal protection, and authorize Manager Vannoorbeeck to execute necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the appropriation in the amount of \$50,650.00 for grant funds received from the Department of Fire Programs for the Burn Building's prop thermal protection. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

2. VDFP – Re-Appointment of Executive Director

Councilman Miller made a motion to send a letter prepared by Assistant Fire Chief Williams to Governor Elect Spanberger to reappoint L. Brad Creasy as executive Director of the Department of Fire Programs with the Mayor's signature. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Dickens asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

5. Fire Department Insurance Renewal – Equipment & Liability

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve renewing the Fire Department's Equipment & Liability insurance with Chesterfield Insurers/McNeil & Company in the amount of \$16,645.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gormus.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he talked to VAcorp, and they can provide this type of insurance, and will price it in the spring.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

ALREADY PAID:

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the bills that have already been paid in the amount of \$319,969.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

TO BE PAID:

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve as presented; the bills not yet paid in the amount of \$174,449.30. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. Appropriation #1 – Fire Department = \$50,650

This was approved earlier in the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Account & Finance – met 12-11-25 – minutes will be included in January's Council Packet

2027 Bus Budget

Chairman Nash said the Committee met to discuss the Bus Budget; this has to be approved by Council before submitting to DRPT. He said included in the Budget is a 5% salary increase, but this is not set in stone. He said the budget includes salary increases for certifications. He said the total increase to Blackstone this year is roughly \$2,000.00 for the local match.

Councilman Gormus said the total budget was less than last year. Chairman Nash said the Town had to increase their budget because Amelia stopped their bus route. Transit Director Wilkinson said the local match was going up for all localities.

Councilman Page asked when the certification pay increases would go into effect. Transit Director Wilkinson replied, July 1, 2026.

Chairman Nash said Transit Director Wilkinson was looking into getting the nightly FASTC bus route included with the Pickett route to save the Town some money.

Councilman Miller asked how a route can be set up for Petersburg. Transit Director Wilkinson replied, starting a new route is a capital project, that would include a study, and the Town purchasing a vehicle. She asked Councilman Miller what expansion he was wanting to do. Councilman Miller said Petersburg was getting bigger, and games were coming. He believed people would want to travel to Petersburg, especially on the weekends.

Transit Director Wilkinson said the Petersburg bus runs Monday through Friday, but is limited to stops because Petersburg already has a bus.

Councilman Gormus made a motion to approve the Bus Budget as presented and authorize Transit Director Wilkinson to submit to DRPT. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Capital Improvement Plan

Manager Vannoorbeeck said a draft Plan was included in the packet. He asked Council to review, and if there are projects not included, please contact him.

CDs - Maturity

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town has \$2.5 Million in CDs coming due in February and he wanted to know how Council wanted to reinvest. He said \$1.5 Million is being used as collateral for a line of credit, and the other is the electric improvement project.

Chairman Nash asked what the HR company was suggesting for merit raises. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the company had a conference with the department heads and employees on how it will be handled.

Councilwoman Williams believed the Employment & Police Committee should see documents on the process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. School Buildings

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town was the owner of the most blighted property in Blackstone. He said it was understood the Town would not be moving forward with apartments.

Manager Vannoorbeeck asked for authorization to get the asbestos abatement started on the one story building and the LCCDC building. He said he had a previous estimate for the one story building for \$32,000.00.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the plan was to demolish the LCCDC building, but Community Development Specialist Bryant suggested it be converted into a picnic shelter. He said as we discuss Capital Improvement projects, he saw a potential splash park on the horizon. He said the most efficient is recirculation, and would require a restroom and fencing.

Councilman Gormus made a motion to move forward with the asbestos abatement and demolition of the one story building and the LCCDC building, with possible considerations for the LCCDC building. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Councilman Page asked about the cost. Manager Vannoorbeeck said for asbestos roughly \$32,000.00, but did not have a cost for the LCCDC building. He said Town staff would do the demolition and the County had waived the landfill costs. He said the brick could be taken to Rocky Bump or Courthouse Road, or S. Walker Construction has offered to take it for \$100.00 a load.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Miller asked to start getting the Gators field ready. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the field was ready, he just needed to install a scoreboard. Councilman Miller said lights need to be moved. He said he would get with Manager Vannoorbeeck in February.

Councilwoman Wynn suggested making the cafeteria building a community center.

2. B&B Consultants – Task Order #6 – TRC Blackstone, LLC

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the zoning had been approved. He said we now await the executed Road Maintenance Agreement. Attorney Harf said he had not heard from their attorney yet.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this task order is to design the road improvements to widen S. Main Street, to include a turning lane, and sidewalks which will go to approximately O'Reilly's.

Councilman Nash asked if this \$55,000.00 was included in the \$500,000.00. Manager Vannoorbeeck said yes, but does not include the inspections for \$30,000.00. He said TRC was putting up \$200,000.00. He said the first half of this project is \$600,000.00, and will only get to O'Reilly's.

Mayor Dickens asked if stoplights at Tenth Street and the entrance to Tractor Supply would be feasible. Manager Vannoorbeeck said maybe so.

Councilman Page made a motion to approve Task Order #6 in the amount of \$55,000.00 for widening S. Main Street from Tenth Street to Hodges Street, and include the following contingencies: (1) zoning to accommodate proposed retail activity is approved, (2) receipt of executed Road Cost Sharing Agreement and (3) receipt of contribution towards improvements proposed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

3. Asphalt Paving Bids – N. Main Street

Manager Vannoorbeeck said on November 7, 2025 staff opened bids for asphalt paving for N. Main Street from Dinwiddie Avenue to the northern corporate limits. He said five bids were received with the lowest bid being from Adams construction in the amount of \$317,210.00. He said he still had not heard back from VDOT on the State of Good Repair funds. He said if the Town could apply, it would still be 2-3 years before receiving funds.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this work would not be done until next summer, 2026.

Councilman Miller made a motion to enter into contract with Adams Construction for the asphalt paving for N. Main Street from Dinwiddie Avenue to the northern corporate limits in the amount of \$317,210.00, and authorize Manager Vannoorbeeck to execute necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gormus.

Councilman Page asked about getting risers for manhole covers on S. Main Street from Fourth to Eighth Streets. He asked to provide pricing.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

4. Award RFP – Auditing Services

Manager Vannoorbeeck said only one proposal was received, which was from Robinson, Farmer, Cox. He said at this time he did not have a dollar figure, and believed that was the concern. He said he would present this at the January Council Meeting.

5. 2024 Utility Write-Offs

Utility Billing Clerk Williams said there were some questions from last month, such as how we determine who is deceased. She said they look up customers in DMV. She said the write offs under \$5.00 for those still in business, she will create a spreadsheet of what is owed and send to them. She said as for estates, Treasurer Morris contacted TACS, we can contact the estate, but cannot force them to pay, and if there is no executor, it is uncollectible. She said with this we also have to stay within the statute of limitations.

Mayor Dickens said people could still be living in a home, and the account holder is deceased. He said so the Town cannot collect anything until the deceased is reported. He asked if this loophole could be closed. Manager Vannoorbeeck said this may be a question for Attorney Harf.

Utility Billing Clerk Williams said once she has notice, she sends a letter letting occupants know they have 30 days to put utility service in their name.

Councilman Page asked Attorney Harf if a lien could be put on the property if there is a large balance. Attorney Harf said if there is a policy for deceased, that is what needs to be used. He said generally the answer is yes to a lien on property, but would have to look into this further.

Councilwoman Williams suggested providing literature to citizens about reporting deceased account holders. She said if the account holder is deceased, and people think they have to pay a deposit, she probably wouldn't pay it either. Utility Billing Clerk Williams said there would be a deposit required.

Councilman Allman asked about the under \$5.00 list, do the customers not have another account this could be added to. Utility Billing Clerk Williams said unless their social security number or name is attached to another account, they would not know.

Councilman Nash questioned two businesses listed that have current accounts.

Councilman Page made a motion to write off the utility list as presented, minus account 16374 and 16512. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

6. DHCD – Southern Crescent Grant – Raw Water Line

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town was notified we were not successful for a \$500,000.00 grant.

Councilman Nash asked if the grant could be applied for again. Manager Vannoorbeeck said we can reapply, but was not sure if the funding would be offered again.

7. *Soil & Conservation Visit – Armes Ditch*

Councilman Page said he met at the Armes property with Soil & Water, and this project was too big for what they have to offer. He said he looked into grants and there is nothing for this fiscal year. He said there are loans, but not forgivable, it doesn't meet the requirements.

Councilman Page said after looking at the ditch, there is infrastructure damage, and makes the project more of an immediate need. He said we need to revisit this issue and decide if we want to do it or not.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said a contract was signed previously to do this work. He said the contractor would not put anything in writing releasing the Town from the contract. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he could contact the contractor, but he suggested rebidding the project.

Councilman Allman asked if the bid was for a piped or open ditch. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the bid was to pipe in the open ditch. Councilman Allman said there are lots of components but one is if the piping was aesthetic or necessary. Councilman Page said the concrete piping needs to be fixed.

Councilwoman Williams thanked Councilman Page for his effort, and asked if in the future, would this effort be done for everyone. She said we need to be consistent with everyone that has a request.

Councilman Gormus said the Town's strategy was to create a list and work towards a game plan for what the Town may have caused.

Councilman Miller said if a list is created, should the Armes ditch be #1. Councilman Page said six months ago there was not an infrastructure problem, now there is, and makes it a priority.

Councilman Gormus said if work on the Town's streets caused this, then money from the \$1.5 Million from VDOT should help repair it. He said that money goes into the General Fund.

Councilman Miller made a motion to authorize Manager Vannoorbeeck to rebid the Armes ditch. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gormus.

Councilman Allman said he would not vote yes for a piped ditch.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Manager Vannoorbeeck asked for the appropriation to be done tonight as well. Councilman Nash said you cannot appropriate something without a fund. Manager Vannoorbeeck said we can start with the \$87,000.00, and if more is needed, he will come back to Council.

Councilman Page asked where the funds would come from. Manager Vannoorbeeck said from capital projects. Councilwoman Williams said things on the Capital Improvement list can be pushed back to get this project done.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he would have to figure out where to get the money from, and put off other projects. He said projects that have not yet been funded is \$300,000.00 in vehicle purchases, and to date \$196,000.00 has been set aside. He said he needs to set aside the second half of the computer system and the Hodges Street waterline.

Councilman Nash said shouldn't the Town offer water to those in the Town of Blackstone. He said that is why Hodges Street is a viable project.

Councilman Gormus said with all this discussion and detail, yet this Council approved moving forward with \$475,000.00 on a dilapidated building with a hope and prayer for a grant or an investment from the public, he voted no on this. Mayor Dickens said this building is valuable, if it goes down, there goes Main Street.

Councilman Allman said he would consider fixing the concrete and what the pricing would be for an open ditch.

Attorney Harf said there needs to be direction on the rebid. Councilman Gormus suggested options for the rebid.

Councilman Nash said his concern was piping the ditch in, then it discharges on somebody else's property.

Manager Vannoorbeeck asked why bid the project if Council won't fund it.

Councilman Miller made a motion to appropriate \$88,000.00 for the Armes ditch. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

Councilman Nash asked from where. Councilwoman Williams said if we look hard, we can find it.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

8. Health Insurance Bids – Update

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this was advertised for bid, but the Town's current carrier could not provide a bid by the original date of December 15, 2025. He said an addendum was issued and extended the bids to February 2, 2026.

9. Armory Scheduling

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Community Development Specialist Bryant has included the scheduling for the colleges. He said also included is a draft rental application as prepared by Councilman Gormus.

Councilman Nash asked that Community Development Specialist Bryant find out what portions of the building the colleges would need according to the calendar she presented.

The Committee will meet to discuss this information further.

10. Computer System Upgrade – Additional Services

Manager Vannoorbeeck believed Council had already acted on Mr. Lawson Headley, who was here today helping transfer services from Bright to the Cloud.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there is a one time fee for Cloud Set Up for \$3,300.00.

Councilman Allman made a motion to approve the one time fee for Cloud Set Up for \$3,300.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gormus.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Nash asked how much data was being transferred. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied all of it.

Councilman Page asked where this money was coming from. Manager Vannoorbeeck said Council had previously approved \$102,000.00, plus Mr. Headley and cloud storage, which is roughly \$120,000.00. He said he had \$60,000.00 in cash already, and \$60,000.00 is being saved. Councilman Page said there is also \$15,000.00 for extras.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there is a monthly fee for the cloud storage, \$1,400.00. Councilman Allman said this is just until everything transfers to RDA.

ON-GOING PROJECTS:

1. Dilapidated Buildings

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this was filed this morning, and asked that a summons be issued for 819 Falls Street. He said Attorney Harf was moving forward with 915 Falls Street as well.

2. Meals Tax / Lodging Tax

Treasurer Morris said a delinquent account had been paid in full. She said the other account; she sent a letter giving them 5 days to pay or a bank lien would be issued. She said they have to be 90 days late before she can send to TACS.

Councilman Nash asked Treasurer Morris if she placed a bank lien or did they did pay it. Treasurer Morris said she placed the bank lien, but they technically paid it.

Councilman Page asked if a bounced check fee was charged. Treasurer Morris said she reversed the gross sales submitted, then reapplied to charge interest and the \$40.00 check fee for insufficient funds.

Councilwoman Williams suggested we let Treasurer Morris do her job, and if she needs Council, she can let us know.

Mayor Dickens asked if vendors do not turn in gross sales, are they on a list. Treasurer Morris replied yes, and she was going to email the Chamber to let them know who has not turned in their sales, as they should not be allowed to participate with events in Town. Councilman Page said the Chamber has a policy if they do not pay their taxes, and were notified, they will reach out, and if not paid, they will exclude them.

3. Street Improvement Projects

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we are still waiting on the Tap 21 applications for Amelia Avenue and College Avenue.

Councilman Page asked if the radar sign could be placed on College Avenue at the hill area. Lt. Mayton said it was just moved, so it may be a little while. Councilman Page said from the last results there were not as many speeders as thought. Lt. Mayton said correct.

4. Wrigglesworth Sports Complex

There was nothing to report.

5. Taylor Bottom Block Grant

There was nothing to report.

6. Armory

There was nothing to report.

7. Weatherization

There was nothing to report.

8. Workforce Housing

There was nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. VDFP – Grant Award – Fire Training Grounds – Prop Protection

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

2. VDFP – Re-Appointment of Executive Director

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

3. MOU – Department of Aviation – Virginia Tech

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this is an unmanned aviation mobility project that Virginia Tech and the Department of Aviation are working on. He said he had signed this, but they also want a detail of what our participation will be. He leaned on the Town's partners to draft a letter.

Manager Vannoorbeeck asked for ratification of him executing the MOU, and authorization to execute the letter included.

Councilman Nash asked if this just said the Town owns a portion of the Army Airfield. Manager Vannoorbeeck added we will let them access what the Town has, and no money is involved.

Councilman Page made a motion to ratify Manager Vannoorbeeck's signature on the MOU, and authorize his signature on the letter included to the FAA. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Dickens asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

4. Love Sign – Seay Park

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the old Love Sign was taken from the Town Square and DBi intended it for Seay Park. He said Mr. Jimmy Johnson was one of the three members that started Seay Park, and has asked to be involved with the placement of the sign.

Councilman Page asked if the Town could use the concrete contractor for the slab. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed Town staff could do this.

Councilman Nash said by Common Consent, to have Manager Vannoorbeeck handle this.

5. Fire Department Insurance Renewal – Equipment & Liability

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

6. Airport Insurance Renewal

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this is a December renewal. He said this is for general liability through VAcorp/AIG.

Councilman Nash made a motion to renew the Airport General Liability insurance with VAcorp/AIG in the amount of \$6,753.00. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

Councilman Nash asked if there had been any claims, is this why it went up. Manager Vannoorbeeck did not know of any. He said we do not accept the terrorism rider.

Mayor Dickens asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

7. Water Treatment Plant – Sole Source – Gate Repair

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Mr. Edward Harris needs to purchase parts for a lime feeder at the Water Treatment Plant. He is asking this be declared a sole source with Perkinson.

Councilman Allman made a motion to approve Perkinson as the sole source for repair to the lime feeder at the Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$1,627.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Dickens asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this would be posted on eVA, along with following the proper steps.

COMMITTEE REFERRALS:

1. Cafeteria Plan

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this is not a cafeteria plan, but a supplemental insurance. He said this is voluntary, and does not cost the Town, it would be a cost to the employee. He added this is pre-taxed.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Councilwoman Wynn was contacted to provide information to the Town.

Mayor Dickens referred this to the Insurance Committee.

Councilwoman Williams said her job has Swift MD and the employer pays \$3.00, and they are called prior to going to the emergency room.

MAYORS MINUTE:

Mayor Dickens expressed his appreciation for Council, Manager Vannoorbeeck, and staff. He said he was looking forward to the new year.

Councilwoman Williams thanked the Chamber for allowing her to be a judge at the Christmas Parade.

POLICE REPORT:

There was nothing reported.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

There were no comments.

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Dickens adjourned this meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Lafayette Dickens MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

January 26, 2026 APPROVED AND ADOPTED

Jennifer S. Daniel TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA