Minutes of a Continued Meeting of the Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia, held in the Council Chambers, located at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia on Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

Mayor:	Lafayette Dickens
Council Members:	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:	Wesley Gormus

Mayor Dickens called this Continued Meeting from October 19, 2026, to order.

Closed Session – Attorney Interviews

CLOSED SESSION:

Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711-A

1/ Personnel – Attorney Interviews

Councilwoman Wynn made a motion to go into Closed Session for (1) 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 Councilwoman Williams.

Mayor Dickens asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Councilwoman Wynn 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 Nash.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

VMEA – BESS Agreement / Resolution – Revised

Clerk Daniel advised Council of the revised agreement at their desk, which included changes from today.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the changes came from Culpeper's zoning not being approved for the battery storage. He said according to Brian O'Dell with VMEA, he estimated $30,000.00 in upfront costs, over a series of months reflecting on the VMEA bill.

Councilman Nash said after speaking with Mr. Dan Martin, this will save the Town money because we will be shaving the peak. He believed the upfront costs will just reduce the Town's savings.

Councilman Allman made a motion authorizing Mayor Dickens to execute the revised BESS Member Agreement, and adopt the approving Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Councilwoman Williams asked when this is announced to the public, please use proper terminology so we don't scare the public.

Councilman Page asked if this would save citizens money. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied not immediately, we will use the savings to pay off the reconductoring project. He said the savings will be roughly $167,000.00 annually, and the Town borrowed $700,000.00 for the project.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Asbestos Abatement Bid – 114 S. Main Street

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town received $40,000.00 for this project from the Virginia Economic Development Brownfied Grant. He said the original bid was $90,180.21, so the architect, contractor and Mr. Dave McCormack discussed further, and all agreed to cut a hole in the floor to remove the tank and asbestos. He said the revised bid is now $25,745.50.

Councilman Nash made a motion to award the asbestos abatement bid for the Dillard Crawley Building to Hepaco, LLC in the revised amount of $25,745.50. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Main Street Improvements Bid – Tractor Supply

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we originally received two bids for this project, with the low bid being from Brock Construction in the amount of $902,842.50. He said Mr. Randy Jones with B&B Consultants has been working with the contractor, and negotiated the price to $699,517.50.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this is still over budget. He said included in the packet in green are the changes that he was agreeable to. He said Town staff can do some of the items, that helps to reduce the cost.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the bid for the sidewalks was $55,125.00 for 525 square yards. He said the annual concrete bid from S. Walker Construction is $80.00 per square yard, but sidewalks are not essential to the project right now.

Councilman Nash said if we don't do it now, it won't ever get done. Councilman Page said we need to do it all at once. Manager Vannoorbeeck said $55,125.00 will need to be added back to the price of $699,517.50. Councilman Page clarified use S. Walker's pricing, not Brock Construction's price for sidewalks.

Councilman Nash clarified the sidewalk price with S. Walker Construction for this project will be $42,000.00, instead of $55,125.00 quoted from Brock Construction. Manager Vannoorbeeck said there is cash in the money market account to make this happen.

Councilman Page made a motion to award the Main Street Improvements bid to Brock Construction in the amount of $699,517.50 for Tractor Supply, and authorize Manager Vannoorbeeck to execute the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn.

Mayor Dickens asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the sidewalk will go from Tenth Street to O'Reilly's.

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

Lafayette Dickens MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

November 16, 2026 APPROVED AND ADOPTED

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