

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, August 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

Mayor: William D. Coleburn

Council Members: Christine Hasbrouck, Shelia Jones, Lonnie Morgan, Barbara Thompson, Nathaniel Miller, Eric Nash, Tom Wilkinson

Town Staff: Philip Vannoorbeeck, Town Manager; Jennifer Daniel, Town Clerk; Jennifer Hardy, Finance Director; Tony Mayton, Sgt; Sam Murphy, Investigator; Zac Beares, Deputy Fire Chief

Town Attorney: Tessie Bacon

Those Absent:

Mayor Coleburn called the August Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Coleburn delivered the Invocation.

Mayor Coleburn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS:

1. Nottoway Angels

Mayor Coleburn thanked Mr. Charlie Atkinson, because he almost let this slide, and said when we have young people in our community, who achieve on the field or off the field, we are going to pause here in Blackstone, and honor those achievements. He asked for a round of applause for the Nottoway Angels. He said they swept the District, had one loss in the State Tournament and in the Dixie World Series went a respectable 2-2.

Mayor Coleburn presented a plaque on behalf of Town Council to Manager, John Austin. Mr. Austin thanked Council for the nice facilities they had to practice on.

Mayor Coleburn said how proud Blackstone was of the girls and what they had achieved. He said always know your hometown is pulling for you, so if you leave for another city or go to college or a new job, it can be overwhelming. He takes pride in Nottoway County for supporting their own.

Mayor Coleburn presented letters to the following Nottoway Angels:

Autumn Adkins, Brooklyn Atkinson, Brooklyn Thomas, Emma Lilly, Hayden Hudson, Jayden Banks, Kiley Hudson, McKenzie Robinson, Meadow Austin, Olivia Spradlin, Star'Aysia Lawrence, Sydney Schutt, Manager John Austin, and coaches Charlie Atkinson and Karen Krotzer.

2. Police Department Awards

Captain Ben Haug of the Blackstone Volunteer Fire Department said on March 25, 2021, they were dispatched to an address on Main Street for an unresponsive patient. He said prior to the Fire Department or Nottoway Rescue's arrival, Blackstone Police Department got on scene, which included Sgt. Tony Mayton, Officer Lee Scott and Officer Justin Walters. He said these officers started CPR and shocked the patient with an AED, which allowed EMS to transport Mr. Wulff to the hospital for further care. He said without the Police Department and AEDs in the cars, it probably would have been a much different outcome.

Investigator Sam Murphy thanked the Fire Department for recognizing the Police Department and he presented awards to Sgt. Mayton, Officers Scott and Walters.

Councilman Nash asked for a standing ovation for these officers.

Mr. Robert Wulff thanked the Police Department and said he had been in Florida recuperating. He said he had 2 heart attacks since then, and had a stroke in the hospital.

Sgt. Mayton said September of 2020, there was a long string of stolen vehicles, all the officers worked really hard, with one officer working long hours that was crucial in catching the subject. He presented an award to Officer Jason Robertson, for Officer of the Year of 2020.

Mayor Coleburn said Officer Robertson might also be a future Animal Control Officer in the Town of Blackstone.

UNFINIHSED BUSINESS:

2. Elections

Mayor Coleburn said the Town of Blackstone, by State Law, must change its elections to November in 2022.

Attorney Bacon said an Ordinance needed to be passed mandating that the elections would change from May to November. She said right now from the General Assembly it is a "may" situation, but if you wait much longer, past January 2022, according to Section 15.2-1400, Section E, it will become "shall". She said this will include terms commencing on January 1st of the following year.

Councilman Morgan made a motion to authorize Attorney Bacon to proceed with the necessary changes and advertise a Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

Attorney Bacon said she would get the draft together.

PUBLIC MEETING:

1. **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 - Funds**

***NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
TOWN OF BLACKSTONE***

The Town of Blackstone will hold a Public Meeting on Monday, August 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers, to solicit public input on federal funds received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Information will be provided on the missions, goals, plans, and objectives for the funds. Specific topics of discussion will be as follows:

- *Amount of funding available*
- *Recovery fund requirements*
- *Eligible/Ineligible activities*
- *Water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure improvements*

Citizens will also be given the opportunity to comment on Blackstone's planned uses of these funds, as well as, past use of COVID-19 public health funds received. All interested citizens are urged to attend, for additional information, contact Philip Vannoorbeeck, Town Manager at (434) 292-7251. Comments and grievances can be submitted in writing to the Town of Blackstone at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia or by phone at (434) 292-7251, until 5:00 p.m., Monday, August 9, 2021. It is the intention of the Town to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, should you need special accommodations, please contact the Town Office prior to 5:00 p.m., August 13, 2021.

Mayor Coleburn said the Town of Blackstone is slated to receive \$3.5 Million from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. He said the Town had already received \$1.75 Million that is in a CD and should receive the other \$1.7 Million in May of next year.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Blackstone is considered an NEU, non-entitlement unit, which means smaller, rural communities that don't automatically get an appropriation from the FEDS or State. He said this was also based on the Town's population. He said of the \$1.75 Million, \$1 Million was placed in a CD at Benchmark drawing 2.3%. He said \$750,00.00 had been retained in the Town's money market account, of which \$568,535.00 was earmarked for utility relief.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said included in possible expenditures is \$2.2 Million for the Armory, with \$2 Million for construction and \$200,000.00 for architectural and engineering. He said COVID Relief was discussed, which were loans given out through USDA as revolving loan funds. He said this money was paid back and Finance Director Hardy suggested loaning these funds during COVID, currently there is an outstanding balance of \$10,847.00.

Mayor Coleburn asked about Premium Pay Bonuses in the amount of \$63,500.00. Manager Vannoorbeeck said this would be for the employees because the Town never closed. He said this would be a mid-priority.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town was in the process of replacing new water meters, starting in the East End and replacing 100. He said the \$300,000.00 proposed was an estimate. He said Cox Road waterline had been discussed in the past. He said the Town was not looking for anybody to contribute, but if you don't hook on when it is installed, then there will be a cost later. He said this was prioritized as mid in the amount of \$1.4 Million. He said the County has not responded, but without mandatory connection, it is not a viable project.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said as a medium project, Hodges Street waterline. He said the Town, at its expense ran a water line to one of the properties on Hodges Street. He said everyone on Hodges is now on Town water, so a water line needs to be run and loop it back into the Walmart parking lot.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Fort Avenue manhole had been designed, but the Town has not had \$80,000.00 to do the project.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said South Main Street IIB is \$500,000.00 for Sixth to Tenth Street. He said we spent all the money saved for this project on the ice storm, and have not been reimbursed yet.

Mayor Coleburn said this project would include sidewalk, resurfacing the road and replacing the storm sewer.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said in reference to the Armory, there is the ability to renovate it using ARPA Funds, for the benefit of travel, hospitality and education. He said Senator Warner would be here to tour the Armory on August 25, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. He said Senator Warner would discuss ARPA Funds.

MINUTES:

Councilman Miller made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on July 19, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

VISITORS:

1. *Nottoway Angels*

This was presented earlier in the meeting.

2. *Police Department Awards*

This was presented earlier in the meeting.

3. *Blackstone Chamber – Arts & Crafts*

Mayor Coleburn said this would be on September 11th and 12th and be the 56th Annual.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the Chamber requests for Arts and Crafts. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT:

Deputy Chief Beares said the annual Boot Drive would be September 11, 2021. He said the street closures would be from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the street closures and times for the Fire Department’s Annual Boot Drive. The motion was seconded by Councilman Morgan.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

Deputy Chief Beares said the Cruise In would be August 28, 2021. He said last months did very well.

Deputy Chief Beares said the Rescue Squad Fund Grant through the Virginia Department of Health will provide for new air bags and rescue equipment that is out of date.

Manager Vannoorbeeck asked about applying for the Rescue Squad Fund Grant in the amount of \$90,000.00. He advised Council this would be a 50/50 grant, so the Town would be responsible for \$45,000.00 if awarded.

Deputy Chief Beares said annual hose testing would be on August 24, 2021.

Deputy Chief Beares said the Junior Fire Department was down to 9 members, and they were going to the schools trying to find participation, which would be ages 14-17. He said Timmothy Haug had 20 years in June.

Mayor Coleburn said he and Councilwoman Hasbrouck were on a Zoom Call with Congresswoman Spanberger on Thursday, things look promising with the \$936,000.00 for the Ladder Truck, plus the County’s \$200,000.00.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the previous Ladder Truck is no longer with the Town. He said it was bid out on GOVDEALS and received a bid of \$5,001.00, but took it to ABC Recycling and got \$6,400.00. He said there was a generator on the truck that we removed and will try to sell on GOVDEALS. Deputy Chief Beares said all the tools and ladders were removed from this truck and are in the storage building behind the fire station, that will be reused on the new Ladder Truck.

Deputy Chief Beares asked about the Town's Drug Policy since the legalization of marijuana. He said they are still following their same policy, and will be doing what the Town does.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Drug Policy needed to be reviewed.

Councilman Morgan asked if the Police Department could provide some insight at next month's meeting on marijuana use.

Councilman Nash said he did not like the idea of someone operating equipment under the influence.

Deputy Chief Beares told Councilman Miller if the debris at Greenview Cemetery could be put in a pile, away from power lines, then the Fire Department was ready to help burn.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills that have already been paid are in the amount of \$1,755,499.92.

Councilman Morgan made a motion to approve the bills that have already been paid in the amount of \$1,755,499.92. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills not yet approved, and to be paid, are in the amount of \$237,376.03

Councilwoman Hasbrouck made a motion to approve as presented, the bills not yet paid in the amount of \$237,376.03. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

APPROPRIATIONS:

Mayor Coleburn said when something comes along that was not budgeted, we do appropriations that explain what was done and why.

Appropriation #1 – Electric = \$8,440.00

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we lost Heath Williamson, who was a good employee, he went to work with his dad. He said with him leaving and Charlie Atkinson moving full time into the Treasurer's Office, that left two positions open. He said because of the savings from Mr. Williamson leaving, three offers were made in the Electric Department.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we also added \$2.50 an hour per three lineman, Joie Doty, Jason Stokes and Josh Pope. He said since we had to hire to new employees at \$18.00 an hour, this made it fair to the employees who were hired years ago at less money.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the appropriation in the amount of \$8,440.00 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Councilman Nash asked if all three new hires would be retained if they pass all the classes. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

Appropriation #2 – Police Department = \$4,500.00

Manager Vannoorbeeck said marijuana is no longer a drug item that a dog can locate. He said this appropriation is to hire a new dog.

Sgt. Mayton said from what he understood, the dog is being trained now and then Officer Farley would get certified with the new dog. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the dog is in North Carolina. ***Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the appropriation in the amount of \$4,500.00 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hasbrouck.***

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Buildings, Property & Cemetery – met 8-3-21 – minutes included in August’s Council Packet

School Property Agreement

Manager Vannoorbeeck believed everything in the Agreement stays except the portion about the community center. He said there was question about demolition of the two story building, perhaps find a repurpose for it. He asked for a motion to modify those two items and present to Dr. Grimes for approval.

Councilwoman Thompson made a motion to modify the Building Agreement and remove item #5 concerning the community center and find a repurpose for the two story building and have Manager Vannoorbeeck meet with Dr. Grimes to discuss. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn said the water and sewer taps, heaven forbid if something happened at Blackstone Primary, the place for the mobile trailers would be in the vast area behind the school.

Councilman Nash did not believe the Town would demolish the one story building and leave the two story building. He said they would have to be done at the same time. He said we need the School Board, in conjunction with the Town, do something with the two story building instead of it sitting status quo, before the Town agrees to tearing down any buildings.

Mayor Coleburn suggested Manager Vannoorbeeck sit down with the Superintendent and convey this. Manager Vannoorbeeck added, he would discuss the dog park as well.

Mayor Coleburn suggested the tap locations be in an area pleasing to the Town and the School Board.

Mayor Coleburn clarified, the spirit is clear, Councilman Nash said the Town will tear down the one story building, if there is use designated for the two story building. He said we are trying to eliminate blight.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

Additional Monarch Butterfly Flower Bed

Mayor Coleburn said by Common Consent the butterfly garden would be extended into the flower bed in front of the Clerk's office.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he would return the Armory Donation sign back to Mr. Walter Mac Osborne.

Armory Agreement – Fees

Council discussed the Agreement and approved what was presented.

RFQ – Armory

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he had put the Request for Qualifications for the Armory in the paper. He believed with the ARPA Funds, there was enough money to pay someone and thought the Council or a designated committee should conduct the interviews.

Mayor Coleburn asked if it might be worth considering a design build. Manager Vannoorbeeck said with a design build, he was not sure if there was an advocate for the Town.

Councilman Nash asked if the insurance company responded to the claim for the FEMA difference, \$106,000.00. Manager Vannoorbeeck said Finance Director Hardy had submitted a claim and a case had been set up. Finance Director Hardy said she asked months ago, because the Town has debris coverage, but no word yet.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the chipping started today at Rocky Bump, which was for the ice storm debris.

Mayor Coleburn said with hurricane season upon us, how confident are we about the integrity of trees that surround our lines. Manager Vannoorbeeck said we don't trim enough, but hopefully with more bodies we can have a trimming crew.

2. *Street & Light – met 8-4-21 – minutes included in August's Council Packet*

Sixth Street Parking

Manager Vannoorbeeck believed it was within Council's right to restrict parking. Mayor Coleburn said Resident Parking Only.

Councilwoman Hasbrouck asked how residents would be able to provide proof of being a resident of that street. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town may be able to provide a decal.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Committee looked at the parking, and if that same facility were built today, with the Town's current Ordinance, they would need 90 parking spaces.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Committee looked at the curb cut for 306 Sixth Street and were agreeable to have Walker Construction repair.

Councilman Nash made a motion to proceed with a Public Hearing to adopt a Resident Parking Only Ordinance, for a certain section of Sixth Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Morgan.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

Scott Street

Manager Vannoorbeeck said 90% of that portion of Scott Street sits on private property.

Mayor Coleburn asked if the Town were to vacate the street, what would happen. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied, Ms. Tucker could block the street off.

Councilman Nash asked what would be the benefit to the Town to keep it open. Councilman Morgan said the benefit would be for public safety. Manager Vannoorbeeck said you can still come onto Doswell Street from Division Street. He said most of Doswell Street on Ms. Tucker's end, is owned by the Railroad.

Councilwoman Jones said Ms. Tucker is here tonight and asked that a decision be made.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Council could abandon the street and let Ms. Tucker put up a barrier or choose to build a street in the right of way. He suggested blocking the street, because everyone has a secondary way to get to their home.

Ms. Penny Tucker said yes, she would like the street to be closed. Councilman Wilkinson asked Ms. Tucker how she proposed closing the street. Ms. Tucker believed there should be signs on Doswell Street saying dead end. She said Manager Vannoorbeeck told her to wait because the Town would close it off at no cost, but if they have to pay, she did not believe she needed Town approval.

Councilwoman Jones asked if there was anything the Town could do to help Ms. Tucker. Manager Vannoorbeeck suggested a berm.

Mayor Coleburn asked by Common Consent to authorize Manager Vannoorbeeck to work with Ms. Tucker and have a hearing or a report at the next Council Meeting.

Councilman Nash believed Ms. Tucker could say the street was closed right now.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to affirm that the property where the Town has a section of street is actually owned by Ms. Penny Tucker and Manager Vannoorbeeck will start the physical modifications in the right of way to include signage and a berm. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

Mr. Green said there are still lots that face that street. Councilman Nash said if that street would need to be developed on the back side, the Town still has the right of way that a new street could be built.

N. West Avenue Ditch Request

This was not discussed.

Tunstall Avenue Stop Sign

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to approve a three way stop sign at the intersection of Merchant Street and Tunstall Avenue and a four way stop sign at the intersection of Tavern and Harris Street, to include white stop bars. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

Amelia Avenue – Curb and Gutter

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he had received spotty responses for curb and gutter on Amelia Avenue. He said the yards look rough after construction, and Lee's Excavating will plant grass in those areas.

Lunenburg Avenue – Curb and Gutter

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he received definitive answers for Lunenburg Avenue.

Mayor Coleburn asked if chronic requests sufficed or do we require a written application. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied, there is no written application. Mayor Coleburn asked that we start getting written applications in the future.

306 Sixth Street – Wheelchair Cutout

The Committee approved this request.

College Road – Dead Tree

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this tree was on private property.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the Town topping the tree at 103 College Road. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

Tavern & Harris Street Stop Sign

This was approved earlier in the meeting.

3. Employment & Police – met 8-4-21 – minutes included in August’s Council Packet

Electric Department Positions

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Animal Control/Police Officer

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he would report on this in the next 60 days.

Councilman Morgan asked that the Committee discuss further, he did not think it would be a good idea to have an officer on the road doing this part time, so either hire someone part time or add another position. Mayor Coleburn added, the new shelter was going to be in Burkeville.

Councilman Morgan asked if the County knew about this. Mayor Coleburn replied no, but he and the Town Manager would be having breakfast with the new County Administrator, and this issue would be brought up.

There was a Closed Session to discuss Personnel – Administration during this Committee Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were no Consent Agenda items.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Blackstone Chamber - Donation

Mayor Coleburn said the Chamber did not have their fireworks and asked to keep the \$5,000.00 donation, to carry over for next year. He suggested in light of keeping the donation, the Town would not have to donate towards the bands for the Christmas Parade.

Ms. Molly Black said they offered to give the donation back, and Council suggested keeping it for next year.

Mayor Coleburn said if you need money for bands come see us in November.

2. Elections

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

3. Award Bids – Storm Management

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the following projects were bid out: 503 College Road, 102 Viewbank, 410 Sixth Street, 107 Bird Road and 736 N. Main Street. He said the low bidder was Treescapes in the amount of \$34,900.00. He added, the cash was set aside.

Councilman Nash asked if all these locations were on public right of way. Manager Vannoorbeeck said 102 Viewbank was on private property, with water running off the neighbor's property under someone else's house. He believed the Town had an influence on this when trees were cut down and curb and gutter was installed. He said Mr. John Hill's property at 410 Sixth Street, has flooding issues and the throat would be enlarged. He said 736 N. Main Street, tax records say it is on Town property, and a double barrel culvert will be installed. He said 503 College Road is on Town property. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed 107 Bird Road was on private property.

Mayor Coleburn asked where the money would come from. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied, the Street Department.

Councilman Morgan made a motion to award the low bid to Treescapes in the amount of \$34,900.00 for the following storm management projects: 503 College Road, 102 Viewbank, 410 Sixth Street, 107 Bird Road and 736 N. Main Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Councilman Nash said he was going to vote no because of private property. He said there will be concerns from citizens in Councilman Miller's Ward, that still have not been addressed.

Councilman Miller said 102 Viewbank Street, the Town actually caused the problem. Councilman Nash said technically the Town caused the problem at Mr. Armes' house when the Town took the pipe from Main Street to the back of his house.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Nay

Clerk Daniel reminded Manager Vannoorbeeck that some of the locations would need the property owners signing something, letting them know this would be a one time deal.

4. Award Bids – Town Hall, Fire Station, Roofing

Mayor Coleburn said the bids were expected to come in at \$98,000.00, but the low bid was \$500,000.00, to add 15 seats.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there was just not enough CARES money for the renovation work.

Mayor Coleburn said the Town has to spend this money by December 31st. he suggested deferring the money and go towards the Armory, so when there are larger meetings, they can be at the Armory. He said this could cushion the blow from the ARPA Funds.

Councilman Nash suggested using CARES money to give back to the citizens of Blackstone. He said divide it amongst the electric bills and give it back. Mayor Coleburn believed the County had to approve that.

Councilman Miller asked if the money could go towards Weatherization. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he would have to check.

Mayor Coleburn referred the CARES money to the Account and Finance Committee.

Clerk Daniel suggested minor renovations for handicap accessibility and spreading out the Council area.

Councilman Nash suggested turning the Chambers into administrative offices and use the Armory for the Council Chambers.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the \$600,000.00 bid, included the roof at the Library and Medical Center. He said he was going to try to negotiate with the contractor for these repairs.

5. Skilled Gaming

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he checked at Race-In and Chubby's, and the machines were off.

ON-GOING PROJECTS:

1. Dilapidated Buildings

Mayor Coleburn said Manager Vannoorbeeck was awaiting a response for 819 Falls Street.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he received approval from three property owners for structures that have been condemned, two of which are reimbursable through the East End project. The two in the East End are 303 E. Broad Street and 305 Fitzgerald Street.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said 806 Falls Street had a tree fall through it. He said the property owner had agreed to let the Town remove the structure, and a lien would be placed on the property.

Councilman Nash asked if a payment plan was set up. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied the property owner did not offer a payment plan.

Councilman Nash asked if there was a sheet of all the liens that are currently in place.

Mayor Coleburn asked to have this information within the next few months and should include locations and dollar amounts.

Councilman Wilkinson asked if properties had been sold and liens were not paid, can the Town still collect it.

Mayor Coleburn referred the list of liens and liens not collected to the Account and Finance Committee.

2. Meals Tax / Lodging Tax

There were no outstanding Meals or Lodging Taxes.

3. Street Improvement Projects

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he submitted an ad today to bid out the South Main Street project, Sixth to Eighth Street.

4. Wrigglesworth Sports Complex / TAP 21

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the curb and gutter and sidewalk have been advertised and the bids are due August 25, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. He said this project will include antique light poles.

5. East End Neighborhood Project

Mayor Coleburn said three homes had been advertised for renovations.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said roads would start to be torn up anytime. He said KCH Contracting was the contractor and out of Chesterfield.

6. Weatherization

Mayor Coleburn said the Town was working with two property owners currently.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Councilman Miller has asked if more funds could be found for Weatherization. He said that may very well be through CARES Funds. He said currently there was \$50,000.00 in the budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Annual Concrete Contract

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the annual contract with S. Walker Construction expires this month. He said the bid was attached from last year, but the Town did not do all the work listed. He said last year it was advertised and could be extended for a year, and Mr. Jason Walker told Manager Vannoorbeeck he would honor his 2020 prices for another year.

Mayor Coleburn said that would be \$599,000.00 if all the work is completed.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the extension of the bid for one year with S. Walker Construction in the amount of \$599,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Morgan.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

2. Water Tank Maintenance Contracts

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there is no contract in place. He said Mr. Andre Hicks was concerned about the condition of the tanks at Pickett. He asked for authorization to advertise for maintenance contracts. He said he had been talking with the company the Town uses now, and it could be \$80,000.00 for one tank a year.

Councilman Nash suggested to put an ad on eVA.

Mayor Coleburn said Manager Vannoorbeeck had authorization in his role as Town Manager.

3. VRSA Safety Grant

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Finance Director Hardy had already submitted this \$4,000.00 Safety Grant. He said currently there is no key fab on the Treasurer's office door.

Councilman Morgan made a motion to accept the grant funds in the amount of \$4,000.00 with the Town's match being \$476.41. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

4. Police Department – Body Worn Cameras

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Police Department was in the process of replacing all their cameras, with a total cost of \$25,625.00. He said this would be a sole source because the Town already has the software and equipment installed in the vehicles. He said this would be partially funded through a DCJS Grant Fund in the amount of \$12,065.00. He said the Police Department receives a Byrne Grant every year that is approximately \$89,000.00, and a portion of that can be used, \$3,094.00, they will also use \$7,864.65 from Asset Forfeiture and the remaining balance would come from their budget in the amount of \$2,601.35. He said no appropriation would be needed.

Councilwoman Thompson made a motion to approve the purchase of new body worn cameras for the Police Department as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hasbrouck.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

Mayor Coleburn asked if the technology was getting better. Sgt. Mayton replied yes, as far as the cameras, and if we are next to another officer, it will activate without having to touch it.

Councilman Wilkinson asked what would be done with the old cameras. Manager Vannoorbeeck said they would be surplus and try to sell them.

5. Police Department – Surplus Items

Manager Vannoorbeeck asked Council to surplus the items as presented and these items would probably be put on GOVDEALS.

Councilwoman Hasbrouck said there was a non-profit in Richmond that does Tech for Troops, they receive donated laptops and computer equipment, refurbish them and donate to Veterans.

Councilman Nash made a motion to surplus the items as presented by the Police Department. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

6. Council Meetings – Relocation During Construction

Mayor Coleburn said this was a moot point at this time.

7. Schwartz Tavern – Millstone Renewal

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the two year Loan Agreement for the Millstone located at Schwartz Tavern. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

8. Town Bus – Rental

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there was a request to use the Town owned bus for a non-profit here in Town.

Councilman Wilkinson said the Rotary was looking to use the bus in October. He said looking in Richmond, he could rent a 15 passenger van for \$300.00 a day, but did not come with a driver. He proposed coming up with an agreement to rent the bus for \$300 a day and if the bus has a full tank of gas, it comes back with a full tank of gas.

Clerk Daniel said Finance Director Hardy had contacted VRSA, but there had not been a response yet.

Mayor Coleburn asked to engage Transit Director Murphy for help in finding a policy.

Manager Vannoorbeeck recommended the driver be a Town driver. He said the driver would have to have a CDL.

Councilwoman Thompson made a motion to move forward with the process of renting the Town bus to the Rotary. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

9. USDA Governing Body Resolution – Police Car

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there was a new police car in the budget. He said this process is the initial start to getting a \$25,000.00 grant and have USDA finance the difference, for a new Ford Explorer.

Councilwoman Hasbrouck made a motion to adopt the Governing Body Resolution for a new police car. The motion was seconded by Councilman Morgan.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Wilkinson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Hasbrouck	-	Aye
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye

COMMITTEE REFERRALS:

1. Industrial Park

Mayor Coleburn referred this request to the Buildings, Property and Cemetery Committee.

MAYORS MINUTE:

1. Annual Committee Reappointments

Mayor Coleburn said the Committee assignments will remain the same from last year.

Mayor Coleburn asked if the Town had received a response from Bon Secours from his letter. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he spoke with Dee at the Blackstone Family Practice Center; they received the letter and will respond.

Mayor Coleburn said a Blackstone Native, Dr. Lisa York, will be coming to Blackstone Medical Center in November.

Mayor Coleburn said we really need to have a meeting; he has people that are serious about the building and the lease comes up in 2024.

Mayor Coleburn said the level of care the Town was promised in 2009, is nowhere near what was promised.

POLICE REPORT:

There was nothing to report.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Councilman Wilkinson said there was a right of way beside Mr. Ray Smart's house and comes down by Mrs. Daphne Cole, it has trees growing everywhere. Manager Vannoorbeeck said it was a sewer line. He said the new skid steer has a grinder on it and can be used for this area. He said Mrs. Cole had planted items in the right of way and we needed to be careful around the plantings.

Mr. Michael Bagley said earlier in the meeting it was discussed using \$2.2 Million towards the Armory, will this negate grants. He asked if a Grant Committee had been formed. Mayor Coleburn replied, no we have not formed a committee. He added, the ARPA Funds will help, but should not cease grant efforts.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he hoped once the Town has an architect, they can help navigate the legalities. He said the ideal funding source is the Industrial Revitalization Fund. He said there is something pending with DHCD right now for VUMAC, so he could not submit another one just yet.

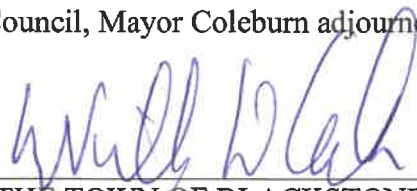
Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Governor was putting more money in this fund next year, and will try again.

Mr. Bagley asked if the chemical imbalance in the water had been corrected. Mayor Coleburn explained the process and said Mr. Edward Harris has been on top of the situation. Councilman Nash added the water is still safe.

Mr. Finch said they had moved his grandmother's surgery closer and he inquired about the wheelchair cutout on Sixth Street. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he would get Mr. Walker over there tomorrow to look at it.

Councilwoman Thompson said her son owns the house under the bridge on Falls Street and has been paying the taxes. She believed Southside Electric owned part of the property. Manager Vannoorbeeck said they do own a portion.

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn adjourned this meeting at 9:05 p.m.


MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

September 20, 2021 APPROVED AND ADOPTED


TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA