

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, July 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

Mayor: William D. Coleburn

Council Members: Shelia Jones, Carolyn Williams, Nathaniel Miller, Eric Nash, Jake Allman

Town Staff: Philp Vannoorbeeck, Town Manager; Jennifer Daniel, Town Clerk; Brittany Harris, Treasurer; Nicholas Kuzmiak, Police Chief; Jackie Brown, Assistant Finance Director; Chastiddy Bryant, Community Development Specialist; Zac Beares, Deputy Fire Chief; Carol Lyons, Administrative Assistant

Town Attorney:

Those Absent: Lonnie Morgan, Annie Scott, Jennifer Hardy

Mayor Coleburn called the July Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Coleburn said the Town of Tappahannock had a fire similar to what we had in March of 2004, they are going to have a big downtown hole and going through some issues we went through.

Mayor Coleburn asked to keep the Henderson family in their thoughts and prayers. He said there was a tragedy in Nottoway County yesterday, Antonio Henderson was not just a good human being from a well known family, but a phenomenal athlete.

Mayor Coleburn asked for thoughts and prayers for Edward Harris, the Town's Water/Sewer Plant Supervisor, he lost his father.

Mayor Coleburn said we have a team once again going to the World Series, the Nottoway Ponytails.

Mayor Coleburn delivered the Invocation.

Mayor Coleburn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Conditional Rezoning – Doswell Street

*NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF BLACKSTONE*

*The Blackstone Town Council shall hold a Public Hearing on July 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Blackstone Town Council Chambers, 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia. The applicant, **Geralin McFarland** is requesting property be Conditionally Rezoned from the R-2, Residential District to the R-3, Residential District. If approved the applicant intends to erect a double wide manufactured home on the property. The Conditional Rezoning request specifically applies to property known as Nottoway County Tax Map Number 50A19-8-A-3 and is also known as 508 Doswell Street. The Town Council may act on this request following this public hearing. Any individual desiring to address the Town Council should attend the public hearing at the above stated date and time.*

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this request is for a doublewide manufactured home, and is similar to the request on Center Street for Ms. Jones. He said the Planning Commission approved the request, with two proffers. He said the first proffer included this request only be approved for a doublewide home, it does not permit multi-family dwellings.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said when the Town burned the previous structure and cleaned the area, there was a lien placed on the property. He said the second proffer was that the lien be paid in full, prior to a building permit.

Ms. Geralin McFarland said it was paid off today.

Mayor Coleburn opened the Public Hearing, and asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against the request.

Manager Vannoorbeeck recommended approval.

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the Conditional Rezoning request at 508 Doswell Street to R-3, Heavy Residential, and include the proffers as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

2. Conditional Use Permit – 121 S. Main Street

*NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF BLACKSTONE*

*The Blackstone Town Council shall conduct a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., July 18, 2022 in the Blackstone Town Council Chambers, 100 W. Elm Street. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit from **This Olde Building, LLC** to permit one dwelling unit to be constructed on the second floor of a commercial property. The property is currently zoned B-G, General Business and dwellings are permitted with a conditional use permit. The Conditional Use permit request specifically applies to property known as Nottoway County Tax Map numbers 50A27-1-X-11 and is also known as 121 S. Main Street. 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.*

Manager Vannoorbeeck said 121 S. Main Street was formerly Mr. Mayo Gravatt's office. He said the Cannons have purchased this property and are requesting a Conditional Use Permit to put one dwelling on the second floor. He said the Planning Commission recommended approval. He said there was discussion about parking and this area has adequate parking behind the building to accommodate more than the two spaces required.

Mayor Coleburn opened the Public Hearing, and asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against the request.

Ms. Beverly Ambs said there was an Air B&B in that section of Town, and they are parking on Main Street in front of businesses. She asked if there is going to be an apartment at 121 S. Main Street, that they not block parking for 123 S. Main Street.

Mayor Coleburn said those living in apartments have to provide two parking spaces per unit, and that is sufficient behind the residence. He said the Town also has two hour parking weekdays in front of businesses. He said anyone parking more than two hours in front of businesses should be ticketed.

Mayor Coleburn said Blackstone Police last year, among other things they have to do, wrote \$560.00 worth of parking tickets. He said this money is donated to HELP.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the No Parking signs were taken down when the light poles were painted. He said he would have them put back up.

Clerk Daniel asked Ms. Ambs if the Town was aware of the Air B&B. Mrs. Rene Cannon said they owned the Air B&B that was mentioned.

Manager Vannoorbeeck asked the Cannon’s to contact Treasurer Harris about Lodging Tax.

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the request as presented since they have adequate parking in the rear. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Councilman Nash said there is a rear entrance to the building, so there is no need to park on Main Street.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

- Councilwoman Williams - Aye
- Councilman Miller - Aye
- Councilman Nash - Aye
- Councilman Allman - Aye
- Councilwoman Scott - Absent
- Councilwoman Jones - Aye
- Councilman Morgan - Absent

3. Conditional Use Permit – 209 S. Main Street

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF BLACKSTONE**

*The Blackstone Town Council shall conduct a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., July 18, 2022 in the Blackstone Town Council Chambers, 100 W. Elm Street. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit from **This Olde Building, LLC** to permit two multi-family dwellings to be constructed on the second floor of a commercial property. The property is currently zoned B-G, General Business and dwellings are permitted with a conditional use permit. The Conditional Use permit request specifically applies to properties known as Nottoway County Tax Map numbers 50A27-1-S-755 and 755A and is also known as 207 S. Main Street and 209 S. Main Street. 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.*

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this request is the loft area above All About Hair and Acapulco's. He said the request is to put two dwelling units there. He said they could not fit four spaces for these two dwelling units, but there are two additional parking spaces behind the 121 S. Main Street location.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Planning Commission did recommend approval. He added two parking spaces would be behind 207 and 209 S. Main Street, and two additional parking spaces would be behind 121 S. Main Street.

Councilman Nash said people can also park in the Municipal Parking Lot.

Mayor Coleburn opened the Public Hearing, and asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against this request.

Mayor Coleburn said what we are seeing is growth in our Town, and tax base. He added, with so much going on, and our great staff, we are limited in what we can do, things do slip under the radar.

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the request as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

4. Amend & Reenact Section 62-2 – Deposits, Section 62-5 – Payments & Section 62-10 – Reconnection Policy

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

*The Blackstone Town Council shall hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., July 18, 2022 in the Town Council Chambers, 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider three proposed modifications to the Blackstone Town Code. Specifically, the modifications would amend and reenact the following Town Code sections: **Section 62-2. Deposits; Section 62-5. Payments; and Section 62-10. Reconnection Policy.** The modifications to each are to codify existing practices. The public is invited to speak either in favor or in opposition to the proposed ordinances.*

Manager Vannoorbeeck said these three Public Hearings are just codifications of current practice.

Mayor Coleburn opened the Public Hearing for Section 62-2, Section 62-5 and 62-10, and asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against the three Ordinances.

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Miller made a motion to adopt and codify Section 62-2, Section 62-5 and Section 62-10 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

7. USDA – Proposed Financing

*Notice of Public Hearing
Town of Blackstone*

Notice is hereby given that on July 18, 2022 the Town Council of Blackstone, Virginia (the “Town”) will conduct a public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, as required under applicable law, in accordance with Section 15.2-2606 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, with respect to the adoption by the Council of a resolution or resolutions, as may be necessary or convenient, regarding the proposed financing of all or a portion of the costs of certain water and sewer system infrastructure improvements, including the upgrades, rehabilitation and equipping of the Water Treatment Plant; the construction, upgrades and replacement of East End Utilities, Phase II; and refinancing of the East End Utilities, Phase I, together with related administrative and financing costs and expenses (the “Project”). The Town proposes to fund the project in part by the issuance of a bond or bonds to be issued in a principal amount not to exceed \$3,200,000, secured by revenues of the water and sewer system of the Town. The purpose of the financing is to pay for the costs of the Project described above. The public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, will be conducted at 7:00PM or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, by the Town Council in Council Chambers at the Town Hall located at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia. Interested persons may appear at such time and place and present their views whether orally or in writing or submit written comments prior to the hearing.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town is required to hold a Public Hearing in order to finalize a Bond through the United States Department of Agriculture. He said the Town borrowed \$1.6 Million for the first phase of utility improvements in the East End. He said the second phase was appreciably less, but did include a significant amount of work at the Water Plant replacing filters. He said the total financing is for \$3.2 Million, and includes refinancing Phase 1. He said this will go from 4.5% for 20 years to 1.3% for 40 years. He said this will make the monthly payments go down.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Closing Date is scheduled for July 28, 2022.

Mayor Coleburn opened the Public Hearing, and asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against this USDA Financing.

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Nash made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

Councilman Miller made a motion to authorize all signatures required for the Closing Documents. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

NOTTOWAY PONYTAILS:

Mayor Coleburn said he spoke with some of the coaches, and they will be leaving next week for the World Series in Tioga, Louisiana. He said the team is requesting to use parts of Main Street for a Bucket Drive.

Mayor Coleburn asked Chief Kuzmiak to work with the girls on a location for the Bucket Drive. He believed it would be Saturday, July 23, 2022. He suggested setting up at Fifth and Main Street.

Mayor Coleburn said by Common Consent, the Nottoway Ponytails would work with Chief Kuzmiak and the Town Manager on the Bucket Drive.

Mayor Coleburn asked one of the parents if they were requesting a donation from the Town. They replied yes.

Mayor Coleburn said these girls played all their games in Blackstone, they won the tournament in Blackstone, and Blackstone is a proud supporter of Nottoway youth sports. He said this was motherhood and apple pie, and asked Council to consider donating \$1,000.00 to the Nottoway Ponytails for going to the World Series.

Councilman Allman asked how much was in the Council Discretionary Fund. Mayor Coleburn said the Town pays \$750.00 a year to bring bands in for the parade every year.

Mayor Coleburn said the girls were 9-1 in the post season, swept the District Tournament, won three games by one margin in the State Tournament. He said eight of these girls played in the World Series last year.

Councilman Miller made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the Nottoway Ponytails for their World Series trip. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

MINUTES:

Councilman Nash made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on May 16, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

VISITORS:

1. Mr. Robert Thomas – Wine Festival – 10-22-22

Mayor Coleburn thanked Mr. Thomas for the tour he provided to Council. He said Mr. Thomas took his own time and gave Council a tour of Schwartz Tavern and the Carriage Museum.

Mr. Thomas said he had been able to get enough wineries and was working on a few breweries, in order to have the 8th Annual Wine and Beer Festival.

Mr. Thomas asked to waive the Banner Fee, and close off High Street from Tavern to Dinwiddie Avenue. He said this would allow the band and food vendors to set up. He said in previous years they had three rain outs and he was allowed to use the Armory as a back-up. He asked to use the Armory this year as a back-up. He said he was not asking the Town for any money. He said the money comes from sponsors and the sale of tickets.

Mayor Coleburn said October 22nd could be getting close to the asbestos removal at the Armory. Manager Vannoorbeeck agreed. Mayor Coleburn suggested getting a big tent, as done in the past. Manager Vannoorbeeck suggested talking with Ace Hardware and maybe using their empty building in the back.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the requests for the Wine Festival, with use of the inside of the Armory being pending if asbestos work has begun. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

Mr. Thomas asked for insurance clarification, do all vendors have to have insurance. He said he had an elderly couple interested in participating, but they do not carry insurance. He said they told him they didn't have to have insurance for Juneteenth.

Mayor Coleburn believed TULIP was involved for alcohol. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed the insurance company would air on the side of caution.

Mayor Coleburn asked staff to find out what VRSA requires.

2. Ms. Beverly Ambs – Blackstone Chamber – Arts & Crafts

Ms. Ambs asked for use of the Armory, waiver of the Banner Fee, and partial closure of High Street. She said she had already given the closures to Chief Kuzmiak. She said the map was at Council's desk. She asked for availability of the Armory from September 5th through – September 11th for preparation, and clean-up.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to approve the requests for Arts and Crafts as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Councilman Nash said he was concerned about the parking lot in front of Ace Hardware. Ms. Ambs said they encourage their vendors not to park there. She said she had talked to Ace Hardware about the event.

Councilman Allman said the parking lot was listed as a car display, and asked if that was accurate. Ms. Ambs said they were working on a car display across from Nelson's or behind Schwartz Tavern.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

Mayor Coleburn said he heard tons of favorable comments about the fireworks.

3. Mr. Richard Keller

Mr. Keller said he and his wife own Picker's Place on Broad Street, and on the first of August, they will be there six years. He said when Town and Country Cleaners closed, he rented that building and expanded.

Mr. Keller said he has two meters now, and requested that one of the \$28.50 trash collection fees be waived, since he rents the two buildings.

Mayor Coleburn clarified Mr. Keller is one business in two locations. He believed the request was reasonable. He said we did this for Ms. Peggy Moore previously.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to waive one \$28.50 trash charge for Mr. Keller’s business on Broad Street, as he rents two locations. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

Mayor Coleburn said this would be revisited if another tenant goes in the building.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

4. Mrs. Jean Lacks

Mayor Coleburn said up to four speed bumps were on the way.

Mrs. Lacks said she talked to Manager Vannoorbeeck today. Manager Vannoorbeeck said Pickett Court would not be paved at this time, it will be more of a tar and gravel, and would be the next neighborhood. He said the speed bumps were planned for by the end of August.

Mayor Coleburn said the paving of Main Street from Irvin Street to Dinwiddie Avenue is scheduled for late August, at night, and not on Fridays or Saturdays.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT:

Deputy Chief Beares said they were still waiting to hear back on the radio system. He said there would be a meeting on Thursday to go over the dead spots in the County. He said they were still waiting to hear back on the hydrant flow testing.

Deputy Chief Beares said they would be hosting a Basic Pump Ops Class in September, which is a regional fire school they are bringing back. He said this Class will allow more people to drive and pump.

Deputy Chief Beares said the more they hear about apartments going over top of businesses on Main Street, he urged the property owners to talk to the residents and have a plan, there should be two ways in and out.

Deputy Chief Beares said this month Tim Haug reached life membership with 21 years, Sgt. Kaity Morgan has ten years, and Jacob Watkins has three years.

Mayor Coleburn said he loved that the Fire Department salutes their volunteers on the sign, in addition to public safety.

Councilman Miller said they would be working at Greenview Cemetery, with a controlled burn. He said they have a barrel for the fire, but needed some water to fill it up. Deputy Chief Beares said sure, and added the Junior Firefighters can stand by for controlled burns.

Deputy Chief Beares asked about the controlled burn on N. West Avenue. Manager Vannoorbeeck said there was no date set yet. He said the asbestos abatement had been done, and was clean. He said Mr. Cody Lewis was just waiting on a date from the Town. He said a shed would need to be moved.

Councilman Nash asked if there were plans to put another home in the location. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied no, not that he knew of.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve burning the condemned house at 500 N. West Avenue on a date suitable to the Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Councilman Nash asked to send out a Code Red ahead of time.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills that have already been paid are in the amount of \$679,389.23.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the bills that have already been paid in the amount of \$679,389.23. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

- Councilwoman Williams - Aye
- Councilman Miller - Aye
- Councilman Nash - Aye
- Councilman Allman - Aye
- Councilwoman Scott - Absent
- Councilwoman Jones - Aye
- Councilman Morgan - Absent

Councilman Nash pointed out that \$12,000.00 is all that is not reimbursable from the \$679,389.23.

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills not yet approved, and to be paid, are in the amount of \$264,960.19.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve as presented, the bills not yet paid in the amount of \$264,960.19. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

- Councilwoman Williams - Aye
- Councilman Miller - Aye
- Councilman Nash - Aye
- Councilman Allman - Aye
- Councilwoman Scott - Absent
- Councilwoman Jones - Aye
- Councilman Morgan - Absent

APPROPRIATIONS:

There were no appropriations this month.

SOLE SOURCE AWARDS:

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this is to satisfy State Code requirements. He said these are items that cannot be purchased from other locations.

Sole Source #1 – Merrick Industries, Inc.
Sole Source #2 – Environmental Services & Equipment Company
Sole Source #3 – Carter Machinery Company, Inc.
Sole Source #4 – Pitney Bowes, Inc.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve all four Sole Source businesses as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Street & Light – met 7-11-22 – minutes included in July’s Council Packet

216 Forest Drive

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this ditch is on public property, and the Committee looked at this. He said there was no motion but it was the consensus of the Committee to proceed with this ditch. He said the ditch was deep and had eroded. He said the cost was high because of the appreciable box that needs to be built.

Mayor Coleburn said this would be a \$12,000.00 project on Town property. Manager Vannoorbeeck said this would cover 35’ of pipe and the box.

Manager Vannoorbeeck read the Policy for Council, it only discussed new residential properties. Councilman Nash said this request is not included in the Policy, because anything over 20’ is not allowed.

Councilman Miller said the resident contacted him, and the Committee rode out to look at it. He said the ditch needs to be cleaned out. He said why clean it out and then go back and fix it.

Mayor Coleburn tabled this for a month.

109 S. Dillard Street

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Committee looked at the ditch on Phillip Armes' property. He said the Town received a \$51,000.00 estimate for 100' of piping for the ditch. He said the Committee was interested in the situation, but no recommendation was made.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town was spending \$87,000.00 on N. West Avenue, and is included in the Budget. He said if Council wants to do this, wait until next year, or another time when an appropriation can be made, because he did not have the money right now. Mayor Coleburn suggested looking at this next spring.

Mayor Coleburn believed it would mean a lot to several people present, if Council took a vote.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to authorize Manager Vannoorbeeck to proceed fixing the ditch at 109 S. Dillard Street, at a time when the Town is able to do so, maybe in calendar year 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Councilman Nash said the Armes know 100% how he feels about private property. He said we have discussed that the upper end ditch on N. West Avenue could be scaled out, because it is not Town water. He said 100' at Mr. Armes property will not do much. Manager Vannoorbeeck said it would take it to the edge of the woods.

Mayor Coleburn asked Council if they would add to the motion, adding a moratorium for the next two years for any ditch on private property, to stop what could be an avalanche of requests coming. Council agreed.

Councilman Allman asked how this would be any different. Mayor Coleburn said they could get on a list.

Councilman Nash said there would be a different Council in two years, so a moratorium means nothing in his opinion.

Councilwoman Jones agreed to amend her motion, that two years from tonight would be the next time Council would consider ditches on private property, barring an emergency where someone's structure is in imminent danger. The amended motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Councilman Nash said we have to find the money somewhere. He said it is not free, it comes from every person in this room. Councilman Allman believed it was \$20.00 a meter.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Nay
Councilman Allman	-	Nay
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

2. Account & Finance – met 7-12-22 – minutes included in July’s Council Packet

Leachate Rates

This was not discussed.

Garbage Rates

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the County has dramatically increased garbage tipping rates, only for towns. He said the new Policy presented by the County Administrator, and has been adopted as part of the Budget, requires a \$42.00 per ton tipping fee for the three towns, but not for those that use the green boxes in the County. Councilman Nash said this is on top of the \$3.00 already being charged.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said County Administrator Costin told him just keep the \$3.00, but Manager Vannoorbeeck believed when that was adopted, it was for the maintenance of the landfill.

Councilman Nash said Councilman Allman came up with the idea, it is County money, we quit charging it, and let the County collect it. Mayor Coleburn was not sure if it was codified. Manager Vannoorbeeck said we have in Town and out of Town customers so this would have to be segregated.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said if the \$3.00 was not collected, the net effect to the Town would be \$146,000.00, based on 7,706,000 pounds of waste last year. He said the Town generates 350 tons of sludge every year at the Wastewater Plant, is now charged at \$200, along with tires. He said the net effect to the Town if the \$3.00 is not collected is about \$75,000.00 a year on sludge and \$146,000.00 for municipal waste that is not in the Budget.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this is bad governance, on top of a PPTRA. He said this does not spread the cost fairly.

Mayor Coleburn said he would write a letter as recommended, and get it to the County by Thursday.

Councilman Allman said the County is charging Town residents \$3.00 per meter, as well as charging other County residents \$3.00 not in the Towns. He said the County is double dipping with the Towns, by charging to take the trash.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said County Administrator Costin swears he told myself and Brian about the increase, he did not. He said the Town of Crewe confirmed it, because they didn't put anything in the budget either. Mayor Coleburn believed some Supervisors were caught off guard because there was no discussion at the Budget level.

Mayor Coleburn said in the minutes it is quotes at \$28.00 a ton to go to Lunenburg. Manager Vannoorbeeck said there is only one other municipal landfill around and that's Prince Edward County. He said their out of Town rates are \$44.00 a ton. He said Amelia was \$36.00 a ton.

Mayor Coleburn said the County has a \$45 Million a year budget and \$23 Million in the bank.

Councilman Nash said he and Councilwoman Jones discussed during the Committee Meeting, they were not going to suggest going up on rates at that time. He said this is playing with the pockets of each citizen. He asked the Mayor to write a letter to the County expressing our concern, and see if they move any, if they don't, then yes, we will have to go up on leachate rates.

Councilman Allman said if they want to be market rate, we will have to be as well.

Personal Property Tax Relief

Councilman Nash said the Committee recommended keeping the Personal Property tax relief rate at 60%. Manager Vannoorbeeck added, \$.70 would be the correct figure, and a little cushion would be \$.72.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the rate needs to drop from \$.85 per \$100 of value, due to the dramatic increase to the value of cars.

Mayor Coleburn said the County cut theirs from \$3.75 to \$3.65.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the County altered their personal property tax relief rate, which has been 60% for 20 plus years. He said they cut the relief in half, but did not equalize the rate.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town was proposing to equalize the rate and go to \$.72, and stay at 60%. He said we can come back next year if the values don't keep coming down.

Mayor Coleburn clarified the Town is proposing to go from the current \$.85 to \$.72 per \$100 value. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed this would collect more than the \$115,000.00, collected last fiscal year.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to reduce the Personal Property Tax Rate to \$.72 per \$100, and retain the 60% relief rate, for Class 1 Vehicles only, Commercial Vehicles stay at \$.85, and reevaluate next year. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Coleburn said Ms. April Thompson has asked for the Henderson Family, who is going through a tough loss right now, on July 23th and 24th, that Third Street between College Avenue and Amelia Avenue be closed for their large family gathering.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the street closure request, working along with the Police Chief. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

Mayor Coleburn said Ms. Peggy Sue Moore is planning to have two events in the Town Square. He said she is requesting waiver of the Noise Ordinance.

Clerk Daniel said one event is on October 8, 2022 from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and another event for September 3, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. She said the October event is a vintage country band and the event in September is a classic rock band. She said Ms. Moore advised there would be no sales, no charge and no alcohol at these events.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the two music events as presented, with the Noise Ordinance being waived until 10:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

- Councilwoman Williams - Aye
- Councilman Miller - Aye
- Councilman Nash - Aye
- Councilman Allman - Aye
- Councilwoman Scott - Absent
- Councilwoman Jones - Aye
- Councilman Morgan - Absent

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Collections Attorney Bid

Manager Vannoorbeeck said TACS has provided us with a contract. He said last month there was a question about the 20% collection fee, which Attorney Bacon said is the standard. He said Mr. John Rife with TACS provided an email explaining the 25% collections, this is permissible if it goes to litigation based on State Code. He clarified, the 20% collection fee is for standard collections, and 25% if it goes to litigation or a tax sale.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve entering into agreement with Taxing Authority Consulting (TACS), as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

- Councilwoman Williams - Aye
- Councilman Miller - Aye
- Councilman Nash - Aye
- Councilman Allman - Aye
- Councilwoman Scott - Absent
- Councilwoman Jones - Aye
- Councilman Morgan - Absent

2. Board of Zoning Appeals Nomination

Mayor Coleburn said he would have a name very soon.

Mayor Coleburn said Manager Vannoorbeeck is requesting the Board of Zoning Appeal members be paid the same as the Planning Commission.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the BZA would start meeting more often, and we started paying the Planning Commission \$50.00 per meeting last year. He said it was not included in the Budget, but did not think it would be a large amount of money.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to start paying the Board of Zoning Appeal members \$50.00 each, per meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the money would come from rezoning fees.

3. Award Annual Concrete Bid

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this work is bid out this way so there are not multiple contractors being awarded separate activities. He said the only legal way to award this kind of bid, it by total, if not, it would be based on activity.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there is not enough money for \$721,000.00, but it does provide us with unit prices. He said the Town pays on the unit price, not the total contract price.

Councilman Nash asked by doing it lump sum, is that why we only get one bid. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he did not know another concrete contractor that is as aggressive. He said we bid it out locally. He said maybe in the future he should bid it out on eVA.

Councilman Nash said he likes to compare prices, but thought Walker Construction would be cheapest.

Councilman Nash made a motion to award the annual concrete bid to S. Walker Construction in the amount of \$721,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

4. Blackstone Intermediate School Building Agreement

Mayor Coleburn said Manager Vannoorbeeck is requesting to hold off signing this Agreement, until we see how things go with Nottoway County, there are a lot of irons in the fire.

Councilman Nash believed it should be removed from Unfinished Business.

Mayor Coleburn said this concerns the demolition of the one story building, and at a later date, the two story building.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Agreement signed by the School System does reflect the changes Council asked for, such as the community center. He said the building is blighted, and if things can't be put together, he asked to proceed on with the process of declaring it blighted. He said we would give them a period of time to tear it down, if not done, then the Town would have it condemned and acquire the property to tear it down.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the School System is not the problem.

Councilman Allman said the School Board offered getting the tipping fees waived, but that does not actually mean getting the tipping fees waived. Manager Vannoorbeeck said that is the Board of Supervisors action.

Manager Vannoorbeeck asked this be tabled, there was no action needed at this time.

5. Nottoway County Water Supply

Mayor Coleburn said Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Burkeville Town Hall, there would be a meeting between the 3 towns, and the County.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Burkeville has adopted an Ordinance stating they want the Board of Supervisors to approve Prince Edward County owning and operating waterlines in Nottoway. He said this Council considered a motion that is included in an attached letter. He said the motion was verbatim from Prince Edward County. He said the County is seriously considering Prince Edward County to run waterlines anywhere in Nottoway County, and serve any customer. He said if that is the Burkeville, Crewe or the prison's intentions, that is ok, but we don't want Prince Edward County running a waterline through our Town.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this Town's future is not with the electric system, he said the growth and potential is water and sewer.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we are not trying to stop Burkeville, and if Crewe wants to do that, that's fine, we are concerned about waterlines from one end of the County to the other end. He said that could be detrimental to the Town of Blackstone, as this water issue is going to be hugely detrimental to Crewe.

Mayor Coleburn said if the County was damned and determined to do what they are going to do, at least the Town might be able to carve out anything east of the High School to protect Blackstone.

6. Brownfields Grant - Armory

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the paperwork was in. He asked Council to consider authorizing him to execute an agreement which would provide \$250,000.00 in grant funds to remove all asbestos, all lead based paint, and one underground storage tank. He said the match is \$1,998,000.00, that the Town intends on putting into the building. He said \$32,000.00 had already been spent on studies and asbestos inspections. He added the administration costs can be paid out of the \$250,000.00. He said what is not factored into the Budget is the pre-inspection for the asbestos.

Councilman Nash made a motion authorizing Manager Vannoorbeeck to execute the Performance Agreement for the Brownfields Grant as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

7. Ordinance – Section 24-2 – Polling Places

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Public Hearing had already been held for this Ordinance. He said Council questioned previously, whether voters would have to go to multiple places because the Town was now going from five polling places to two polling places. He said these polling places will mirror the County. He said Mr. Rodney Reynolds' response was there would be ballots at each station, so if someone is in one district town wide, and a different district based on the County, they won't have to go to two places.

Mayor Coleburn said there will be some isolated examples, because the Town Wards don't directly correlate to the County Districts. Manager Vannoorbeeck said there would be ballots for any inconsistencies.

Councilman Miller made a motion to adopt Section 24-2, Polling Places, as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

8. Lawn Maintenance Bid

Mayor Coleburn said this annual bid was awarded and the low bid has since withdrawn. He said All About Grass has withdrawn their bid for annual lawn maintenance. He said the next low bid is Alvis Landscaping at \$13,000.00.

Mayor Coleburn said Alvis Landscaping was the low bid on the Welcome Sign Planters, but was concerned whether it was a one time deal or maintenance. He said Councilman Nash pointed out to Mr. Alvis, it was maintenance, so Mr. Alvis withdrew from that bid. He said Clay's Garden Center will continue to maintain the Planters.

Councilman Miller made a motion to reject the low bid in the amount of \$12,500.00 from All About Grass for Annual Lawn Maintenance, and reject the low bid from Alvis Landscaping in the amount of \$3,000.00 for annual Welcome Sign Planters, then award the Annual Lawn Maintenance to the next lowest bid in the amount of \$13,000.00 to Alvis Landscaping and award the next lowest bid for the Annual Welcome Sign Planters to Clay's Garden Center in the amount of \$3,100.00. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Abstain
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

9. B&B Consultants – Task Order #24 – Drainage Improvements

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this is for the \$87,000.00 ditch on N. West Avenue. He said this would start the engineering process, with the construction starting in the winter.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve authorization of Task Order #24 from B&B Consultants for \$7,000.00 plus \$300.00 for easement plats. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the \$300.00 is not included in the \$87,000.00.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Nay
Councilman Allman	-	Nay
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

Councilman Nash asked if this locked the Town into the full scale project. Manager Vannoorbeeck said this will include a set of plans, and then he would bid the project out. He said he would get authorization from Council before seeking bids.

ON-GOING PROJECTS:

1. Dilapidated Buildings

Manager Vannoorbeeck believed Attorney Bacon was on her way to taking the property owners to court for Oak Street. He said this would allow to proceed with a condemnation, and if approved by a judge, would allow the Town to take possession of the property with a deed. He said the Town would then demolish the structure, and if there is any residual, it would be given to the property owners.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said 1003 Nottoway Avenue has been declared blighted. He said there are two houses there, but only 1003 Nottoway Avenue has been declared blighted. He said the property owner is paying for the whole process.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there is a house at the intersection of High Street and Dinwiddie Avenue, that has a tree that fell on the front porch. He said notice was sent, but it has not been rectified. He said she did call, and said it would be fixed, but nothing has been done yet.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he spoke to Mr. Wulff last week, he is in a care facility, and told Manager Vannoorbeeck there would be no work on the house anytime soon.

Mayor Coleburn asked if anyone was living there. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he had seen cars parked there periodically. He believed a Public Hearing had already been authorized.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town has the option of condemning the property, taking it, and tearing it down or fix it up.

Mayor Coleburn asked if a grass letter had been sent to a resident on Brunswick Avenue. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied no, that property had not been acted on. He believed the wisteria growth had exceeded the 10" rule.

Manager Vannoorbeeck did not believe this property was blighted.

2. Meals Tax / Lodging Tax

Mayor Coleburn said there were no outstanding Meals or Lodging Taxes.

3. Street Improvement Projects

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the South Main Street project was underway, but they haven't started putting the storm sewer in, they have just been relocating water, sewer and utilities. He said they will start the storm sewer on the south end and hope to do 24' a day.

Councilman Allman suggested using the temporary traffic calming devices during some of this construction on Tenth and Lunenburg Avenue.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the paving on Main Street and speed bumps in Pickett Court would be done the last week of August.

4. Wrigglesworth Sports Complex / TAP 21

Mayor Coleburn said the Concession Stand was close to being finished. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the concrete had been poured, the downstairs door had been installed, and the roll up windows were in.

Mayor Coleburn asked if the Gators were still not playing football on the new field this year. Manager Vannoorbeeck did not think the grass would be ready this fall.

5. East End Neighborhood Project

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there had been permits issued for two new homes, and there will be two demolished and rebuilt, one on Fitzgerald Street and the other is on Harris Street. He said there were 3 others homes underway, one on Dillard Street, and a duplex on Tavern Street.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the design of curb and gutter is underway, with concrete work being bid out around Labor Day.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there is \$465,000.00 of grant money going towards the curb and gutter.

6. Taylor Bottom Block Grant

Mayor Coleburn said Community Development Specialist Bryant was conducting surveys. Community Development Specialist Bryant said everybody that has completed the survey is interested in the project. She said she received roughly 40 surveys, with approximately 57 homes in the area.

Mayor Coleburn said this area includes Sullivan, Carver, and Taylor Streets.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the storm, water and sewer portion of the project is going to be expensive, because of the long streets. He said this would be done in two year applications.

Mayor Coleburn asked if this would include curb and gutter. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed that is what people want, along with paving. He said grant and loan monies had been applied for water. He said the sewer was supervised by DEQ, and they have not put a call out for infrastructure money yet.

7. Armory

Mayor Coleburn said the MOU for hospitality between the Town and Virginia State would be presented next month. Manager Vannoorbeeck said an MOU had been approved by Virginia State's department head, but they were waiting on the provost to sign it. He said this would be a huge opportunity. He said we want to train people to work at the hotels.

Councilwoman Williams asked about Virginia Tech's program. Manager Vannoorbeeck said because of the proximity of Virginia State and Community Development Specialist Bryant's connections, they talked with Virginia State. He said he did not think they were done with monies, but advised Council that the IRF Grant was about to wrap up at VUMAC. He said there may be two grants they have found for the Armory, with one being a USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant, with a rolling application, that could be up to \$250,000.00, and would be used towards the things Virginia State is going to require, such as the kitchen, refrigerator, freezer, tables, chairs, linens, etc.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said once VUMAC is completed, he believed the Town would be eligible for another IRF Grant for the Armory. He said the water, sewer, electric, the sidewalks and storm drainage have all been completed at VUMAC.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the IRF Grant for the Armory is due August 18, 2022, and could be eligible for up to \$600,000.00 towards construction.

Councilman Miller made a motion authorizing the Town to apply for the USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant and the Industrial Revitalization Fund Grant for the Armory. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

Mayor Coleburn asked if there would be opportunities for rentals and weddings. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the plan is Virginia State's students would create budgets, and maybe run the building. He said this would not be an Associates or Bachelor's Degree, this would be more a certification based on the American Restaurant Association guidelines.

8. Weatherization

Manager Vannoorbeeck said 916 Falls Street is owned by Mr. Blount, and the Town has the money saved up and Howerton Inspections is bidding the project out. He said the asbestos has been inspected. He said this house is being paid for by the \$50,000.00 saved from last year, that was not spent, and the \$50,000.00 from this year in Weatherization.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the house on Patterson Street, for Ms. Patterson, has been on hold, because the Town asked the County for \$50,000.00 from their Program Income Funds.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town had signed a contract for a home to be renovated for a Maddux family on Carver Street. He said the roof was already on the house and a handicap bathroom will be added to the back of the house. He said this is being paid for with Program Income. He said this payment would not be a lot, because it is based on the ability to pay.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Mr. Blount's project is Weatherization and will have to be paid back. He said the Block Grant houses in the East End, Governor Northam waived the payments during pandemic, and has not been changed by Governor Younkin.

Clerk Daniel clarified; two years of Weatherization is being used on one house.

Councilman Nash asked about the house on Falls Street where the tree fell through the roof. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the owner signed an Agreement to let the Town tear it down, but never got it notarized, it has been condemned. He said Attorney Bacon had sent him a letter, but still has not heard anything.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said 819 Falls Street is an eyesore, but was up for tax sale.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Town Shop – Deed of Easement

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this is an easement for ingress and egress, but they could not have a dumpster in this area. He said other than pavement, there would be no permanent improvements.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Mr. McCormack had started the demolition, and the site plan showed 25 units, plus the outdoor and indoor restaurant.

Mayor Coleburn asked Manager Vannoorbeeck if he thought the brewery would happen. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes.

Councilman Allman said he received some concerns about fencing the area. Mayor Coleburn said if commercial abuts residential there has to be screening. Manager Vannoorbeeck said there was a pseudo fence there now, behind some of the properties, but Mr. McCormack will put up something.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve execution of the Deed of Easement as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

2. Peak Generator Plant – Emergency Procurement Purchase

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town has two electric generators located on West Entrance Road. He said VMEA determines when the Town runs them, typically in the summer in the evenings they run, and in the mornings in the winter they run. He said this reduces the peak, the Town gets billed as a generation meter, the highest usage during the course of the month. He said with the generators we try to reduce the demand, so we feed electricity into the system so we are not buying as much power at peak times.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said one of the generators blew up, it blew the heads.

Councilman Nash said the \$218,968.18 is just to repair the generator, this does not replace it.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said because the Town is billed by VMEA, and we were only running at half, we only get half the benefit. He said he authorized this being fixed and asked Council to declare this an Emergency Procurement as a sole source because CAT is the sole provider of this service.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town has \$136,000.00 saved up in the Electric Department's Depreciation Fund, and then anticipate setting monies aside for the next several months to pay it off. He said the Town is contractually obligated to run the generators.

Councilman Allman asked if this could be an insurance claim. Manager Vannoorbeeck said we can try, but he thought because of the age, it might be normal wear and tear.

Councilman Allman asked if the rest of the generators have pressure sensors. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied, they do now.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to ratify the Emergency Procurement purchase in the amount of \$218,968.18 for the generator repair, and have staff contact the Town's insurance carrier about reimbursement. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

3. Fire Department Controlled Burn – 500 N. West Avenue

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

4. USDA – Police Car Grant

Manager Vannoorbeeck asked Council for authorization to apply for a Police Car Grant, which would likely be a 55% Grant, and 45 % Loan, with a total price of \$49,500.00. He said this is in the Budget.

Mayor Coleburn asked what type of vehicle this would be. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied an SUV.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to adopt the Governing Body Resolution for the Police Car as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

COMMITTEE REFERRALS:

There were no referrals.

MAYORS MINUTE:

1. Annual Committee Assignments

Mayor Coleburn recommended the assignments stay the same, because there was only six months left in these terms.

Mayor Coleburn said he has been covering local government as a reporter for 32 years, and when he first became Mayor in 2006, the pay of this body, is what it is now. He said members of Council are paid \$1,500.00 a year, and the Mayor is paid \$2,000.00 a year. He recommended advertising a Public Hearing in August, that the pay of a Council Member, and the Mayor each go to \$3,500.00.

Mayor Coleburn said no Council can give themselves a raise, but this Council can take action for the next Council, and Mayor when they take office January 1, 2023. He said this could not be done closer than four months.

Councilman Allman believed it was four months of the election. He read the following: No increase in salary of members of Council shall take effect until July 1st, after the next regularly scheduled general election of Council members, every proposed increase in the salary of Council members shall be adopted at least four months prior to the date of the next municipal election, except in the cases of newly created consolidated cities when the proposed increase shall be adopted at least two months.

Councilman Allman said this would be for the next Council, after the upcoming Council. Mayor Coleburn clarified it has to be four months prior to the election. He asked to have Attorney Bacon review this.

POLICE REPORT:

There was nothing to report.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Councilman Nash asked Treasurer Harris if there was an update on the Business License Audit. Treasurer Harris said she was talking to TACS now about it. Clerk Daniel said Treasurer Harris is putting an ad in the newspaper.

Councilman Nash asked Manager Vannoorbeeck for a new update on the project for S. Main Street for sidewalk and widening the road from Tenth Street to Walmart. He said if we are willing to spend money on ditches, we need to spend money where it is really needed. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he would get a cost estimate.

CLOSED SESSION:

Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711

- 1/ Personnel - Administration
- 3/ Disposition of Real Property

Councilman Miller 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, and discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Aye
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

Mayor Coleburn clarified the Closed Session for Disposition of Real Property concerned the Town Square. He said we also had consultation with Attorney Bacon, on the phone, about a personnel matter, and there is no action being taken at this time. He said there could be a Special Called Meeting next week.

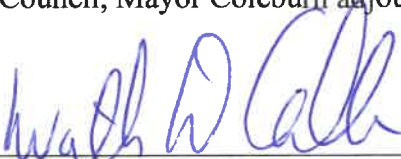
Councilman Nash made a motion to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened, were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Williams	-	Certify
Councilman Miller	-	Certify
Councilman Nash	-	Certify
Councilman Allman	-	Certify
Councilwoman Scott	-	Absent
Councilwoman Jones	-	Certify
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn adjourned this meeting at 9:40 p.m.


MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

September 19, 2022 APPROVED AND ADOPTED


TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA