

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 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

Mayor: William D. Coleburn

Council Members: Annie Scott, Shelia Jones, Lonnie Morgan, Nathaniel Miller, Eric Nash, Jake Allman

Town Staff: Philip Vannoorbeeck, Town Manager; Jennifer Daniel, Town Clerk; Jennifer Hardy, Finance Director; Shay Farley, Police Officer; Tony Mayton, Sergeant; Mary Murphy, Transit Director; Chastiddy Bryant, Community Development Specialist

Town Attorney: Attorney Bacon

Those Absent: Carolyn Williams, Dion Tomer

Mayor Coleburn called the August Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Coleburn delivered the Invocation.

Mayor Coleburn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Coleburn recognized the State Champion Virginia Ponytails. He said we are proud of what the Nottoway Ponytails have accomplished. He said most of their practices were here in Blackstone, most of the games were played here and they won the District Tournament in Blackstone. He said they won the Tournament in Amherst.

Mayor Coleburn said in a small town, if you can't recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of the youth, you may as well quit being a small town. He said these girls finished in the final four of the World Series. He said the team that won the World Series, South Carolina, Blackstone was leading in the elimination game against them.

Mayor Coleburn read the letter he presented to the girls and coaches.

2022 Ponytails:

Alana Anthony, Brooklyn Atkinson, Brooklyn Thomas, Ch'Miyah Parham, Hayden Hudson, Jayden Banks, Kiley Hudson, Makannah Harler, Meadow Austin, Olivia Spradlin, Sydney Schutt, Victoria Christopher, Coaches, Charlie Atkinson, John Austin, Manager Dale Hudson.

Manager Dale Hudson thanked Council for all their support and support for all the youth of Nottoway.

MAYORS MINUTE:

3. Proposed Proclamation

Mayor Coleburn said this Proclamation is for bereaved parents.

Mrs. Shannon Armes said October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, and read the letter presented to Council. She asked that Skylar’s Love Mission’s Proclamation be adopted and that October 15, 2022 be recognized as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day in Blackstone. She said there are 16 bereaved mothers, locally and three traveling from North Carolina. She said the event will include a candle lighting at the LOVE sign on October 15th. She showed a picture of their daughter Skylar.

Councilman Nash made a motion to adopt the Proclamation as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Morgan.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Mrs. Armes said the retreat would start on Friday, October 14th and Skylar’s Love Mission and those that support the Mission are paying for all expenses.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. FY22 Budget Appropriations

***NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF BLACKSTONE***

The Town of Blackstone Town Council shall hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., August 15, 2022, in the Town Council Chambers, 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Va. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider amendments to the Town’s fiscal year 2022 budget. The aggregate amount of the amendments exceeds one percent of the fiscal year 2022 budget and the Public Hearing is required by Section 15.2-2507 of the Code of Virginia.

Mayor Coleburn said this Public Hearing is required by Law when the Town's Budget has exceeded 1%.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the majority is from VDOT Project Funding, specifically the school sidewalk project. He said this was budgeted, and received grants, but it did not cover the full amount.

Mayor Coleburn said the appropriation amount totals \$1,376,405.00.

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

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the appropriation as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Councilman Nash asked about sale of scrap, this is typically used to purchase vehicles, does this mean that item is obsolete for the rest of the year. Finance Director Hardy said this is the end of year appropriation for FY22. She said that was a line item left over that was not spent and used to appropriate funds. She added the \$461,960.00 was an accounting transfer from the General Fund to the VDOT Fund.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

2. Blight Ordinance – 807 S. Main Street

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

The Blackstone Town Council shall hold a Public Hearing on August 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Blackstone Town Council Chambers, 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia. The Town Council will consider an ordinance declaring 807 South Main Street, Blackstone, Va., to be blighted and a public nuisance along with a recommended spot blight abatement plan. The content of this ordinance is more fully described by the Town of Blackstone's Spot Blight Abatement Policy and Virginia Code Section 36-49.1:1. Town Council shall receive the Town Manager's recommendation and public comment regarding this ordinance during the Public Hearing. The Town Council may approve this ordinance 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 Public Hearing is being held as part of the obligation for enforcing the Blight Ordinance. He said Mr. Robert Wulff had been notified about the condition of his home. He said a letter was sent out February 24, 2022. He said he spoke to Mr. Wulff last week and asked him to attend the meeting. He said the next step is to send a full plan to Mr. Wulff as the Town has not received his abatement plan. He said the blight and repairs to the home is specific to the chimney and the siding and soffits coming off the front of the house.

Mayor Coleburn said every time we have a blight hearing, it is not a hearing about someone's home needing paint. He said this concerns interior structural components being visible from the exterior. He said this issue is a big deal, and something this Council does not take lightly.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the process includes condemnation and taking the property, or using local tax funds to repair the home.

Mayor Coleburn opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Taylor Wulff said the condition of the house is bad, but her father is still in rehab, he still cannot walk. She said he was the breadwinner for the family. She said last year her mother moved to Florida to take care of her grandmother, and has since passed. She said they haven't had the funds to repair the house, and she understood because it is on Main Street. She asked if there were any grant funds available to help, maybe something in the Historic District.

Mayor Coleburn said the Town does do Weatherization, which is mainly to help citizens lower their bills.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Program would look at the whole house, and a lot of times it turns out the house has to be demolished. He said this Program is income based and they prefer working with homeowners.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there are grant programs, but all the Weatherization was being used this year. He said Community Development Specialist Bryant was working on a Scattered Site Grant, which is for homes outside of project areas.

Mayor Coleburn asked if Council would be willing to have staff explore what could be done.

Mayor Coleburn said a tree fell across the Wulff homes in February 2020, then the pandemic hit, and Ms. Taylor Wulff's sisters were handing out free food and water to people in need.

Mayor Coleburn said by Common Consent authorize Manager Vannoorbeeck to find some solutions and report back.

Councilman Nash said in the meantime, to the citizens that look over our shoulder, he asked Ms. Wulff to keep the yard cleaned up. He believed the grant Community Development Specialist Bryant was working on would be perfect for the Wulff property.

Community Development Specialist Bryant said the Scattered Site Program was through DHCD and they have said the Town cannot have an (x) amount of dollars out, so we need to close out some programs in order to apply. She said the Town was working on closing out East End and VUMAC. Councilman Miller said East End Phase I was already closed out. Community Development Specialist Bryant said the Town was working on closing out East End Phase II. She said the Scattered Site Program could be up to \$1 Million. She said the Town is working on the Taylor Bottom Grant as well. She said the Town is only allowed \$2 Million, so they would have to wait and see how much is left.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there were 3 houses remain in the East End Phase II project, so the only major expense left was curb and gutter and paving.

Mayor Coleburn pointed out the other two homes that were declared blighted, nobody lived there. He said this is a situation where the dwelling is occupied.

Councilman Nash told Ms. Wulff the Town was not out to get them, but they have received complaints.

Mayor Coleburn said if the Town is successful with any help, it could mean the home would be demolished, and another home be built.

3. Section 54-29 – Collection Fees for Delinquent Accounts

PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

The Blackstone Town Council shall hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., August 15, 2022 in the Town Council Chambers, 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, VA. The purpose of the meeting is to consider an ordinance permitting administrative fees to be collected for delinquent accounts owed to the Town of Blackstone. This ordinance is authorized by Virginia Code Section 58.1-3958.

Mayor Coleburn said this is a proposal to allow the Town to collect up to 20% for delinquent accounts.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the new tax attorneys, TACS, requested the Town adopt this Ordinance. He said this will codify what Council already approved.

Councilman Allman asked if the Town had any discretion of what we go after. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed homes go after three years, and can be collected for up to 20 years. He said personal property is the year it becomes delinquent, and collect up to five years.

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

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Nash made a motion to Adopt Section 54-29, Collection Fees for Delinquent Accounts as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Coleburn questioned the up to 20%, he believed it would be 20%, it should not be 18%. He asked for clarification.

Councilman Miller asked if the 25% should be included in case the Town has to go to court. Manager Vannoorbeeck said they were not asking that be included, he believed the State Code already permitted this.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

MINUTES:

Councilman Nash made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented minutes from the Special Called Meeting on June 1, 2022, the Continued Meetings from June 8, 2022, June 16, 2022, June 22, 2022 and the Regular Council Meeting on June 27, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

VISITORS:

Nottoway Ponytails

This was addressed earlier in the meeting.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT:

Mayor Coleburn said no officers were present tonight.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to approve the Fire Department Boot Drive for Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Nash asked about the air conditioning at the Fire Department. Clerk Daniel said she had been working with Mr. Rickey Pope, and it should be fixed tomorrow.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills that have already been paid are in the amount of \$4,469,069.21.

Councilman Nash asked what payoff commercial paper meant. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town had interim financing for the first and second phase of East End, this is closing the \$3.2 Million with USDA.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the bills that have already been paid in the amount of \$4,469,069.21. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills not yet approved, and to be paid, are in the amount of \$163,681.50.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to approve as presented, the bills not yet paid in the amount of \$163,681.50. The motion was seconded by Councilman Morgan.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

APPROPRIATIONS:

Appropriation #1 – Sanitation = \$3,000.00

Mayor Coleburn said Manager Vannoorbeeck is requesting to purchase eight new dumpsters.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there is \$10,000.00 in the budget, but because of all the new units and facilities getting ready to open, we needed additional dumpsters. He said Finance Director Hardy is taking \$3,000.00 that was included in the Budget to purchase carts, and doing an internal transfer. He said once the dumpsters are purchased, the Town is reimbursed.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the Sanitation Appropriation for \$3,000.00 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

SOLE SOURCE AWARDS:

There was nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Health & Ordinance – met 8-8-22 – minutes included in August’s Council Packet

Livestock / Fowl

Councilwoman Jones said the Committee discussed the current 100’ and then proposed 50’ setbacks.

Mayor Coleburn said when Council did allow chickens, if he wants to have them 25’ from his house it should be ok, but the Ordinance should say, nearest other occupied dwelling. He suggested having chickens 100’ from the neighbor. Manager Vannoorbeeck said there were no chicken coops in Blackstone that would comply with 100’.

Mayor Coleburn apologized and said it was worded correctly.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we are seeing more chickens here in Town, and a lot of them are not in compliance due to the 100’ setback.

Councilman Nash said he was in attendance of this meeting for the goats, and used his app to measure some lots, and the 50' would enable residents of Pickett Court to have a chicken coop behind their house.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to amend Section 14-51, Keeping hogs; livestock and fowl running at-large, letter d, "Chickens and other fowl may not be kept within 50' of an adjacent occupied building or residence". The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Allman asked who enforces this. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he knows where most of them are, and would look at all of them.

Mr. Michael Bagley said the Ordinance says occupied dwelling, what if the area next door is vacant, is that an exception.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to rescind the motion that just passed. The motion to rescind was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to amend Section 14-51, Keeping hogs; livestock and fowl running at-large, letter d, "Chickens and other fowl may not be kept within 50' of an adjacent occupied or unoccupied dwelling. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Goats

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Councilman Nash was interested in using goats as an abatement tool to eat weeds.

Clerk Daniel said she contacted the clerks in her area and nobody has an Ordinance for goats. She said Attorney Bacon would be working on this.

Councilman Nash said this would be for temporary use.

Mayor Coleburn said Councilman Nash had done some research on goats and having them located in areas with high weeds and wisteria. He said there is no recommendation at this time.

Homes Facing the Street

Clerk Daniel said Attorney Bacon was working on this as well.

2. Employment & Police – met 8-8-22 – minutes included in August’s Council Packet

DBi/Tourism/Community Development Job Description

Councilman Miller said the Committee discussed this, but Manager Vannoorbeeck was not present, so they asked to set up another meeting to discuss further.

Mayor Coleburn said this job could be very busy, but one thing that is important to DBi is independence, but there is a will from some of Council to make this a full time position and incorporate other duties as a Town employee.

Councilman Morgan said they discussed Town benefits. Finance Director Hardy said there was discussion about an MOU Performance Agreement.

Councilman Allman said there were roughly seven other communities in Virginia that do what we want to do based on Performance Agreements. He said there was discussion to slow this process down and see if we can model ours after other communities.

Councilman Miller believed Blackstone would be different from the other localities, due to the fact the DBi was supposed to be self sufficient after 5 years, and the Town is still contributing.

Councilman Nash said when he brought this up, it is not who's doing it, it is to include every tax paying business in Town, to receive the benefits the downtown area receives. He said all businesses should have equal access to the aid, maybe not grant money, but guidance and help.

Mayor Coleburn said Blackstone had been a Virginia Main Street Community since 2007, and he believed regulations and practices had changed a lot. He said we will continue to explore this.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Award Bid – Seay Park Clean-Up

Mayor Coleburn said this is to work on the flower beds in Seay Park, and the lowest responsive bid was from Clay's Landscape in the amount of \$1,375.00.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to award the Seay Park Clean-Up to Clay's Landscape in the amount of \$1,375.00, and adopt the Resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Coleburn asked what the scope of work included. He read from the advertisement, removal of scrub trees growing up in plantings, weeding, shaping shrubs and crepe myrtles, spreading mulch, shape boxwoods and remove ivy from the Library building.

Clerk Daniel said this is a one time clean-up.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

2. Board of Zoning Appeals Nomination

Mayor Coleburn presented Mrs. Tyler Scott's name to be approved. He said she is very active in Blackstone and Nottoway County. He said she moved to Blackstone and has fallen in love with it.

Councilman Nash made a motion to nominate Mrs. Tyler Scott to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

3. Sewage/Leachate Ordinance

Manager Vannoorbeeck said leachate is the rain water that runs through the landfill and percolates down and is collected in a liquid collection system held in ponds.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Public Hearing had already been held for this Ordinance. He said this would allow the Town to accept from multiple party's leachate and septage. He said septage is solids and viscous liquids that come from a septic tank. He said the current location for dumping is on Baker Street. He added Mr. Edward Harris has requested some dilution by the time it gets to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which occurs because of the distance mixing with everything in between.

Councilman Nash asked if this Ordinance would allow the Town not to accept sewage or leachate. Manager Vannoorbeeck said yes, it allows you to accept, but it doesn't obligate the Town to accept because each customer will have to sign one of these Agreements.

Councilman Allman said he was concerned about animal control. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed the prisons handled the wastewater treatment. He added, that stuff is really caustic with the hair, it does not break down.

Councilman Miller made a motion to adopt Section 62-170, Sewage and Leachate, as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

4. Sewage/Leachate Disposal Agreement

Mayor Coleburn said this Agreement would go from charging 8/10 of a penny at 50% capacity to \$.01 at 100% capacity. Manager Vannoorbeeck asked that it be retroactive to July 1, 2022.

Mayor Coleburn asked how much of an enhancement revenue this would be. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied, based on the usage from last year, it would be \$91,000.00 additional. He said if the County had gone to \$200.00 a ton for the sludge from the Wastewater Treatment Plant, that would have been exempted.

Clerk Daniel clarified in the Agreement it says the Town shall dispose of sewage sludge generated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant only at the Nottoway Landfill, at no charge to the Town.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town is dramatically cheaper than anybody else in the region.

Councilman Nash asked about the duration of time for this Agreement. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the County wanted a three year term, but he took that out, because he was not sure if the landfill fees were completely resolved. He said this would be an annual appropriation, or if Council decides, it can be changed at any time. He said logically it would be in the Budget process.

Councilman Nash said it should say a one year contract, with Council having the option to revisit. Mayor Coleburn said normally with such contracts there should be 30-60 days' notice.

Mayor Coleburn suggested doing a one year contract, retroactive to July 1, 2022, and giving 30 days' notice to the County in writing, if the terms of the Agreement are going to change.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said County Administrator Costin asked to include in #9, that currently says, "the parties reserve the right to modify this Agreement to comply with State, Federal and Local regulations, or in response to changes in processes, discharges or operations at the Blackstone Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said County Administrator Costin asked to add "or the Nottoway County Landfill."

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the second item County Administrator Costin asked about was #7, “Purchaser shall be liable for any and all damages to the Blackstone Wastewater Treatment Plant and sewage system specifically resulting from its leachate and sewage delivery and/or treatment and shall indemnify the Town from any and all liability, damages, fines or penalties incurred by Purchaser resulting from the leachate and sewage delivery and/or treatment”. He said County Administrator Costin asked to have “proven” added to #7, but thought that was unnecessary. He added “specifically resulting” covers what County Administrator Costin wants included “proven”.

Mayor Coleburn said that was too vague, proven by who or what, he said no.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the Leachate and Sewage Disposal Agreement as presented, and adding the 30 day notice, adding Nottoway County Landfill to #9, one for one deal, and 100% treatment at one cent per gallon. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Morgan stepped out briefly.

5. Nottoway County Water Supply

Clerk Daniel said a revised copy of the letter was at Council’s desk.

Mayor Coleburn said this letter will go to the Board of Supervisors, proposed to be signed by all three mayors. He believed Burkeville wanted a 90 day review period. Manager Vannoorbeeck said Mr. Sean Davis from Crewe sent him an email last week saying Burkeville wanted 90 days to review.

Mayor Coleburn said the three towns were discussing ways to resolve water challenges in each community. He said there is an effort by Prince Edward County and they are asking Nottoway County to be able to run a water line to serve any establishment it wants. He said the State would like to get water from Prince Edward, and that would threaten Crewe.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Blackstone spent \$27,000.00 in good faith. Mayor Coleburn said Blackstone was approached by the State, and everything done was in the interest of the County.

He said there was one conference call where he said on record, if Blackstone is going to be the solution to provide water, he wanted Burkeville as part of the solution.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said based on a permit, 9 million gallons of water could be drawn from the Reservoir per day. He said with the current configurations 3.28 million gallons can be drawn from the Reservoir and 425,000 are taken out currently a day. He added Pickett reserves not only what they use, which is about 100,000 gallons a day, but they also reserve 1 million gallons in the event of mobilization.

Mayor Coleburn said enclosed is a letter from Crewe, who is fighting for survival, and they want this letter to go to the Board of Supervisors basically saying the three towns are talking, and continue to work out solutions, and ask the County not to do anything until all options are exhausted at the municipal level.

Manager Vannoorbeeck believed Burkeville had already adopted a Resolution supporting the Prince Edward County line. He said the letter enclosed would be in defiance of their previous action.

Councilman Morgan asked if a new water line would increase the water pressure. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed a booster station would be needed between Blackstone and Crewe, if the Town supplied the water. He said the State refuses to share their engineering documentation or cost estimates. He said when talking with the State, we told them Crewe had to be involved. He said he told the State \$12.00 per 1,000 gallons, but was negotiable because the raw water line was going to affect how we do that. He said if Crewe and the prisons were to pay 100% of the raw water line, it would have been \$12.00.

Mayor Coleburn said a year or so ago, he attended a meeting with the State in Manager Vannoorbeeck's office, and left the meeting convinced Blackstone was going to serve the State facilities and sell water to Crewe. He said then things got quiet, and people did not return phone calls.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there was an MOU signed with Prince Edward County saying they will sell water to the prisons for \$11.00 per 1,000 gallons. He said if Blackstone were to serve Crewe, without the prisons, it would make it a whole lot harder to pay for the pipe between Blackstone and Crewe.

Councilman Morgan made a motion authorizing Mayor Coleburn's signature on the letter presented from the Town of Crewe. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

6. Deed of Easement – Bird Road

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Easement had already been signed by the Grantors, and enables Treescapes to do drainage improvements located on the Dalton’s property.

Mayor Coleburn said the Easement was already signed, so this would be a ratification. Manager Vannoorbeeck said it was signed, but had not been recorded yet.

Councilman Nash made a motion authorizing Manager Vannoorbeeck to record the executed deed as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Morgan.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

7. Award Bid – Garage Door Maintenance

Mayor Coleburn said this would award garage door maintenance at the Police Department, Fire Department and Bus Shop. He said Commonwealth Garage Doors appeared to be the low bidder at \$1,170.00.

Finance Director Hardy said we did a sealed bid previously, and only received one bid, and Council rejected that due to the price. She said Amelia Overhead Door had the contract in 2022.

Councilman Morgan made a motion to award the annual garage door maintenance at the Police Department, Fire Department and Bus Shop to the lowest bidder, Commonwealth Garage Doors in the amount of \$1,170.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

ON-GOING PROJECTS:

1. Dilapidated Buildings

Mayor Coleburn said we saw the fire at 500 N. West Avenue where the Fire Department burned a home. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town would clean up the debris that was left.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said 1003 Nottoway Avenue was a blighted home, and the property owners took it down at their expense.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said 415 Oak Street was moving forward with the legal process.

Attorney Bacon said she did not get a response back from the owners, so was requesting a vote to advertise a Public Hearing to start the eminent domain condemnation process.

Councilman Nash made a motion to advertise a Public Hearing for 415 Oak Street and start the eminent domain condemnation process. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

2. Meals Tax / Lodging Tax

Clerk Daniel said there was only one outstanding Meals Tax as of today.

Mayor Coleburn said there was one outstanding Lodging Tax.

Councilman Nash asked if Business Licenses could be added to this list. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed there were roughly 15 delinquent, with 2 of those being over three years. Clerk Daniel said Treasurer Harris would start working with TACS to help with Business Licenses.

3. Street Improvement Projects

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Main Street paving, from Irvin to Dinwiddie Avenue was supposed to begin Sunday and today, but got rained out. He said they are supposed to start tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. He said Friday and Saturday nights are off limits.

Mayor Coleburn asked when the South Main Street project would be completed. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied, September, but that does not include the paving or sidewalks.

4. Wrigglesworth Sports Complex / TAP 21

Mayor Coleburn said Lawn Solutions was doing the turf for the Gator's Football Field. He said lighting and fencing would follow. He added the Gators would play there next year.

Councilman Miller said he would get with Manager Vannoorbeeck to walk the field.

5. East End Neighborhood Project

Mayor Coleburn said there are five homes to be repaired or rebuilt. Manager Vannoorbeeck said there are three left, and were a total of 11. He said the Rehab Board had approved two additional homes, one on Broad Street and one on Fitzgerald Street.

6. Taylor Bottom Block Grant

Mayor Coleburn thanked Community Development Specialist Bryant for the outreach and picnic on Friday.

Community Development Specialist Bryant said there were 56 homes in the project area, with 13 being unoccupied, and 33 surveys had been completed. She said she had identified two spark plugs for the area.

Councilman Nash said if Community Development Specialist Bryant continues to work towards the South Main Street project, that would show the Town doesn't do just certain areas. He was referring to the Wulff House.

7. Armory

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Commonwealth Regional Council should be bidding out the asbestos abatement in the next two weeks. He said enclosed is a Resolution for approval to be submitted with a grant application for the Industrial Revitalization Fund for \$1 Million. He said it is capped at \$1 Million because there is no more match.

Mayor Coleburn said part of the multi-use of the Armory will be developing a hospitality and culinary job training center in conjunction with Virginia State University and Kalyan Hospitality.

Councilman Nash made a motion adopting the Resolution as presented for IRF Grant Funds up to \$1 Million. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

8. Weatherization

Manager Vannoorbeeck said 816 Falls Street would be demolished, they were waiting on them to empty the house. He said the Town would be tearing down the house. He said bids came back at \$84,500.00, and the Rehab Board would be voting on that, with Divine Builders being the lowest bid. He said \$100,000.00 of Weatherization would be used, \$50,000.00 from last year and \$50,000.00 from this year.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town received \$50,000.00 from the County, the Agreement is attached, and will be used for the renovation of 309 Patterson Street. He said this money is Program Income the County had.

Mayor Coleburn said when the County voted on this, they complimented the Town and said they have a very robust program.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this is informational, the Rehab Board handles this.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Federal Transit Administration Agreements - BABS

Mayor Coleburn said after looking at this paperwork, he asked if the Town’s share had gone up considerably. Transit Director Murphy said the Town’s local share is the same as it was in FY22, what Council was seeing in the packet includes everyone’s share and fares.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the Federal Transit Authority and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation’s Agreements as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

2. Annual Paving

Mayor Coleburn said Manager Vannoorbeeck did not need permission to seek sealed bids.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the upcoming paving projects would include, asphalt work on the second phase of East End, around Wrigglesworth, Lester Street and Oak Street would be tar and gravel, so two bids will be put out.

COMMITTEE REFERRALS:

1. Nottoway Avenue – Traffic Calming Devices

Mayor Coleburn said there is a request for traffic calming devices on Nottoway Avenue. He asked how much they cost. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the ones installed near the basketball courts; he was not sure. Councilman Nash said the temporary devices were \$200.00.

Councilman Allman commended the Police Department for their presence during the detours on South Main Street.

Mayor Coleburn referred the traffic calming devices on Nottoway Avenue to the Street & Light Committee.

Mayor Coleburn said if neighborhoods are determined to have traffic calming devices, he wondered if they would be willing to pay for the speed bumps. He said that would be a powerful statement.

Councilman Nash said the request also included noise; the Noise Ordinance can now be enforced as of July 1, 2022.

MAYORS MINUTE:

1. Mail Issues

Mayor Coleburn said he received a letter that was included in the packet, and others have been talking about slow mail service. He said we have good folks that work at the Post Office, but the problem seems to be in Richmond, so he has talked to Congresswoman Spanberger's staff, and they are going to do a full inquiry on the mail delivery in Blackstone.

2. Museums

Mayor Coleburn said correspondence from Mr. Bobby Thomas was included in the packet. He said Mr. Thomas was doing the Wine Festival, and Mr. Dave McCormack's brewery, Trapezium was going to have a presence.

Mayor Coleburn said Mr. Thomas and others are anxious to get the museums staffed. He believed it would be contingent on what the Town does with the tourism position.

3. Proposed Proclamations

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

POLICE REPORT:

There was nothing to report.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mr. Michael Bagley discussed the sidewalks going towards Walmart, he said this needed to be looked at because right now people are walking on the left hand side of the street, but believed the plan was to put sidewalks on the right side of the street. He said we might be wasting time, money, and effort putting sidewalks on the right hand side of the street, when it is actually needed on the left side. Mayor Coleburn worried Blackstone would be featured on a TV show as a town that built a sidewalk to nowhere. He believed the new sidewalk across from Dollar General would start on the correct path, but the plan was for a crosswalk at Walmart.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the problem on the Clay’s side is cost, the topography and terrain makes it more expensive. He said there is also a lot of overhead utilities that would need to be relocated.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a motion to go into Closed Session and said Attorney Bacon would be present.

CLOSED SESSION:

Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711

- 1/ Personnel – Administration
- 3/ Disposition of Real Property - Town Square

Councilman Morgan 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:

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

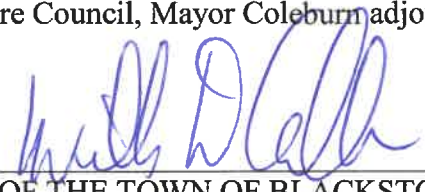
Councilman Morgan made a motion to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened, were heard, discussed or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

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn adjourned this meeting at 9:47 p.m.


MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

September 19, 2022 APPROVED AND ADOPTED


TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA