

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, September 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

Mayor: William D. Coleburn

Council Members: Christine Hasbrouck, Shelia Jones, Nathaniel Miller, Eric Nash, Tom Wilkinson

Town Staff: Philip Vannoorbeeck, Town Manager; Jennifer Daniel, Town Clerk; Jennifer Hardy, Finance Director; Brittany Harris, Treasurer; Sgt. Mathias; Chief Tomer

Town Attorney:

Those Absent: Lonnie Morgan, Barbara Thompson

Mayor Coleburn called the September Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Coleburn delivered the Invocation.

Mayor Coleburn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Coleburn said you may notice, the seat to his left was vacant tonight. He said Council knew this day would come, and read Councilwoman Thompsons's retirement letter.

Mayor Coleburn said Councilwoman Thompson was the longest serving African American in elected office in Nottoway County, and has served since 1987. He believed she won her first election with an opponent and re-elected every time after that without an opponent.

Councilman Miller made a motion to declare Ward D vacant and accept, with regret, Councilwoman Thompson's resignation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hasbrouck.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn asked Council to elect Councilman Nash as President of Council. He said Councilwoman Thompson has held this post since 2010.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to elect the senior member of Council, Councilman Nash, as President. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn asked that Council publicly seek through advertising and other means, letters of interest and qualifications for the Ward D Council Seat, with a deadline of 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 8, 2021. He said the only qualification was being a registered voter of Ward D and want to serve.

Mayor Coleburn said the Code states, Council fills this position, but he preferred to have a public application process.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to advertise for the Ward D Council Seat, with the deadline being 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 8, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hasbrouck.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn asked to have a Special Meeting on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, to meet in Closed Session to review the applications, and possibly come out of Session and announce a person or wait until the following Monday Council Meeting.

Councilman Miller asked what happens if nobody puts in for it. Mayor Coleburn was not sure and would probably have to talk with Attorney Bacon. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed, if nobody showed interest, you could still go out and seek a representative.

Mayor Coleburn said Councilwoman Thompson was part of the historical election in 1987, when wards were started. He said Ward D is majority black, and someone asked Mayor Coleburn today if the representative had to be black. Mayor Coleburn said no, the judge ruled only that Blackstone should draw three wards, each of which has a 65% or greater minority population, to ensure a greater chance of minority representation.

Mayor Coleburn said Councilwoman Thompson was well loved, and one her big projects was the bridge on Amelia Avenue, having it redone, and was done so in 2014. He asked Council to formally name the Amelia Avenue Bridge, the Barbara J. Thompson Bridge in her honor, with appropriate signage on both sides.

Councilman Nash made a motion to name the Amelia Avenue Bridge, the Barbara J. Thompson Bridge. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

MINUTES:

Councilman Nash made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on August 16, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn said the minutes are written by our Town Clerk, Jennifer Daniel, who is working on her birthday tonight.

VISITORS:

1. *Mrs. Paula Higgerson – Hometown Homecoming*

Mrs. Higgerson said Nottoway cancelled Homecoming again this year. She said her daughter, who is a Junior was very disappointed. She said she had created a Facebook Page, so people will know what was being planned, pending what was decided here tonight.

Mrs. Higgerson requested use of the Town Square or Seay Park, in order for the kids to be outside and distanced for the dance. She said she just wanted a night for the kids to have fun and be normal. She said it would be Saturday October 9, 2021, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Mrs. Higgerson said she had started the process for insurance, porta johns and hand washing stations. She said she talked to the Police Department today.

Mayor Coleburn believed the Town Square would be best because it is lighted and better parking.

Mrs. Higgerson said the Homecoming Dance would include Freshmen through Seniors.

Manager Vannoorbeeck suggested having an alternate date in case of weather. Mrs. Higgerson said she was trying to keep it close to the Homecoming game.

Mayor Coleburn believed the Mrs. Higgerson would have to rent the Square as an individual and it was not for profit, so there would be no cost.

Mrs. Higgerson said she had a DJ coming.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to approve use of the Town Square for Nottoway's Homecoming on Saturday, October 9, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and waive the Noise Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Mrs. Higgeson said they would be selling tickets, \$5 per person, but there would be no profit.

Councilman Nash asked that any money over and beyond go towards HELP or some non-profit.

2. Mrs. Molly Black Lashway

Mrs. Lashway said she attends Council Meetings and thought street closures came to Council for approval. She said Mrs. Sara Gilmore, with the Friends of the Library, stopped by on September 9th, to let her know West Maple Street would be closed all day the upcoming Saturday and Sunday. She told her that Sundays she was closed, and advised her of the negative impact on a Saturday and preferred the street remain open during Mrs. Lashway's business hours. Mrs. Lashway said Mrs. Gilmore informed her, she went through the proper channels for the street closure with Manager Vannoorbeeck. She asked why this request was not brought to Council, and why were her and Juicy's Beauty and Braid not informed when this was being considered.

Mayor Coleburn said, the Code states Council will close the streets, but in recent years, the decision has also been left to the Police Department and Town Manager. He believed a compromise was made.

Manager Vannoorbeeck apologized and said he would work on formalizing it better.

Councilman Miller suggested letting Council know if there is a street closure, along with businesses that would be affected.

3. Mr. Mark Fathbruckner

Mr. Fathbruckner said he was here to speak about the Confederate War Memorial at Nottoway Courthouse. He said his great grandfather's name was on that memorial. He said there was a Federal Law passed in 1968 that protects all war memorials. He said the memorial was centrally located between Crewe and Blackstone.

Mayor Coleburn said he nor anyone he had spoken to wanted it in Lakeview Cemetery. He believed the request was premature and the battle to be fought would be done in the Referendum.

Mayor Coleburn said no one is buried there, he said the monument is unique because it has the name of every person from Nottoway who fought for the Confederacy, but when it was unveiled, some of the people were still living.

Mayor Coleburn said there was a letter in the Council Packet, asking this Council to say publicly, if the Referendum chooses to relocate the monument, it could be relocated in Lakeview Cemetery.

Councilman Miller made a motion to reject the request to move the Confederate War Memorial to Lakeview Cemetery. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT:

Chief Tomer said Old Business stands as is. He believed everyone has had the opportunity to see the new sign.

Chief Tomer said they decided to cancel Open House again this year, due to COVID coming back into swing.

Chief Tomer said the Boot Drive was an awesome experience and, in a few hours, they profited \$12,500.00.

Chief Tomer said three members recently attended a class in North Carolina, for rescue on swift water, the Fire Department paid for the classes. The three members were Ben Haug, Timmothy Immekus and Danial Falwell.

Mayor Coleburn said there was a possibility of a COVID Clinic in Blackstone within the next few weeks.

Mr. Michael Bagley asked how the house numbering project could be restarted again.

Mayor Coleburn referred this to the Fire and Water Committee. Chief Tomer suggested pushing this during Fire Prevention Week.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills that have already been paid are in the amount of \$731,481.35.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the bills that have already been paid in the amount of \$731,481.35. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills not yet approved, and to be paid, are in the amount of \$434,246.53.

Councilwoman Hasbrouck made a motion to approve as presented, the bills not yet paid in the amount of \$434,246.53. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Councilman Nash asked about the S. Walker invoice under Street Department, which projects does this include. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied, the salt bins, High Street and in front of BB&T.

Councilman Nash asked about Recreation, Lewis Welding, are they both reimbursable. Manager Vannoorbeeck said one was replacing the locks at LCCDC, which was not covered by insurance. He said this was done as a Change Order, while Lewis Welding was there.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

APPROPRIATIONS:

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

Appropriation #1 – Sanitation = \$42,362.00

Mayor Coleburn said this was to reallocate funds for Robert Lee’s position change to the Street Department. Finance Director Hardy said this amount includes his salary and benefits.

Appropriation #2 – Fuel Pumps = \$20,000.00

Finance Director Hardy said when staff is keying in Purchase Orders, we reallocate the total fuel used into departments after it is used, and the initial purchases are showing an error of over budget, so this will fix that.

Appropriation #3 – Antenna Repairs = \$11,511.00

Mayor Coleburn said this was for antenna repairs during the ice storm. Manager Vannoorbeeck said a check was received to repair these antennas for fire and police that are located on the water tank.

Appropriation #4 – LCCDC Building Repairs = \$21,819.00

Mayor Coleburn said this was for repairs for the damage during the ice storm. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the lease with the County says, if it is an insurable loss, the Town will cover it.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the four appropriations as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Councilman Nash questioned the replacement of the locks at LCCDC, is that the County or Town’s responsibility. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he would approach the County about getting reimbursed. Mayor Coleburn said it may fall under routine maintenance.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Buildings, Property & Cemetery – met 8-30-21 – minutes included in September’s Council Packet

Chairwoman Hasbrouck said this meeting was informational, because there was no quorum.

Chairwoman Hasbrouck said cardboard recycling was discussed and possibly moving it to the Bevell’s parking lot.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town building had been sold, so the cardboard would have to be considered. He said there is no money being made for the cardboard, but it is good for the environment.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the roof on the library was included as an alternate bid with the expansion of the Council Chambers. He said neither bidder would honor the alternate price for just the roof work. He said it would have to be rebid, for the third time.

Tourism

This was not discussed.

Museum App

This was not discussed.

Industrial Park

This was not discussed.

Nottoway Monument Relocation

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were no Consent Agenda items.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Armory – RFQ

Manager Vannoorbeeck said six proposals were received. He said he asked Mrs. Kathy Wootten to be on this Committee to review the proposals and she had accepted.

Councilman Nash and Councilman Miller agreed to be on the Committee as well.

Councilman Nash asked to send the proposals to all members of Council.

2. Elections

Mayor Coleburn said the General Assembly passed a Law that there will no longer be May elections. He said Council elections will be next November, along with the Congressional elections. He said in order to have the Town’s Charter in line with State Law, there has to be some Public Hearings to have our Code comply. He said this will include a Public Hearing to adopt an Ordinance for the election and another Public Hearing to adopt a Resolution to present to the General Assembly.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to approve advertising the two Public Hearings for the 2022 elections. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

3. Scott/Doswell Street Closure

Manger Vannoorbeeck said the Town was moving forward and had met with the Tucker’s, they prefer a guardrail as the barrier. He said this barrier would be on Town property, on Doswell Street.

Mayor Coleburn asked if there should be something in writing acknowledging the steps being taken. Councilman Nash asked to have signage installed as well.

Ms. Harriet Greenhill asked if it was said there is still an existing street on Scott Street. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the majority of the asphalt area on Scott Street belongs to the Tucker's. Councilman Nash added, if the lots that are undeveloped facing Doswell Street are ever developed, then yes, a street could be developed then.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said only a portion of Doswell Street is public, the portion closer to the Tucker's is owned by the Railroad. He said those lots that abut that portion don't have public access now. He said the barrier would be on the platted part of Scott Street, not the Railroad property.

Mr. Simon Greenhill asked if the lots that face the street are being considered now. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the lots are recorded and a building permit could be obtained. He said the subdivision of the property would be prevented because of the frontage required on a public right of way.

Mr. Greenhill said he was concerned about safety issues by closing the street.

Mayor Coleburn referred the lots open to Doswell Street to the Street and Light Committee.

Councilman Wilkinson asked to be sure the guardrail has reflectors on it. Manager Vannoorbeeck said it would be added, along with no outlets signage.

4. USDA – Loan Resolution – Police Car

Mayor Coleburn said this would be \$45,000.00 total, to include loan and grant funds.

Councilman Miller made a motion to adopt the USDA Loan Resolution for a new police car in the amount of \$20,300.00 in loan and \$24,700.00 in grant funds. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

5. Ordinances – Blighted Properties

Councilman Nash made a motion to formally adopt the Blighted Ordinances for 415 Oak Street and 511 Fifth Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

6. VUMAC – Award Water/Sewer Bids

Manager Vannoorbeeck said three bids were received to install water and sewer at VUMAC, as part of the Revenue Anticipation and the expected Industrial Revitalization Fund reimbursement. He said the low bid was from Lee’s Excavating in the amount of \$168,881.50.

Councilman Nash made a motion to award the low bid to Lee’s Excavating in the amount of \$168,881.50 and authorize Manager Vannoorbeeck to execute all necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn said this project will be \$12 Million, for a 109 room hotel.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Manager Vannoorbeeck said if the Grant is received, 100% will be reimbursed.

7. South Main Street – Award Bids – Sixth to Tenth Street

Manager Vannoorbeeck said when the Town first applied for this Revenue Sharing Grant, it was estimated to be about \$840,000.00, but bids came in at \$1.5 Million. He said at that time the bids were rejected because the Town did not have the money.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this project has been readvertised because the Town was going to lose funding and has to be awarded prior to October 29th. He said we are going to cut back some on the project, removing some pipe.

Manager Vannoorbeeck asked for authorization to award the project to HG Reynolds in the amount of \$1,031,345.00, which includes Alternate #2, in the amount of \$10,840.00 for bad material if needed.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said everything usable from Sixth to Tenth Street stays, but sidewalk will be to the end of Tenth Street, on the west side of South Main Street. He said it would replace a culvert under Main Street from the ditch next to Community Convenience, and run a pipe at a 90 degree angle back to the intersection of Sixth Street. He said the streets would be repaved. He believed this project would get started in the spring. He said there would be no detours, traffic control was part of their bid.

Councilman Miller made a motion to award this project to HG Reynolds in the amount of \$1,031,345.00 and authorize Manager Vannoorbeeck to execute the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

8. Town Bus Rental

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the recommendation from the Town's insurance carrier was if Council decides to do this, they highly recommended using a Town employee as the driver. He read from the recommendation, the TULIP Policy does not include Auto, so the Town would be assuming 100% of the liability for the bus and passengers.

Mayor Coleburn asked if this was specific to the Rotary Club's request. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes.

Councilman Nash asked that all requests come before Council. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed this should only apply to non-profits.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to approve use of the Town's Bus for the Rotary Club per the insurance company's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Finance Director Hardy believed she would have to pay the bus driver through the Town's payroll, so the fees would be paid to the Town of Blackstone.

Councilman Nash made a motion to charge \$200.00 a day, pay for the Town bus driver per hour and a full tank of gas. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Finance Director Hardy asked if the Rotary would be adding the Town as additionally insured on their insurance policy. Councilman Wilkinson replied yes.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

ON-GOING PROJECTS:

1. Dilapidated Buildings

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he was still waiting on the appraisals for the Oak and Fifth Street blighted properties

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he received the indemnity agreement back for 303 E. Broad Street and 305 Fitzgerald Street, and both will be demolished as part of the East End grant. He said Town forces would be doing the demo, so the only out of pocket expenses would be the asbestos and tipping fees at the landfill.

2. Meals Tax / Lodging Tax

Treasurer Harris said the outstanding Meals Tax included in the Council Packet was paid today, and there were no outstanding Lodging Taxes.

3. Street Improvement Projects

Manager Vannoorbeeck said in October, Colony Construction would be milling and paving from the western Corporate Limits to the old Town Shop on Church Street.

4. Wrigglesworth Sports Complex / TAP 21

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this phase of the TAP 21 grant project has been awarded in the amount of \$239,000.00. He requested authorization to award this project to S. Walker Construction in the amount of \$407,478.37. He said this would include Powell and Birch Streets, with Jackson Street being paid for out of the Town's Street Funds, and will be a separate contract. He said S. Walker agreed to honor his bid price for this portion.

Mayor Coleburn said this includes the antique lighting. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes, but not in S. Walker's price. He added the Town had enough money set aside to do the project.

Councilman Nash asked what the Town's portion of this project would be. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied between \$180,000.00 - \$200,000.00.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said both projects could not be done at the same time, VDOT did not like comingling.

Councilman Nash made a motion to award the Phase II TAP 21 project to S. Walker Construction in the amount of \$407,478.37 and authorize Manager Vannoorbeeck to execute all the necessary documents. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hasbrouck.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

5. East End Neighborhood Project

Manager Vannoorbeeck said KCH Contracting started cutting pavement on Friday and laying pipe today near the old Levi Building.

6. Weatherization

There was nothing to report.

Councilman Wilkinson asked for the College Road update. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed they were over the hump with the soil and erosion issues. He said the contractor had been doing some chipping and grinding debris. He said he needed two things from the developer before they get started on the housing, one being a bond on the road and two, a set of plans.

Councilman Wilkinson asked about the Rotary Dog Park. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he met with Dr. Grimes last Thursday. He said they discussed the Dog Park and the demolition of the buildings. He said Dr. Grimes was not opposed to repurposing the two story building, but was concerned if the building was fit to save. Councilman Nash said if the County doesn't see it being fit, let them tear it down.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said with the Dog Park, Dr. Grimes wanted to know the location. He said if we tear down the one story building, that might be the logical location. Councilman Wilkinson said the Dog Park has to be done by May.

Mayor Coleburn said he was concerned that a lot of good people in this Town that walk their dogs, don't have a bag or shovel. He was also concerned that Blackstone has different people and different dogs and wondered if the Town would be liable if a puppy gets attacked, by perhaps a pit bull.

Mr. Jacob Allman said most dog parks have fencing that separates for dog sizes.

Council authorized Manager Vannoorbeeck to send a letter, with a diagram, to the School Board to approve the Dog Park.

Councilman Nash asked about moving and replacing the playground equipment. Manager Vannoorbeeck said this had been assigned to Ms. Chastiddy Bryant, who had gotten two bids and waiting on a third.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Armory Rental – Ms. Peggy Moore

Mayor Coleburn said Ms. Moore had cancelled the Veterans Event at the Armory for September 25th, but wants to have a New Year’s Eve Party on December 31st, from 6:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. He said her request includes a live band and will obtain an ABC License.

Clerk Daniel told Council, Ms. Moore had paid \$250.00 already, and wanted to use this money towards the rental of the Armory.

Council had several questions, so Mayor Coleburn tabled and asked to have Ms. Moore at the Continued Meeting on October 13th.

2. Surplus Christmas Wreaths

Councilman Nash said he has noticed over the years, the old Christmas wreaths at the Town Shop. He said this was the time of year to try to sell them on GOVDEALS.

Councilman Nash made a motion to surplus the old Christmas wreaths at the Town Shop and sell them on GOVDEALS. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hasbrouck.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

3. B&B Consultants – Task Order #19 – Water & Sewer Study

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this Study had already started. He said currently the Town is trying to finish negotiations with Pickett, having a 1 for 1 billing for water and sewer. He said Pickett has found out they may be spending more than the potential \$230,000.00.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we have the same situation with Crewe and the prisons. He said the Town has been approached by Crewe and the State, about building a waterline from here to Burkeville, this rate is undetermined as well. He said this amount will not be less in the Town of Crewe than in Blackstone. He said the waterline would belong to Blackstone up to the courthouse area, and from there be built for the Town of Crewe. He said we need to come up with a rate.

Councilman Nash asked if the Town should be paying for a water/sewer study that has already been agreed upon by Pickett. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Agreement, which was pointed out by their Attorney, says “may” include out of town rates. Councilman Nash believed Pickett should pay for half the Study. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he would ask.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the prisons are talking about a million gallons of water going to Crewe and the prisons, not including Burkeville. He said it was in writing they want the Town to earmark capacity for Nottoway County’s economic development.

Mayor Coleburn said by Common Consent, Manager Vannoorbeeck would contact the State to help pay the \$10,000.00 of B&B’s Task Order request.

Mayor Coleburn referred B&B’s draft documents from the Study to the Fire & Water Committee.

COMMITTEE REFERRALS:

1. Personnel Policy – Marijuana

Mayor Coleburn referred this request to the Employment & Police Committee.

Mayor Coleburn said the new person to fill Ward D, would get Mrs. Thompson’s committees. He said he would elevate Councilman Miller to Chair of the Employment and Police Committee.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he had questions about pre-employment for non-safety sensitive positions and testing positive for marijuana. Clerk Daniel added, Attorney Bacon questioned the marijuana medical cards.

MAYORS MINUTE:

1. *Bon Secours Letter*

Mayor Coleburn said he wrote a scathing letter to Bon Secours, and has been hearing how they are not doing some of the basic things. He said now they are not handling the Town's workers comp claims. He said he was going to set up a meeting with Bon Secours, to include him and the Town Manager.

Mayor Coleburn said he had received two very serious requests that would love to take over the lease of the James S. Harris Medical Building. He said Bon Secours renewal would be in 2023.

2. *Request for the late Mr. John Neal*

Mayor Coleburn said the family of the late Councilman John Neal, who was a lead plaintiff in the lawsuit that led to our Ward System, the family wants to do something to honor his memory. He said Councilman Neal was instrumental in the renovation of these Council Chambers. He said the family discussed a plaque and maybe a bench out front. He said Manager Vannoorbeeck mentioned during this meeting that the Armory may be a multi-cultural museum in some areas.

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

3. *(2) Requests for the James S. Harris Building*

Councilman Nash suggested getting a list together of those interested in the building, and discuss with Bon Secours.

4. *Veterans Day Ceremony*

Mayor Coleburn asked if the Town wanted to have a Veterans Day Ceremony and if there were any ideas for a guest speaker.

Councilman Nash suggested getting an outsider that is new to Blackstone, perhaps with FASTC.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he and Ms. Chastiddy Bryant would be in charge of the Veterans Day Ceremony.

Councilman Wilkinson suggested General Harrison.

Mayor Coleburn said events had been changing rapidly at Pickett. He said he and Councilwoman Hasbrouck were on a Zoom Call today and were told, 5,907 evacuees are at Pickett now, and going to 10,000. He said an overwhelming majority of people in Blackstone support this mission. He said the comment was made today that Pickett is very challenging because it is Federal, State and County property, and an open Base and Mayor Coleburn agreed.

Mayor Coleburn said Ft. Lee was getting about 1,700 evacuees, Quantico is getting 1,000, and Pickett is getting 10,000. He said some of the concerns coming up are Pickett is taking the largest number of evacuees to the most rural of the three Virginia locations, which is the most critically, medically, underserved area. He said someone told him they were going to Farmville Hospital on Friday and due to the evacuees and COVID, they had to go to another facility with their sick child. He believed this thing would be a year.

Mayor Coleburn said we as Town Officials, need to fight for every local business that can do something out there, get a fair shake. He said Pickett is a very important part of our economy, he is getting reports from people he trusts, the condition of the Base may be a lot less desirable with the heavy intense use going on right now, that we may have to do some lobbying with our legislatures to make sure the Department of Defense spending, that Pickett get the nurturing it deserves. He said fight for the human beings out there, but also fight for the community.

Councilman Nash said we need to entice our local businesses to be open for the contractors.

Councilwoman Hasbrouck said she was concerned about the women that are pregnant at Pickett. Mayor Coleburn said there were 90 pregnant evacuees at Pickett.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we need to remind the State Department of their statement, that people with chronic illnesses or women in their late term of pregnancy would not be sent to Pickett because of the lack of health care.

POLICE REPORT:

There was nothing to report.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mr. Michael Bagley asked about blight and the property on N. West Avenue with the antennas, he suggested making that a park. Manager Vannoorbeeck told Mr. Bagley that the Town did not own this property.

Mayor Coleburn reminded the public that the last outdoor dining would be this Friday from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Greenhill said we don't want to cut ourselves off from economic growth, we need to look into future growth. He said local businesses need to be in touch with the contracting office at Pickett to get on their register.

CLOSED SESSION:

Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711

3/ Disposition of Real Property

Councilman Miller made a motion to go into Closed Session for 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 Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

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 Hasbrouck	-	Certify
Councilwoman Jones	-	Certify
Councilman Morgan	-	Absent
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Absent
Councilman Miller	-	Certify
Councilman Nash	-	Certify
Councilman Wilkinson	-	Certify

Mayor Coleburn continued this meeting to Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn adjourned this meeting at 9:09 p.m.


MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

October 18, 2021 APPROVED AND ADOPTED


TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA