

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, May 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

Mayor: William D. Coleburn

Council Members: Wade Hamner, Lee Scott, Ben Green, Barbara Thompson, Alfred Tucker, Eric Nash, Sam Moncure

Town Staff: Philip Vannoorbeeck, Town Manager; Jennifer Daniel, Clerk; Jennifer Hardy, Finance Director; Gweneth Procise, Treasurer; Nicholas Kuzmiak, Police Chief; Dion Tomer, Fire Chief; Yvonne Wilson, Community Development Director, Joshua Worrell, Transit Director; Christopher Mathias, Sgt.; Tony Mayton, Sgt.

Town Attorney:

Those Absent: Chief Kuzmiak

Mayor Coleburn called the May Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Coleburn delivered the Invocation.

Mayor Coleburn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Coleburn advised there was going to be a Closed Session tonight.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Text Amendment – Small Engine Repair

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

The Town of Blackstone Town Council shall hold a Public Hearing on May 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as it may be held in the Blackstone Town Council Chambers, 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Va. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider a text amendment to the Town of Blackstone's Zoning Ordinance. The text amendment, if approved would permit small engine repair in the GB, General Business Zoning as a conditional use.

Mayor Coleburn said this was approved unanimously by the Planning Commission.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised the Planning Commission did approve the attached definition to allow small engine repair in a fully enclosed building.

Mayor Coleburn asked if anyone was here to speak for or against this proposed text amendment.

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Moncure said the only thing he has heard from people is the possibility of excessive noise, such as chainsaws. He said if this can be controlled he would not stand in the way but understood the reluctance with noise.

Mayor Coleburn clarified if this is approved this will allow small engine repair with a conditional use permit in the General Business District. Manager Vannoorbeeck added you are allowing anyone to apply.

Mayor Coleburn read the definition:

Small Engine Repair – The industry of servicing and repairing small, gas- or diesel-powered machinery. Small engine mechanics service machinery ranging from lawn mowers to chainsaws and other related equipment, which must be serviced and stored within a fully enclosed space.

Mayor Coleburn said he heard some concerns and recommended review in six months.

Chief Tomer said he was concerned about flammable liquids being stored.

Mayor Coleburn said as far as noise, there is more noise from a passing big rig in this Town. He did not think noise would be as big of an issue as you may think.

Councilman Green asked if there was a precedent from any surrounding areas. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied we have set the precedent, we have had it in this Town many times.

Chief Tomer said he believed according to the Fire Code there needed to be a flammable storage bin.

Councilman Green made a motion to approve the text amendment for small engine repair in the BG District as a conditional use. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Ryan Andrew Vaughan – Conditional Use Permit

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF BLACKSTONE**

*The Town of Blackstone Town Council shall hold a Public Hearing on May 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as it may be held in the Blackstone Town Council Chambers, 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Va. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider a request from **Ryan Andrew Vaughan**, for a Conditional Use permit to accommodate Small Engine Repair activities on property currently zoned G-B, General Business. This property is described as that portion of Nottoway County Tax Identification Map #50A-27-1-U-1 which lies within the Town of Blackstone.*

Mayor Coleburn advised this request is for 300 South Main Street, that is currently unoccupied.

Mayor Coleburn asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against the proposed permit request.

Mr. Vaughan advised he was trying to offer a mobile service, which is why he did not need a lot of storage. He said Main Street provided advertisement. He said he has a covered trailer for his tools so he can go to people’s homes. He added all the waste oil is being taken care of, he is dealing with the same company that picks up oil from Express Care.

Mr. Vaughan said he would keep things as quiet as possible. He added it is a six-month trial and can be revoked at any time, he agreed to that because he doesn’t plan to break the rules.

Mr. Waymond Mitchell said to let him do it as a conditional use permit. He added he would be his first customer.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve Mr. Ryan Vaughan’s conditional use permit to operate a small engine repair shop at 300 S. Main Street with a 6-month review period. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Amendment to Trash/Weeds Ordinance

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF BLACKSTONE**

The Town of Blackstone Town Council shall hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., Monday, May 15, 2017, or as soon thereafter, in the Town Council Chambers, 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia. The purpose of the Public Hearing is for Council to consider an amendment to the Ordinance, Section 26-10 through 26-14, Accumulation of Trash or Weeds for the Town of Blackstone.

Mayor Coleburn clarified this Ordinance allows for sending one notice per year, 15 days to comply and a \$100.00 administration fee.

Mayor Coleburn asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against the proposed Grass and Trash Ordinance.

It was clarified this Ordinance includes commercial property as well.

Councilman Green made a motion to approve the amendments to the Accumulation of Trash or Weeds Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

VISITORS

Ms. Jerri Morton

Ms. Jerri Morton thanked Council for providing a liaison, which is DBi. She handed out new flyers and advised the 100-Mile Yard Sale would be July 1st.

Mayor Coleburn said he was trying to encourage DBi to do something in the Town Square.

Mrs. Daphne Cole

Mrs. Cole asked if the lot near Farmer’s Café was owned by the Town. Mayor Coleburn replied no, that belonged to Mr. Jerome Wilson.

Mrs. Cole expressed her concerns about water run-off, she said we need the water to percolate in the ground.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised previously the Town was working on a Downtown Improvement Grant and that area was discussed but Mr. Wilson was not willing to lease to the Town nor was the Town prepared to purchase the lot. He added DHCD funds cannot be used on private property.

Mrs. Cole asked if the stamped concrete in the Town Square could be pulled up and replaced with imperviable pavers.

Mayor Coleburn asked informally if the Buildings, Property and Cemetery Committee would have a conversation with Mr. Wilson, the owner of the parking lot.

MINUTES

Councilman Moncure made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented the Regular Council Meeting Minutes from March 20, 2017 and April 17, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

Chief Tomer advised the new F250 Command Vehicle was here but still not in service.

Chief Tomer advised Tanker 7 was sold within 48 hours after putting online, it was sold to a company in Missouri.

Chief Tomer said the Fire Department was having a chicken luncheon this Saturday for \$7.00 a plate. He added another fundraiser for them is coming back, the Bull Blast.

Councilman Moncure made a motion to allow a one event exception to waive the no advertising on Town property for the Fire Department for the Bull Blast. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Councilman Nash asked the date of the Bull Blast. Chief Tomer replied June 24th.

Mayor Coleburn clarified the motion would allow advertising from now until midnight June 24th.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Chief Tomer advised he was planning to apply for a grant that should require no funds from the Town. He said the grant would be for a thermal imaging camera.

Chief Tomer advised three members from the Fire Department completed an aerial class in Farmville and made the Farmville Herald.

Chief Tomer said this month they have five life members with 138 years combined service.

Chief Tomer advised Unit 2 should be on GOV Deals this week.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills that have already been paid are in the amount of \$604,848.33.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the bills that have already been paid in the amount of \$604,848.33. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.

Councilman Nash asked about Pope Electrical for water/sewer work in the amount of \$1,400.00. Finance Director Hardy replied it is just an accumulation of bills from the Water and Sewer Department.

Councilman Nash asked about Bo Gibbs and Danny Dalton for sidewalk repair. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied it was for the tie-in to the sidewalk at Mrs. Bullock's house. He said when we do sidewalks, we don't leave them worse than we found them.

Councilman Nash asked if this was bid out, it seemed high. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied no.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Councilman Nash asked if the Town had the title to the garbage truck yet. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes, it is here now.

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills not yet approved but to be paid are in the amount of \$381,635.12.

Councilman Green made a motion to approve as presented the bills not yet approved but to be paid in the amount of \$381,635.12. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Councilman Moncure asked about Administration \$169.99 for chairs. Finance Director Hardy replied it was for two chairs that were needed in the office.

Councilman Moncure asked about the Police Department, the Town Gun Shop for \$1,538.00, what is an armor carrier. Sgt. Mayton replied it was for bullet proof vests for the two new officers.

Councilman Nash asked about the reimbursable invoice for Wigglesworth, is this for the safety nets. Finance Director Hardy replied yes, this should be the final bill.

Councilman Nash asked about the Police Department and Juan Ramirez, a DUI interpreter, is that reimbursable.

Mayor Coleburn recognized the Deputy Prosecutor in the audience. Ms. Leanne Watrous replied she did not believe it was reimbursable.

Councilman Nash said he would hate to think our citizens are paying for an interpreter for someone who is being charged in a court of law.

Councilman Hamner asked about Blackstone Animal Clinic for the Police Department. Finance Director Hardy replied it was for the check-up and rabies for the Police Department dog.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Employment & Police – met on 4-28-17 – minutes included in May’s Council Packet

Mayor Coleburn advised there was a reorganization chart included.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised that Mrs. Janet Matthews was planning to retire the first of July from the Bus System. He said the intention is to replace Mrs. Matthews with Mrs. Barbara Rothgeb. He said there will be no reduction in salary but half of Mrs. Rothgeb’s salary would be reimbursable from the State.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised nobody can send utility bills out but Ms. Brenda Bryant. He said the plan is to move Mrs. Brittany Harris to work with Ms. Bryant and have Ms. Louise Johnson help work the counter. He added Ms. Johnson would probably retire shortly.

Mayor Coleburn said the savings to the Town would be about \$3,200.00. Manager Vannoorbeeck added the Town will save if we can cut back on Ms. Bryant’s overtime.

Mayor Coleburn asked if the Town would be fully dependent on Nottoway for dispatching by July 1st. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes.

Councilman Nash asked how sure it was to see the savings. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied it is an assumption. He added we need to reduce the overtime and he would oversee that.

Councilman Green made a motion to approve the Employment and Police Committee’s recommendation for the personnel reorganization effective July 1st. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Mr. Waymond Mitchell advised today started the National Police Officer's week and asked for a moment of silence for all fallen police officers over the past year.

Account & Finance – met on 5-1-17 and 5-8-17 – minutes included in May's Council Packet

Councilman Green made a motion to discontinue the dispatching department effective July 1st. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moncure.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Councilman Green made a motion to send a letter to Nottoway County requesting additional funding to cover fire trucks, air packs and other apparatus and that the letter be published in the Courier Record. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Councilman Nash advised with FASTC we will be increasing our response area.

Chairman Green said the Committee was trying to get the backing of Council to do the work in order to go to Nottoway and show them the burden we are putting on Town citizens as opposed to the County.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Chairman Green advised, the Committee recommended presenting the FY18 balanced budget highlights at the May Council Meeting, which is \$15,473,522.00.

Chairman Green asked to make a statement about the proposed cut to DBi's funding. He said the cut would be \$18,000.00 but the rumor is the Finance Committee plans to phase DBi out completely, he said that is not the case. He added we are doing much more than other communities.

Chairman Green advised the 1/3 cut was in light of such things as insurance and the Police Department. He added nobody on the Committee had any ill will or lack of support for DBi.

Chairman Green said we are facing a 12.2% increase, which is \$52,272.00 in health care for the Town. He said all tax rates would remain the same. The Police Department has one merit increase that totals \$4,300.00, which was an employee that was caught in an influx where in the past had not been rewarded for years of service.

Chairman Green said initially the Finance Committee supported raises for the Police Department, but a delegation of the Police Department attended a meeting and expressed their desire to have LEOS in lieu of raises, so that is what is being presented in the Budget.

Councilman Hamner asked if LEOS would have time vested. Chairman Green replied there would have to be a study and a lot of the questions would be answered.

Mayor Coleburn said the projected amount for LEOS this year is \$45,000.00 a year, could this cost grow. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes it could, but hopefully this would allow for retirement at an earlier age.

Mayor Coleburn said he has heard this is a good recruitment and retainer incentive. Chairman Green replied that is what research has indicated.

Chairman Green said the Committee was not recommending across the board raises but instead merit raises in administration and the figures were at Council's desk.

Councilman Nash asked if the \$10,000.00 included the merit increase for the police officers. Chairman Green replied no.

Chairman Green advised the electric rates will stay the same, there is a projected decrease in rates but this year we were not charged enough through the electric association so there is a true-up, which is approximately \$42,000.00.

Chairman Green said we are adding \$124,000.00 in depreciation cost.

Chairman Green advised we are proposing to raise water and sewer rates by 3% to fund the Town's portion for the East End Grant. He said this would increase the water and sewer revenue fund from \$203,000.00 to approximately \$274,000.00.

Mayor Coleburn asked roughly speaking right now how much does the Town of Blackstone have in reserves. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied in the General Fund Reserve is \$1,000,000.00 and in the Electric Reserve Fund this past year we put \$337,000.00.

Mayor Coleburn asked what was in the Water/Sewer Fund. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied \$120,000.00 by the end of the fiscal year.

Chairman Green said with Capital Improvement Projects, we need to replace some fuel piping at the airport and paint fuel tanks. He said in the Street Department we are in need of a new leaf machine for \$45,000.00, an alley storm drain project for \$135,000.00, a school sidewalk project grant with the Town's match being \$260,000.00.

Chairman Green said we have been discussing refurbishing the peak generators for \$205,000.00, the Amelia Avenue water and sewer lines we are budgeting \$100,000.00 and \$16,000.00 for new Cemetery street signs.

Chairman Green said under Fire and Rescue last year we budgeted \$82,000.00 for insurance, this year we are budgeting \$50,145.00. He added Finance Director Hardy found where the Town was overpaying and now that is caught up.

Chairman Green said in Fire and Rescue we budget \$155,000.00 last year as opposed to \$40,000.00 this year. He added there was a grant included and that skewed the numbers.

Chairman Green said in Capital Outlay, last year for waste removal was \$174,000.00 for a garbage truck, this year it is \$24,000.00.

Chairman Green said with cemetery lots, last year we budgeted \$2,000.00 and this year we are budgeting \$7,500.00, we are actually selling that many lots.

Council discussed having the Public Hearing on June 19th.

Chairman Green said the Committee would like to offer Council a menu, being the budget as presented or we can go back and budget the Police Department salaries. Chairman Green said there is a way to do both, which would be to add two pennies on the Real Estate Tax. He said the Real Estate is now at \$.22 and would go to \$.24.

Councilman Green made a motion to do both, LEOS and raise Real Estate taxes \$.02 in an effort to reward and retain our police officers, with this being included in the Public Hearing on June 19, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.

Councilman Moncure pointed out that the cost for LEOS is an estimated \$45,000.00 a year, the raises have an estimated cost of \$20,000.00 a year, which is a \$7-\$8 Thousand increase per person for the Police Department. He said he can't say it is not warranted and they do deserve it, but there are limits, it is very hard to visualize what we are voting on when it is not in dollars and cents.

Chairman Green said he understood what Councilman Moncure said but he was looking at it as an opportunity to retain and reward our Police Department. He was asking to put in the Public Hearing to receive public comment.

Mr. Nathaniel Miller said he knew police was needed and money was being given to the administration, but what about public service that is being provided. Mayor Coleburn replied the Street and Electrical department got raises recently.

Councilman Nash advised we have been focusing on merit raises, so if they were due then they have been looking at that.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he did not recommend raises for the Street Department because they are based on merit and there were some complaints and things not getting done.

Mayor Coleburn said the Town's health insurance is \$52,000.00 more, which is a raise and is hard to put a price tag on it.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Abstain
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Buildings, Property & Cemetery – met on 5-8-17 – minutes included in May’s Council Packet

Armory Bathrooms

Chairman Green advised they were approached about the cost of updating and repairing the bathrooms in the Armory. He said we heard from Mr. Andre Hicks \$1,500.00 in cost. He added Mr. Walter Mac Osborne was going to talk to his Committee and get back to them.

Cemetery Policy

Chairman Green advised Manager Vannoorbeeck would be providing an updated Cemetery Policy for review.

Cemetery Invoice

Chairman Green advised the Committee recommended sending an invoice to Mr. Joe McMillian for repair work in the Cemetery. Mayor Coleburn said he spoke with Mr. McMillian at length on Friday and asked to be heard before a vote.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised Mr. Toth came to see him today, there had been wet weather, and dug a place for Mr. Davis and in doing so they made a tremendous mess. He said it was not intentional but the family was unhappy so that Monday he had town staff fix it. He said the Town’s cost was \$114.00 and an invoice was prepared and sent. He said we need to think clearly about what happens in the Cemetery, follow procedure and the Policy and it will make people happy.

Mayor Coleburn asked if anyone contacted Mr. McMillian about the incident. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied no.

Mayor Coleburn added Mr. McMillian told him he had fixed other graves he had nothing to do with. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied that is what is supposed to be done, if they have not backfilled a grave and it settles, it is their responsibility to fix it.

Mayor Coleburn said he was not rebutting anything being said but Mr. McMillian is very sensitive about his reputation and was concerned his business was being discussed without him having a chance to present his side.

Mayor Coleburn said Mr. McMillian asked for a copy of the Cemetery Policy. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied there is a copy on the website.

Councilman Green made a motion to table until next month. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Cemetery – Burial Issue

Chairman Green advised previously there was a dispute about where the Adkins family member was laid. He said the Committee discussed at great length and recommended the Adkins' family's attorney draft an agreement to hold the Town harmless, but that the Town assist the family in moving the body at no charge with help from David Ostrander. He said we also requested a release from the family in conjunction with the vault and have a family member present while moving the body.

Chairman Green advised Councilman Hamner offered his services as a funeral director with no fee.

Councilman Green made a motion have the Adkins' family's attorney draft an agreement to hold the Town harmless, but that the Town assist the family in moving the body at no charge with help from David Ostrander and have a release from the family in conjunction with the vault and have a family member present while moving the body. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moncure.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Seay Park – Religious Symbols

Chairman Green advised the Committee voted 3-0 to table.

Public Restrooms

Councilman Green made a motion to deny the request for public restrooms. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Intermediate School Field Day – 5-24-17
2. Heritage Hall – Olympics – 5-18-17

Councilman Green made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Burn Policy

Manager Vannoorbeeck explained this was the Policy provided a few months ago and has since been reviewed by Attorney Bacon with her revisions.

Mrs. Daphne Cole commended Manager Vannoorbeeck on his condemnations and also reminded Council that there is a State law about the release of 50 balloons per hour in reference to Heritage Hall. Mayor Coleburn replied he did not believe Heritage Hall released balloons.

Councilwoman Thompson made a motion to approve the Burn Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

2. S. Main Street Revenue Share

Mayor Coleburn advised there is a grant to improve drainage and sidewalks between Bagley and Sixth Street on South Main Street.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised this would include a full repaving of both lanes on South Main Street. He added it does include the reduction of the center lanes by about 2 1/2' and increase the travel lanes.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised this is a Revenue Share Project and the Town's 50/50 share is about \$225,000.00. He added the money is already set aside.

Councilman Nash made a motion to allow Manager Vannoorbeeck to proceed with bidding this project and accept the easements needed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

3. Mann Street Screening

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised Mr. Duncanson’s attorney, Ken Walden has requested a Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting to modify the standard. He added once Janet Bunnell is sworn in the meeting would be set.

Manager Vannoorbeeck informed this was only informational.

Mayor Coleburn said Mr. Duncanson is not in compliance and has not been since October. He said Mr. Walden’s letter cast stones at the Town. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied the trees were cut at Mr. Duncanson’s direction.

4. Burn Building Grant

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised the Town received a grant award for updating the Burn Building, but there was a \$100,000.00 match. He advised the letter enclosed was asking that Nottoway County, Prince Edward and Dinwiddie each equally share in the match.

Councilman Nash made a motion authorizing Mayor Coleburn sign the letter to send to the Counties. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

ON-GOING PROJECTS

1. Dilapidated Buildings

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised that Mr. Samuel Allen had requested an extension for his court date. He added Mr. Allen said he did not receive any of the notices the Town sent.

2. Meals Tax

Nothing to report.

3. Street Improvement Projects

Nothing to report.

4. Church Street Project

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. there will be a Management Team Meeting. He added during this meeting we will discuss East End and Weatherization.

5. Wigglesworth Sports Complex

Mayor Coleburn advised the School Board voted unanimously to approve the second location for the basketball court.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said sealed bids were opened on May 11th and S. Walker Construction was the low bid.

Councilman Nash suggested putting as many millings down as soon as possible for more parking. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied the plan is to move what's there and replace.

Councilman Nash asked what Walker Construction was doing on Bird Road. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied fixing driveways that was owed to the property owners, to include Mr. Doug Coleburn.

Mr. Nathaniel Miller asked about parking for handicap, is this going to be enforced all the time or just for events. Councilman Nash replied he had informed Manager Vannoorbeeck of his dissatisfaction of no action from Council's vote of 7-0. He added we did receive a grant for curb and gutter but he would like to see it fixed prior to the grant.

Mayor Coleburn asked if the Street Department could check on the handicap spots to be sure they are not faded.

Councilman Nash made a motion to accept the low bid for the basketball court from S. Walker Construction in the amount of \$29,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moncure.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Mayor Coleburn clarified in January 2016 there was a fire call at his parents' house because of carbon dioxide, the fire truck was stuck in the snow and efforts to remove by the Town caused destruction to the driveway.

6. East End Planning Grant

Nothing to report.

7. Nottoway Avenue – Revenue Share Project

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised they were almost completed in the Town limits.

Mayor Coleburn suggested possibly having a ribbon cutting.

8. Utility Upgrade Project

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Bucket Truck Purchase

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised the 14-year old bucket truck that was going to be replaced next year, died. He said the estimation for repair was between \$15-20 Thousand. He added the truck has already been bid out as part of the procurement process and the price for a new bucket truck is \$178,000.00 from Altec.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised the funds would come from Capital Improvements and have already been set aside.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the purchase of a new bucket truck from Altec in the amount of \$178,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Councilman Nash asked if the old truck would be auctioned off. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes, but it is not running. He added it could be auctioned off here or Altec has an auction company they use in North Carolina.

2. FY18 Budget Highlights & Public Hearing Request

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

3. Delinquent Business Licenses

Mayor Coleburn advised there were three businesses that were delinquent on business licenses. Treasurer Procise advised one paid today, #2 on the list.

4. July Council Meeting – Date Change Request

Mayor Coleburn asked Council to look at their calendars for July and advise if July 24th suited everyone for the meeting per the request of Councilman Green.

5. DEQ – Litter Grant

Councilman Nash made a motion authorizing Community Development Director Wilson to apply for the DEQ Litter Grant. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

6. Program Income Update

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised the Town of Blackstone with the Treasurer’s help is ensuring people that received DHCD help are making payments or have satisfied the Deed of Trust. He added this has put cash into our Program Income, which is in excess of \$100,000.00.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he would not like to use the Town's \$25,000.00 at this time and instead use the Program Income. He added DHCD may ask for the money back if it is not used.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we are proposing using the Program Income to take on 4 weatherization projects with the caveat that the State is satisfied.

Mayor Coleburn asked if the Town was confident that if there are people in great need, have they been made aware. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied they had received applications. He added they were going to focus on ownership then move to rentals.

Councilman Nash made a motion to proceed with using Program Income for (4) weatherization projects with the caveat of DHCD approval. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

COMMITTEE REFERRALS

There were none.

MAYORS MINUTE

Mayor Coleburn asked if at the Medical Center and Schwartz Tavern there be more clean up.

Councilman Scott advised about the potholes on N. West Avenue.

Mayor Coleburn advised there was a significant Closed Session tonight for Economic Development. He said we will discuss a request from Nottoway County about possible water and sewer for their lot next to the bowling alley.

POLICE REPORT

Nothing to report.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Col. Tom Wilkinson

Col. Wilkinson apologized for being late and missed the comments on DBi, but understand there was a comment about cutting \$18,000.00 due to differences in other communities. He said based on Tory McGowan who is the specialist at VMS, he received an email from him today and Farmville receives \$60,000.00 from the Town and an additional \$10,500.00 from their County. He said Hopewell gets \$70,000.00 and even the small town of Franklin gets \$55,000.00 from the city and an additional \$55,000.00 from the Historic District Tax.

Col. Wilkinson advised as part of the Rotary, they just put in for a grant for a bus stop shelter for the Town. He said it hadn't been approved yet but the grant was for \$5,000.00 and they were trying to get others involved to help.

Councilman Nash suggested while they are still working on Nottoway Avenue perhaps they would contribute towards a shelter at Cole Harbor and build a concrete slab.

Mr. Michael Bagley asked if there would be any public restrooms downtown. Mayor Coleburn replied Council voted no earlier in the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711

5/ Prospective Business or Industry

Councilman Moncure made a motion to go into Closed Session for discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye
Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Moncure	-	Aye
Councilman Hamner	-	Aye
Councilman Scott	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye

Council 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.

VOTE:

- Councilwoman Thompson - Certify
- Councilman Tucker - Certify
- Councilman Nash - Certify
- Councilman Moncure - Certify
- Councilman Hamner - Certify
- Councilman Scott - Certify
- Councilman Green - Certify

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

APPROVED AND ADOPTED

TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA