

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia, held in the Council Chambers located at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia on Monday, July 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

Mayor: William D. Coleburn

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

Town Staff: Philip Vannoorbeeck, Town Manager; Jennifer Daniel, Clerk; Jennifer Hardy, Finance Director; Brittany Harris, Treasurer; Nicholas Kuzmiak, Police Chief; Dion Tomer, Fire Chief; Yvonne Wilson, Community Development Director; Joshua Worrell, Transit Director; Lee Scott, Police Officer

Town Attorney: Tessie Bacon

Those Absent: Chief Kuzmiak; Jennifer Hardy

Mayor Coleburn called the July Council Meeting to order and welcomed the new Council members.

Mayor Coleburn delivered the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Coleburn asked if anyone would like to add anything to the Agenda. Manager Vannoorbeeck asked to add under Unfinished Business #1, electricity to the Gravatt Farm.

Councilman Miller asked to add Unfinished Business #7 – Ms. Brenda White.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Rezoning Request – Moonlight Mechanical – 102 Pine Road

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

*The Town of Blackstone Town Council shall hold a Public Hearing on July 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers, 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Va. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider a Conditional Rezoning request from **Moonlight Mechanical, LLC** to rezone approximately nine acres from R-2, Medium Residential to M-1, Light Manufacturing with proffered conditions. The property is designated as Nottoway County Tax Map Number 50A20-1-1 through 3. This property is also known as 102 Pine Road.*

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this is a request for a Conditional Rezoning. He said the Planning Commission has met and accepted the proffers. He said the specific use initially is for a warehouse for a mechanical company, Moonlight Mechanical.

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

Mrs. Barbara Jones

Mrs. Jones said she owns a house on Pine Road. She was concerned with the rezoning; will this interfere with the houses in the area. Mayor Coleburn replied the only property being rezoned is behind Lion of Judah Ministries.

Mayor Coleburn clarified the activities with the property will be from Monday – Saturday, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Coleburn asked if the Planning Commission vote was unanimous. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes.

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Green asked if all the neighbors had been contacted. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied letters were sent for the Planning Commission and this Council Meeting.

Councilwoman Hasbrouck said Lion of Judah meets on Saturdays, will this effect their church services. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied he did not know the answer, but thought there was quite a bit of buffer between the two properties.

Councilman Green made a motion to accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation and approve the rezoning from R-2 to M-1, Light Manufacturing for 102 Pine Road. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

MINUTES:

Councilman Nash made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented the Regular Council Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2018 and the Continued Meeting Minutes from June 6th and June 27th 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

VISITORS:

Blackstone Chamber – Arts & Crafts

Mrs. April Wright advised this would be the 49th Festival and will be on September 8th and 9th.

Mrs. Wright asked for approval of the following: waive the banner fee, use of the Armory, street closures per the map included, police escort for the 5K as well as the tractor parade.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the Arts & Crafts Festival requests as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn asked where the locations would be for the Fire Department Boot Drive. Chief Tomer replied Fifth and Main, Church Street at ShowBest, Dinwiddie Avenue at town limits, N. Main Street will be close to the town limits and at BABS Lane.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the Fire Department Boot Drive. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn advised Mr. Bobby Daniels has always paid \$500.00 for the petting zoo. He said the owner of the petting zoo contacted him at the newspaper to let him know that nobody had reserved their services.

Mrs. Wright said they were aware of this, the owner contacted them as well. She said they did not have this in the budget for this year and advised the owner there would not be a petting zoo this year.

Councilman Green made a motion to use the Discretionary Fund to hire the services of the petting zoo for Arts & Crafts.

Mrs. Wright said her opinion was this was handled in bad taste, after the Chamber advised they didn't have the money this year the owner contacted the Daniels' family. Councilman Green asked if we could put personal feelings aside. Councilman Nash added the corporate entities in Town may step up.

Councilman Green rescinded his motion.

Mayor Coleburn asked to have on the Agenda for August if need be.

Mrs. Jane Barnes asked to talk with Mayor Coleburn before contacting the petting zoo company.

Mr. Waymond Mitchell advised Council he went to see Mr. Daniels today.

Joshua Johnson – Town Square

Mr. Christopher Page attended the meeting in place of Josh Johnson. He said their request is for the use of the Town Square for a live karaoke competition. He said they would like to use the Town Square on September 22nd, that would start off their 7-week competition. He said there would be judges and cash prizes. He added the first event will be at the Town Square with the remaining 6 weeks being held at the Brew House.

Mr. Page explained this event would be free to the public but there will be an entry or registration fee for the singers. He said food would be available for sale by the Brew House with all health department regulations being adhered to. He added there will be beer and wine served on the premises with up to 5 tickets that can be purchased. He said all ABC regulations will be adhered to and the responsibility of the Brew House.

Mr. Page said they will need electricity for their sound system. He said they planned to have sponsors with 3x5 banners being attached to the fence at the Town Square.

Councilman Green asked if there was a charge to use the Town Square. Councilman Wilkinson replied no, it is looked at as a service to the community.

Councilman Green suggested allowing use for the first event and then see how it goes. He suggested an off-duty officer for security and that the local police could shut it down at any time.

Mr. Page advised they would be providing their own security that would be on site, there will be barricades up so alcohol cannot be taken out of the Town Square. He said the Blackstone Police Department will be notified and provide wrist bands for alcohol. He added it will be bands for beer not cash.

Mayor Coleburn said it sounded identical to what DBi used to have with their concerts.

Mr. Page advised they have an ABC license that allows sale off premises and insurance is being handled by the Brew House.

Councilman Green made a motion to approve the request with the caveat of requiring an off-duty police officer and granting the Blackstone Police Department authority to shut the venue down at their discretion. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hasbrouck.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn referred rules and regulations for the Town Square to the Buildings, Property and Cemetery Committee.

Councilman Nash asked that all trash be cleaned up and if not, a fee should be charged by the Town. Mr. Page replied they had no problem with that.

Mr. Lewis Johnson

Mr. Johnson thanked the Blackstone police officers for being lenient on July 4th.

Mr. Johnson said he owns his own business and is not open on Saturdays but there is someone selling BBQ across from the Town Shop. He said he had to pay \$500.00 and get insurance and wants to be sure this person, Blackstone BBQ has to do the same.

Mayor Coleburn asked town staff to find out the status of Blackstone BBQ and how it compares/contrasts with Tasty Js and other ventures like that.

Councilman Miller asked how certain businesses are operating when there is a list of businesses in the packet that have not paid their business license fee. Treasurer Harris replied she recently sent out certified letters requiring business licenses to be paid by June 29th, if not then legal action is the next step.

Councilman Green asked staff to look at the way they issue business licenses, make sure it is equitable to who is receiving the license.

Mr. Johnson thanked Councilman Green, he said he was good with the books.

Mr. David Patterson

Mr. Patterson said he was concerned because he is still working for Pizza Hut and has a hard time finding the 911 addresses. Clerk Daniel advised she and the electric department are working together to get addresses displayed.

Mayor Coleburn referred the Town's house numbering, driveways or larger numbers to the Health & Ordinance Committee.

Mr. Patterson asked if the Town would be offering a payment plan. Mayor Coleburn replied it is in the budget to try to start this process in the spring.

Mr. Ben Browder

Mr. Browder complained about County taxes.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Tomer advised they were awarded a 50/50 grant from the Virginia Office of EMS for a new defibrillator which costs right at \$32,000.00 and emergency lighting upgrades on EMS 11.

Chief Tomer advised the aerial truck was back in the station.

Chief Tomer advised on the bids that Council approved previously, for air packs that will expire in 2021. He said sealed bids were received but only by one vendor, in the amount of \$229,930.00.

Councilman Nash asked if there was any reason why no one else bid, are there other vendors out there. Chief Tomer replied it is almost like turn out gear, they want the vendor in that service district to get the bid.

Councilman Nash asked if this was the entire bid or if there was anything else to be bid. Chief Tomer replied there is an item on eVA now for bid, a fit testing machine that is running about \$13,000.00.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the one bid as presented from Fire & Safety Equipment Company in the amount of \$229,930.65. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Green made a motion to accept the grant from the Virginia office of EMS and pay the match of \$17,950.00. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn asked if the money was in the budget. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied no, but it is within the \$250,000.00 saved, but with all three items it is in excess of \$9,500.00.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills that have already been paid are in the amount of \$655,414.59.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the bills that have already been paid in the amount of \$655,414.59. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hasbrouck.

Councilman Nash asked about a meter deposit returned for \$1,323.00 to Laurie Lucas. Treasurer Harris replied this was for Blackstone Pizza & Wing, they put up a larger deposit, she believed it went off of previous usage there.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills not yet approved but to be paid are in the amount of \$168,331.88.

Councilwoman Thompson made a motion to approve as presented the bills not yet approved but to be paid in the amount of \$168,331.88. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green.

Councilman Green asked about Caskie Graphics for \$1,458.00. Treasurer Procise replied that is the cost for the utility postcards.

Councilman Green asked about the litter grant, Twist & Turn Manufacturing, please tell him that was for more than one 30-gallon trash can for \$1,800.00. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied it was multiple cans.

Councilman Green asked about an AC recovery machine that was billed on two different pages. Transit Director Worrell advised it was one machine but split between the bus system and the shop.

Councilman Nash asked again about CenturyLink at the Carriage Museum. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied Finance Director Hardy is working on this.

Councilman Nash pointed out that the Police Department had \$290.00 in parking tickets and that the Town donates this annually to HELP.

Councilman Miller asked what Virginia Maryland and Delaware was. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied it is monthly training for staff.

Councilman Nash asked about Simmons Monument, reset monuments, what is the Town's deductible. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied there is a \$500.00 deductible, so the Cemetery Fund pays to reset the headstones.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no Committee Reports.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Street Closure – Family Reunion/Block Party – Third Street – 8-4-18
2. Street Closure – School Street – 8-11-18

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve both Consent Agenda items. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Rezoning Request – North West Avenue (Gravatt Property)

Mayor Coleburn advised the Planning Commission recommended unanimously to rezone property during the Joint Public Hearing.

Mr. Jiri Heck asked about the buffer and preserving the trees, what is the buffer going to be. Mayor Coleburn replied when the Planning Commission voted it included a buffer of 100'. He added what he had seen of the proposed activity there would be quiet residential on the back property.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised this would be a conditional rezoning with proffers to include:

no manufactured homes
residential roof pitch > 5/12
traffic study will ultimately be forthcoming,
apartments in the R-3 will be age restricted only, in the 4.6-acre area, (Mr. Byers said by law age restricted is 55 and older)

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised R-3 will permit townhomes and houses. He added the homes will either be modular or stick built.

Mayor Coleburn clarified the proffers are part of the deed.

Mr. Lewis Johnson asked why the Town of Blackstone should be responsible for getting electric to this project.

Mayor Coleburn said the proffers do include a special tax district for three phase power if Council chooses to do so.

Mayor Coleburn asked Council to define the buffer, he recalled 100' with the Planning Commission.

Councilman Green made a motion that Council accept the Planning Commission's unanimous recommendation to rezone approximately 24.375 acres from R-1 to G-B, General Business and to conditionally rezone 357.1 acres from R-1 to R-3, Heavy Residential including the proffers and as offered by the developer a 100' buffer for the western southern property lines. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Councilman Miller asked the developer to clarify the buffer. Mr. Byers replied it depends on topography, there will be a minimum of 100' but could be more. He said a lot of the property has a drop off and cannot be used so there is no need to clear it. Manager Vannoorbeeck added the buffer can be perpendicular for utilities.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Electric Utilities – Industrial Park

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he and Mr. Dan Martin back in 2013 discussed getting electricity in the Industrial Park. He said there was a verbal understanding between the Town and Southside Electric that the Town would give up the old Nottoway Lumber property in exchange the Town would take into its territory the Industrial Park. He said Southside claimed they never got a response from the Town.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Mr. Carlo had asked to revisit his building being on three phase power. He said Southside Electric has advised it would cost \$466,000.00 to run three phase power from North Main Street to the location.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the reason he wants to bring the Town into it is because Structural Concepts does not have the appropriate electric service either. He said he had contacted the State Corporation Commission about delivery points and they said Southside Electric has the right to deny this.

Mayor Coleburn asked Mr. Byers if he had contacted Southside Electric. Mr. Byers replied he had not, he has been working with Manager Vannoorbeeck.

Mayor Coleburn said he did not think it would be unreasonable to have Mr. Byers contact Southside Electric.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we have nothing now, no electric service for an Industrial Park. He said he was not proposing the Town pay for the line to get there, he is asking interested parties to pay a prorated share and create a special tax district.

Councilman Green asked what the benefit to the Town would be to encumber a half a million dollars debt as opposed to the investors. He said he had a hard time having his low to moderate income constituents paying for this. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied he thought the Town had an obligation for the 100 acres that the Town has, Mr. Carlo had an obligation for his share and the vast majority would be borne by Mr. Byers.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the intention is to do this through Rural Utilities to extend the payments as much as 30 years.

Councilman Green said the plan is to recoup this half a million dollars. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes, it will be paid back. He added the Town would not make any payment on the debt except the prorated share for the Town.

Mayor Coleburn said he was worried about securing the money for this project.

Mr. Lonnie Smith said if the Town doesn't help then that will discourage other developers from coming to the Town's Industrial Park.

Mayor Coleburn said can we agree in concept and have Mr. Byers contact Southside Electric and find out what the number is, find out the acreage and find out the potential liability to the people of Blackstone.

Councilman Nash believed three phase electric would not begin until Mr. Byers begins construction.

Mayor Coleburn said in spirit we agree on getting three phase electric to the Industrial Park, but before there is a vote Council will need dollar figures, acreage, etc. He said by Common Consent that staff and Mr. Byers proceed with gathering this data. He said when a decision is going to be made that it is advertised so the public knows.

Councilman Wilkinson said based on Ft. Pickett's water allocation, is there enough water to support this and Nottoway Commons. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied not the water, sewer is an issue. He said we have submitted a proposal requesting an additional 400,000 gallons for sewer in exchange for no taps fees at Pickett. He said after speaking with the Col. today, the Col. is requesting a written request.

Manager Vannoorbeeck clarified with the pump upgrade it is only if the State does not require permit modification.

2. Tobacco Fund Application – Nottoway Commons

Mayor Coleburn said Nottoway County wants to know if the Town wants to proceed with the Tobacco Grant Application to upgrade the sewer treatment plant to increase capacity. He said he had been informed that Mr. Orlando Gomez is eager to begin work. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied nothing is hurt to make the application.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the engineer's estimate would be about \$130,000.00 to create recirculation pumps that would create about a 10% capacity jump at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Manager Vannoorbeeck explained the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant is a 2 Million gallon a day treated plant. He said when the Federal Government gave the plant to the Town the agreement was they gave us $\frac{3}{4}$ of the money and the Town had to come up with $\frac{1}{4}$ of the money to renovate the plant. He said after doing this the Town got 500,000 gallons of the flow a day and we are currently at 425,000 gallons a day.

Councilman Green asked that Manager Vannoorbeeck explain the negotiations to the new Council.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there was some question as to running utilities out of town, should that area be annexed or leave it out of Town and receive a 50% premium on the water and sewer.

Mayor Coleburn said the Town already serves Nottoway Lanes with water and sewer, and in May 2017 the County said the Town could boundary adjust the area at a time of its choosing. He said he has heard rumors but has not heard from any merchant saying not to run water and sewer out there.

Councilman Miller believed the Board of Supervisors thought everything was agreed upon for water and sewer, why are we bickering.

Councilman Nash believed if we do this project, the Town has to boundary adjust to make it an even playing field.

Mayor Coleburn said the Town's counteroffer to boundary adjust to the airport was not well received and Mr. Gomez had only cleared the land, it has sat for the past year, so the water and sewer discussions have sat idle.

Manager Vannoorbeeck recommended making the request to the County to apply for Tobacco Commission Funding for the 10% increase. He said the second request is whether we are going to provide water and sewer, that is our growth, we cannot expand electric. He said any sewer connection or extension will be at Mr. Gomez's expense.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised on the water line that will run parallel to Highway 40 from the main gate back to the bowling alley, that is already being contemplated by the Town and will be bid out shortly.

Councilwoman Thompson made a motion to proceed with the Tobacco Fund Application for the upgrade at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for capacity. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Green made a motion that Mayor Coleburn write a letter to the Nottoway Board of Supervisors indicating the Town's sincere intention to provide water and sewer to the Nottoway Commons project and at the Town's discretion will decide if there will be a boundary adjustment at our convenience or if they will be treated as out of town customers. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

3. Cemetery Policy

Mayor Coleburn said he had received questions/complaints about the Cemetery Policy and how it divides new versus old in the Cemetery and how the Town is not actively and consistently enforcing the regulations in the new portion. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied fair criticism, there are a number of non-complying decorations placed on headstones in the Cemetery. He said the new policy didn't make it illegal, it was never approved.

Mayor Coleburn said maybe this is the time to make the Cemetery one unit, people want consistency.

Councilman Nash suggested taking Item #7 from the new portion and make it for the entire Cemetery.

Manager Vannoorbeeck pointed out there had been an explosion of confederate flags put up in the Cemetery and thought they should be put up by a recognized organization.

Councilman Nash made a motion to have #7 from the Cemetery Policy, Blocks 1-20, be part of the entire Cemetery Policy and effective September 1, 2018, the Policy be enforced to include notification prior and signage approved by Council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

4. Reiss Corporation Deed

Attorney Bacon explained this came up during a previous meeting and required more research. She said Reiss Corporation's request was that the Town deed them certain parcels of property that should have already been done. She said she was tasked with making sure this was a mistake and that Reiss Corporation was not asking for anything additional. She said Reiss Corporation is asking that the Town deed certain roads and right of ways in the Industrial Park that's between the parcels and also asking for easements over the roads and right of ways.

Councilman Nash said the total acres needing to be cleaned up is 4.

Mayor Coleburn asked if there was any detriment to the Town. Attorney Bacon replied no.

Councilman Nash said we cannot just give land away, if we are deeding land we should get the average price like with our sales to UAV Pro.

Mayor Coleburn said sometimes when things like this are brought to attention, someone is preparing to sell. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied he had no indication of that.

Mayor Coleburn asked if there was any harm if we do not approve. Attorney Bacon replied no.

Councilman Green said if the Town is going to give taxpayers land away, he thought we deserved an explanation.

Mayor Coleburn said if we are going to sell land we need to use what the Gravatt Farm will be sold for per acre to be fair.

Councilman Wilkinson asked if Reiss Corporation maintained the roads currently or does the Town. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied Polymer Place is a state-maintained road.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised the portion to be deeded is undeveloped.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the deed request changes with Reiss Corporation paying the Town's attorney fees and any fees associated. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Mr. Reiss had committed himself to building a cul-de-sac but found it would be cost prohibitive, but it is included in the proposal sent originally. Manager Vannoorbeeck thought it was necessary to have something, maybe not state maintained.

5. Pole Attachments

Attorney Bacon said this can be done but if the Town plans to do this, it should be a uniform rate for all service providers.

Manager Vannoorbeeck read different rates being charged. He said the telephone company owns an appreciable number of poles in Blackstone.

Councilman Nash asked how many poles does the Town own. Manager Vannoorbeeck did not have a total.

Mayor Coleburn referred this to the Account and Finance Committee.

6. Keep Virginia Beautiful Grant

Mayor Coleburn advised the Town was not successful with this grant.

7. Ms. Brenda White – Delinquent Taxes

Councilman Miller asked to revisit the issue from last month about Ms. Brenda White's delinquent taxes. He had a bill in front of him that totaled \$879.00. He said we are not here to put the blame on anybody, but the way it was handled he did not think it was right.

Councilman Miller said Councilman Nash and Councilwoman Thompson thought Ms. White should have received some money back because the certified letter went to the wrong place. Mayor Coleburn clarified the letter was not mailed certified.

Councilman Miller asked Council to reconsider, we all make mistakes. He added Ms. White got sick and somebody else took over her bills.

Mayor Coleburn clarified the previous issue considered was not about the delinquent taxes but about a legal bill received from James Elliot's office in the amount of \$468.60.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said indeed there was a bad address and Mr. Elliott would not waive the legal fees. He said the legal bill and delinquent taxes have now been paid. He added Treasurer Harris had apologized in a letter to Ms. White about the incorrect address.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to pay the legal bill of \$468.60 in full to Ms. Brenda White. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hasbrouck.

Councilman Nash said he still leaned towards the amount he offered before in order to be kind hearted, \$175.00.

Councilman Nash made a substitute motion to offer his original amount of \$175.00 to be paid to Ms. Brenda White. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn said as a matter of protocol he had to entertain the main motion.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn said the main motion was defeated 5-2.

Mayor Coleburn told Ms. Brenda White she would be getting a refund of \$175.00.

Mayor Coleburn recognized Lt. Col. Paul Gravely.

Mayor Coleburn asked to deviate from the Agenda and have Council approve his committee assignments.

Committee Assignments

Councilman Green made a motion to approve Mayor Coleburn’s slate of committee members.

Manager Vannoorbeeck clarified depending on the outcome of the recount for the election.

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn said every four years Council elects a President.

Councilman Green made a motion to leave Councilwoman Thompson as President until the full Council is seated. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

ON-GOING PROJECTS:

1. Dilapidated Buildings

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised town equipment had cleared around 203 Mann Street but we are still awaiting asbestos removal. He said the Schnepf's had signed the indemnity agreements.

2. Meals Tax

There was nothing to report.

3. Street Improvement Projects

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town had been awarded a \$456,402.00 grant to do the next phase of South Main Street, from Sixth to beyond Eighth Street. He said the Town has to match this grant money so it will take at least three years to save for it.

4. Wrigglesworth Sports Complex

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised the second phase of the Tap 21 Grant was approved. He said the first phase was approved for \$206,000.00 that was received this year.

Manager Vannoorbeeck explained this project will be sidewalk and curb and gutter to get kids out of Birch Street. He said the first phase will be from Oak Street to the entrance of the ball park then on Harris Street to LCCDC. He said this will include antique lighting, curb and gutter and sidewalk.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised the second phase picks up at the intersection of Harris and Birch Street and will continue to the primary school, then take a left on Powell Street and finish up on Jackson Street. He said this will be curb and gutter and sidewalks with antique lights.

Councilman Green asked if Council would consider marking every 10th of a mile.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised traffic calming devices would be on Harris Street.

Councilman Green asked about the field that goes along Oak Street as the practice field for the Gators. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied it is still in the plan but it needs to be graded to accommodate the wetness.

Manager Vannoorbeeck explained in exchange for the grant money the Town has to do in kind work, installing the lights and paving on Harris Street.

5. Utility Upgrade Project

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised a low bid of \$975,130.00 was received from Lisbon Buildings & Infrastructures, Inc.

Mayor Coleburn asked what the bid amount included. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied it is specific to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said it would replace the bar screen, recondition the clarifier and trickling filter and the distribution box. He said this will include work at Rocky Bump and Forest Drive pump stations, he said the motors are above ground and the pumps are below ground so hoists will be installed.

Councilwoman Thompson made a motion to approve the low bid of \$975,130.00 to Lisbon Buildings & Infrastructures, Inc. for the improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and authorize Manager Vannoorbeeck to execute the documents. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green.

Councilman Nash asked if they were licensed and insured. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied he had never worked with them but would make sure.

Councilman Wilkinson asked if the Tobacco Commission Grant applied to this. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied no it did not include any of this.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised there is also work included at the Water Treatment Plant to replace actuators.

Councilman Green advised there is \$2.2 Million in bank to do this. Manager Vannoorbeeck added the money was borrowed in 2016 and the proceeds are at Benchmark Bank.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

6. East End Neighborhood Project

Mayor Coleburn advised there was no news yet.

7. Rental Property Maintenance

Community Development Director Wilson advised there was nothing to report but Access Realty was helping with a list of rental properties.

8. Weatherization

Community Development Director Wilson advised the Program Design was included in the Council Packet. She asked that this be adopted. She said this will be presented annually and the only change was an update in income of households.

Community Development Director Wilson advised the Grant Management Assistance and Housing Rehabilitation Specialist service proposals were received Friday. She said one was received for each, Southside Outreach for grant management and Howerton Inspection for the inspections.

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

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

9. Comprehensive Plan

Community Development Director Wilson advised on the Blackstone Community Forum that will be held on July 31st. She encouraged the community to attend to advise what the needs are for the community. She said this is going to help in preparing the Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Coleburn added this would be at the Fire Department.

10. Veterans Day Event

Mayor Coleburn advised November 2018 would be the 100th Anniversary of Veterans Day and a ceremony would be held in Seay Park. He said he got tired of seeing the Veterans having to do all the work for Veterans Day.

Community Development Director Wilson advised on the banners being purchased.

Councilman Miller advised on the All-American Post this year.

Mayor Coleburn said the Governor's office had received the invitation.

Community Development Director Wilson advised the event would begin at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 11th.

Councilman Nash asked if the flags were good enough to be reused. Mayor Coleburn replied yes.

Councilman Green made a motion to purchase the 30 military flags using the Centennial Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Surplus Items

Councilman Nash made a motion to declare surplus the 1986 International Wrecker and the 2001 International Dump Truck. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

2. SCBA – Award Bids

This was approved earlier in the meeting.

3. Board of Zoning Appeals – Recommendation

Mayor Coleburn clarified that Councilman Miller cannot be on the Board of Zoning Appeals and Council.

Mayor Coleburn asked that Council present a name at the August Council Meeting.

4. Committee Assignments

This was voted on earlier in the meeting.

5. Mayor’s Requests

Mayor Coleburn wanted to be sure the new Council was ok with the following:

Seating arrangement, rotating the voting order monthly, starting the meetings with the invocation and pledge and meeting on the third Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve all items as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

6. Golf Carts – Electric Department

Councilman Nash thought a golf cart would be an easier way to read water meters each month. He said we have one golf cart currently that the Police Department owns.

Councilman Nash made a motion to allocate \$2,500.00 to buy another cart to allow readings be done by golf cart, weather permitting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

7. VDOT Smart Scale – Tenth to Fair Street

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised this would be funds of up to \$3,437,219.00 from VDOT to put towards widening South Main Street and for curb and gutter and sidewalks and is all 100% grant.

Mayor Coleburn asked to get the Nottoway County Planning Council to help with this and get a letter of support from FASTC.

Councilwoman Hasbrouck made a motion to proceed with applying for the VDOT Smart Scale Grant and adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

COMMITTEE REFERRALS:

1. Second Street Ditch

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

2. Budget Plan

Mayor Coleburn referred this to the Account & Finance Committee.

3. Outsourcing Taxes/Utilities

Mayor Coleburn referred this to the Account & Finance Committee.

4. Virginia Street Alleyway

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

MAYORS MINUTE:

Mayor Coleburn said it was a pleasure serving with Council tonight. He said Council are the legislatures, you do the heavy lifting, he basically runs the meeting. He said his door was always open and asked Council to vote their own conscience.

Mayor Coleburn asked about the letter from Mr. Robert Thomas. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied he had met with Mr. Thomas and VDOT to find out the Town's obligations with the terms of the grant. He said VDOT told him he could change the terms of the grant at any time.

Mayor Coleburn asked to get what VDOT said in writing.

Councilman Nash asked if the Herb Cottage could set up a booth in the Town Square the night of the karaoke contest. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes.

Mayor Coleburn said the Brew House reserved the Square that night and should have the right to say who serves anything. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied if they were paying for it.

Councilwoman Hasbrouck suggested paying a deposit.

POLICE REPORT:

There was nothing to report.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Mr. Lewis Johnson said the Town of Blackstone is higher because we are only allowed 800 kilowatts. Mayor Coleburn said he asked Council to look at a universal electric rate.

Mr. Johnson said Southside Electric's threshold is 1100 but the Town's is at 800 kilowatts.

Mayor Coleburn referred kilowatts to the Account & Finance Committee.

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

_____ APPROVED AND ADOPTED

TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA