

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 21, 2018 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; Brittany Harris, Treasurer; Nicholas Kuzmiak, Police Chief; Dion Tomer, Fire Chief; Yvonne Wilson, Community Development Director; Joshua Worrell, Transit Director; Zac Beares, Deputy Chief; Jason Robertson, Police Officer

Town Attorney: Tessie Bacon

Those Absent: Yvonne Wilson, Chief Kuzmiak

Mayor Coleburn called the May Council Meeting to order.

Mayor Coleburn delivered the Invocation.

Mayor Coleburn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Bad Checks-Payment Policy – Section 38-5

Town of Blackstone **Public Notice**

The Town Council of the Town of Blackstone will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 21, 2018 at 7:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as it may be held in the Council Chambers located at 100 West Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia 23824. The purpose of the public hearing is to revise, amend and re-enact the existing Blackstone Town Code section 38-5, entitled Bad Checks-Payment Policy. The revisions include collecting a fee of \$35 in the event that any means of payment for town taxes or any other sums due are returned for insufficient fees, because there is no account or the account is closed, or because such payment was returned because of a stop payment order. This fee shall be collectible from the person who gives the means of payment. It also allows the Treasurer to refuse other means of payment from anyone who has twice given these forms of payment to the Town within a period of two years.

Mayor Coleburn advised we charge \$35.00 for a bad check and we are trying to include that for credit card payments as well.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this would make all forms of payment on par to be \$35.00 across the board.

Mayor Coleburn asked how a credit card payment goes bad. Treasurer Harris replied if someone disputes a charge that was made then the person who used the card will be responsible for paying the \$35.00. Manager Vannoorbeeck added if the charges are contested then the Town is not reimbursed.

Mayor Coleburn asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against the proposed amendment to the Check Ordinance.

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Moncure made a motion to adopt the amended Bad Checks-Payment Policy Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Vacation of Public Alley – College Avenue

Town of Blackstone
Public Notice

The Town Council of the Town of Blackstone will hold a public hearing on May 21, 2018 at 7:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as it may be held, at the Blackstone Town Hall. The Town Council will take public comment regarding the vacation of a public alley pursuant to Virginia Code 15.2-2006. The alley sought to be vacated runs in a north-south direction parallel to College Avenue between Third Street and Fourth Street and being in Block 40 of the West Blackstone plat, a copy of which is available for review in Town Hall. The alley is located in the Town of Blackstone, Virginia. The public hearing is to hear comments regarding vacating the public alley.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there has been a request from the Marshall's who live at the corner of Third and College, to vacate an alley behind their home and runs in a north south direction between Third and Fourth Street.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said it is not the Town's intention to ever use this alley. He said the request advertised is for the entire alley.

Mayor Coleburn asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against the proposal.

Mr. Marshall said the area had not been used in forever. He said there is 350' behind his property that is open. He said he did talk to someone from the Fire Department and was advised if there was ever a fire they would come from the road not that alleyway. He said he was not trying to cause problems, he just did not want an alley behind his house.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised the alleyway would be split in half, so Mr. Marshall's property would increase by 5' as would the rest of the residents.

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Nash asked if Council could wait to vote until next month since there is a possibility of something happening with VUMAC.

Mayor Coleburn said there is considerable speculation that the VUMAC property could be sold this month.

Mrs. Doris Winn entered the meeting.

Councilman Nash made a motion to table until no later than the June 18th Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.

Mrs. Marshall asked why we would delay this for a potential sale. Councilman Nash replied someone may want that alleyway that fronts Fourth Street.

Mrs. Marshall said they made their request last August and if VUMAC is opposing this they should be here tonight because it was advertised. Mr. Marshall said the whole point of bringing this up is because he did not want a right of way behind his house.

Councilman Nash said he understood if just their half was vacated. Mr. Marshall replied that is all they are asking for.

Mayor Coleburn said he and Councilman Nash discussed this briefly before the meeting, if the sale goes through, could there be a need for an alleyway. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied if so the Town would have to require the developer build a road.

Mayor Coleburn clarified there was no inside deal going on.

Mrs. Winn advised she owned the majority of the alley but was not sure what was fair.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Vacation of Public Road – Tenth Street

Town of Blackstone
Public Notice

The Town Council of the Town of Blackstone will hold a public hearing on May 21, 2018, at 7:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as it may be held, at the Blackstone Town Hall. The Town Council will take public comment regarding the vacation of a public road pursuant to Virginia Code 15.2-2006. The area sought to be vacated is a portion of Tenth Street, making the road only fifty feet wide, instead of eighty feet. The portion of 10th street is adjacent to tax map number 50A36-3-32 and 32A located in the Town of Blackstone, Virginia. A plat that depicts the change in question is available at the Town Office for review. The public hearing is to hear comments regarding vacating a portion of the public road.

Manager Vannoorbeeck explained when Westwood Drive became Tenth Street Extended and the intersection was no longer a loop that created a turn around on Tenth Street. He said Mrs. Sharon Dalton has made a request and Mr. Warren Dalton supported it.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised Mrs. Dalton is requesting a reduction in the right of way so it is not a public turn around area. He said the advertisement was to reduce the right of way to a minimum of 50’.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he was not asking for a vote tonight because the applicant needed to pay the costs for a survey and that the appropriate easements would be granted to the Town.

Mayor Coleburn opened the Public Hearing and asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against the vacation of the public right of way on Tenth Street.

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing

Mayor Coleburn said by Common Consent this would be tabled until the survey was prepared.

Surplus Property – Deed of Exchange – Reiss Corporation

Town of Blackstone

Public Notice

Public Hearing for Designation of Surplus Property

The Town Council of the Town of Blackstone will hold a public hearing on May 21, 2018, at 7:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter it may be held, at the Blackstone Town Hall. The Town Council will take public comment regarding the declaring surplus certain real property owned by the Town of Blackstone. The property being considered is described as Lot 4, containing 0.659 acres, more or less, and Lot 8, containing 0.564 acres, more or less, as shown on the Survey Entitled “Division of Blackstone Industrial Park”, dated June 5, 1989, revised August 9, 1990, recorded in Plat Book 5, Page 21 (the “1990 Survey”), and a permanent easement for means of ingress and egress across Lots 2, 5, and 6, as shown on the 1990 Survey, to Grantee’s Lots 1, 3, and 7, as shown on the 1990 Survey. Such property is located in the Town of Blackstone, Virginia. A copy of the “1990 Survey” is on file in the Blackstone Town Hall.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Reiss Corporation is trying to clean up the title. He said he talked to Carl on Friday and some recent documents talked about them building a cul-de-sac at the end of the street, but after finding out the cost he asked to be relieved of building the cul-de-sac.

Attorney Bacon advised this was really just a straight deed from the Town of Blackstone to Reiss Corporation to clean up title issues that were not recorded.

Mayor Coleburn asked Manager Vannoorbeeck if this was a hardship to the Town. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied no but there was still work to be done.

Mayor Coleburn opened the Public Hearing and asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against the proposed sale/exchange of property with Reiss Corporation.

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Coleburn said by Common Consent this will be reviewed once more information is provided.

Sale of Property – Deed of Exchange – Reiss Corporation

Town of Blackstone
Public Notice
Sale of Certain Real Property

The Town Council of the Town of Blackstone will hold a public hearing on May 21, 2018, at 7:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter it may be held, at the Blackstone Town Hall. The Town Council will take public comment regarding the sale of certain property owned by the Town of Blackstone pursuant to Virginia Code section 15.2-1800. The property being considered is described as Lot 4, containing 0.659 acres, more or less, and Lot 8, containing 0.564 acres, more or less, as shown on the Survey Entitled "Division of Blackstone Industrial Park", dated June 5, 1989, revised August 9, 1990, recorded in Plat Book 5, Page 21 (the "1990 Survey"), and a permanent easement for means of ingress and egress across Lots 2, 5, and 6, as shown on the 1990 Survey, to Grantee's Lots 1, 3, and 7, as shown on the 1990 Survey. Such property is located in the Town of Blackstone, Virginia. A copy of the "1990 Survey" is on file in the Blackstone Town Hall.

No action was taken.

Proposed Revenue Bond Issuance

***NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED REVENUE
BOND ISSUANCE BY THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE,
VIRGINIA***

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia (the "Town"), will hold a public hearing in accordance with Section 15.2-2606 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, on the issuance of one or more series of bonds (the "Bonds") of the Town in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$1,600,000, the proceeds of which will be used, along with other available funds, if any, to finance the costs of various approved Town drainage, water and sewer capital improvement projects and to pay the costs of issuance on the Bonds. The public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, will be held at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard on MONDAY, MAY 21, 2018, before the Town Council at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia 23824.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised this is specific to the East End Project for the water, sewer and any obligation from the Town for drainage improvements. He said if the grant is rejected it is not the Town's intention to proceed with drainage improvements but will continue with the water and sewer.

Mayor Coleburn asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against the proposed issuance of bonds.

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing.

Manager Vannoorbeeck introduced Mr. T.W. Bruno with McGuire Woods. He said there is an engagement letter enclosed to hire Mr. Bruno for Bond Counsel. Mr. Bruno said their cost would be \$10,000.00.

Councilman Nash made a motion to execute the engagement letter with McGuire Woods for Bond Counsel for the East End financing at \$10,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

MINUTES:

Councilman Nash made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented the Regular Council Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2018 and the Special Called Meeting Minutes from May 2, 2018 and May 10, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

VISITORS:

Mrs. Jerri Morton – 100 Mile Yard Sale

Mayor Coleburn advised Mrs. Jerri Morton was not present but wanted to promote the 100 Mile Yard Sale on Saturday July 7, 2018. He said Mr. Zachary Whitlow has agreed to encourage people to set up in the Town Square at no cost and register through DBi.

Councilman Scott made a motion to waive the Yard Sale Fee for the 100 Mile Yard Sale on July 7, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Arts & Crafts – Mr. Scooter Cogar

Mr. Cogar said he was born and raised in Blackstone and went to Virginia Tech, which is where he got involved in Timber Sports. He said he would like to attach with Arts and Crafts and hold a one-day event. He said this would be the only open event in the State of Virginia.

Mr. Cogar said he plans to use local wood as much as possible. He advised yellow pine is not used very much so in the chopping events everyone would hold a world record.

Mr. Cogar provided a sample entry form but did advise his forms would include holding the Chamber and the Town of Blackstone harmless. He said there would be 8 separate events and wanted to have them on the downside next to the Armory. He said he is going to get his own sponsors so the cost to the Town would be zero.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the event as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker.

Mayor Coleburn said during the festival the Noise Ordinance has been waived in the past for bands so it will be waived this year as well.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Waymond Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell said there is a jungle on Fourth Street at VUMAC.

Mr. Mitchell asked about the turn lane at Spring Hill. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied he received a response from VDOT today and would have a copy available for Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. Mitchell said the incident that happened with the Town, he thought all the employees needed EEO training with race relations.

Councilman Nash said he thought training was being set up. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied all but one supervisor has completed the class. Mayor Coleburn added it was offered free of charge through VML.

Mr. Mitchell suggested all employees take the class so they will know when they are discriminated against. Mayor Coleburn replied staff would look into it.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Tomer said if they are awarded the EMS Grant that was approved by Council, it will be a \$16,000.00 match.

Mayor Coleburn said on the report there were (7) automated alarms, he believed the Fire Department is charging \$100.00 for false alarms. Chief Tomer replied not to residents but institutions get two freebies then starts billing during a calendar year.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills that have already been paid are in the amount of \$567,461.48.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the bills that have already been paid in the amount of \$567,461.48. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills not yet approved but to be paid are in the amount of \$161,274.29.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve as presented the bills not yet approved but to be paid in the amount of \$161,274.29. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker.

Councilman Nash asked if under Administration the \$6,728.00 for the Election was budgeted, if not where does this money come from. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied the plan is to take it from the Council Discretionary Funds.

Councilman Nash asked if it should be budgeted for the next Election. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied we can certainly do that.

Councilman Nash asked about the three dog tests under the Police Department at \$933.00. Finance Director Hardy replied that was not the Town's dog, it was for autopsies from an old case.

Councilman Nash asked about the Fire Department's bay door, can that go through insurance. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied it was not damage, it was the replacement of two personnel doors.

Councilman Nash asked about the Carriage Museum for \$154.00 and DBi at \$117.00 from CenturyLink, are we paying two phone bills for one building. Finance Director Hardy replied she would look into that.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Airport & Transportation – met on 4-25-18 – minutes in May's Council Packet

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised they discussed the renewal of the agreement in order to receive grant funds. He said there were some issues, specifically, they reserve the right to approve the purchase or sale of property at the Airport.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said they met with the new Director, Mr. Mark Fields on April 25th. He said the statement is still in the agreement that they reserve the right to approve the purchase or sale of property at the Airport. He added the Town is not eligible for any grants as long as the Master Agreement is not signed.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the new Director is far less autocratic and willing to work.

Councilman Moncure said if they are not going to help us with anything, then this Use Agreement does not do us a bit of good.

Manager Vannoorbeeck believed Councilman Moncure was referring to a few projects going on, one being building an access road at the Industrial Park. He said we asked the Department of Aviation and VDOT for fund assistance but were turned down. He said the Department of Aviation said it was specific to one project and not the Airport as a whole.

Mayor Coleburn asked Manager Vannoorbeeck what his recommendation was. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied he would sign it so we can finish the UAV sale.

Councilman Nash asked what the term of the Agreement was. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied he did not know.

Mayor Coleburn said by Common Consent to hold off signing until we know what the expiration date is.

Employment & Police – met on 5-7-18 – there were no minutes, Closed Session

There were no recommendations.

Fire & Water – met on 5-10-18 – minutes in May's Council Packet

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised he received an email from Mr. Michael Alder from Pickett about a new building under construction at the Airport, he asked what the Tap Fees would be.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said in Town if there is existing water and sewer tap, there are no Tap Fees. He said with FASTC we gave them credit for all the buildings that were on site. He said Mr. Alder asked to have the same consideration in Tap Fees that FASTC got.

Manager Vannoorbeeck suggested in exchange for Tap Fees being waived at Pickett, they would give the Town 250,000 gallons of capacity per the letter Mayor Coleburn originally wrote to the National Guard.

Mayor Coleburn said since we are making a deal, he suggested we go higher, 350-400,000 gallons water and sewer capacity in exchange for no Tap Fees ever. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied this would be better than what was originally proposed because Pickett wanted concessions on their billing.

Councilman Nash asked what was going to be the cost of the grant with the County. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied he talked to Mr. John Prosize recently and he did not think the County had submitted anything yet.

Mayor Coleburn said this suggestion makes the Tobacco application unnecessary, which will free up that money for other projects, let's aim high.

Councilman Nash said the deal with Nottoway was our bargaining chip, he would like that discussed, he didn't want to let Nottoway off the hook for the grant.

Councilman Moncure made a motion to request 400,000 gallons of water and sewer capacity from Pickett in exchange for no Tap Fees ever. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.

Councilman Moncure asked what happens if someone requests a 3" tap. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied typically the contractor includes this in their price for the construction.

Mayor Coleburn asked the Clerk to include in the motion that we stress the Town does fully realize and support what was referred to in the past as Mobilization Day if capacity were to be needed.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Proposed Revenue Bond Issuance - Continued

Mr. R.T. Taylor with Davenport and Company introduced himself.

Mr. Taylor provided the results from the bank RFP process for the water, sewer and stormwater projects. He said there could be possibly grant money involved so we are only looking at financing \$1,500,500.00. He said they asked the banks to consider a 15 and 20-year amortization loan. He said three proposals were received from Benchmark, BB&T and Citizens.

Mr. Taylor said the only bank that provided a fixed interest rate for the entire term was BB&T at 15 years, which was 4.5% and the 20-year rate was 5.13%. He said Benchmark provided a 4.49% for 15 years, which is fixed for the first 10 years. He said Citizens rate was quite a bit higher and not locked in as long, they were willing to look at 5-7-year rates. Mr. Taylor advised BB&T did allow for prepayment at any time but had to be paid in whole. He said based on these options they would now focus on BB&T and Benchmark.

Mayor Coleburn said for the record he is on the Board at Citizens Bank & Trust Company and would not be having input in this decision.

Mr. Taylor reviewed further the information by using BB&T as the example with a closing date of June 14, 2018 at 4.5% interest for \$1.5 Million, the payments would be \$155,000.00 a year. He said if it went to maturity for \$1.5 Million the Town would pay back \$2.1 Million.

Councilman Nash asked Manager Vannoorbeeck what his goal was to pay this off. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied in 10 years, if not he has miscalculated.

Mr. Taylor said the recommendation is going to be 20-year options because it provides the lowest annual payment and there is the option to prepay.

Mr. Taylor said Benchmark & BB&T were in line with each other but Benchmark was slightly lower for the 10-year lock. He said BB&T does have a penalty for prepayment during the first half, where Benchmark does not.

Mr. Taylor said the recommendation is to proceed with financing at Benchmark, amortize for 20 years and to the extent possible prepay ahead of the ten-year reset.

Councilman Moncure made a motion to proceed with Benchmark and amortize for 20 years. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott.

Mayor Coleburn asked Mr. Taylor if he was impressed with the proposals compared to what else is out there. Mr. Taylor replied it was very competitive but nationally might have come in with a lower rate but their terms may have been more restrictive.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Scott made a motion authorizing Mayor Coleburn to execute all documents necessary, to include the Resolution of Issuance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Account & Finance – met on 5-15-18 – minutes in May’s Council Packet

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised there is a balanced budget of \$16,912,429.00. He said there are no proposed rate increases. He said the only increase proposed is doubling the burial permit fee to \$200.00, he said we don’t want more money but this Fund is in the red. He said he has been handling the Cemetery since December and has sold only one grave.

Councilman Nash brought up that it is a hardship on the family so at the time of death this fee be charged through the funeral home directors.

Mayor Coleburn said a 3% across the board costs \$62,000.00. Finance Director Hardy replied that is just the General Fund. Councilman Nash added it is \$80,000.00 total.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Committee wanted to look at merit increases rather than across the board.

Manager Vannoorbeeck pointed out the Medical Center would be paid off in this budget cycle. He said they were trying to pay this off early but the bond documents don’t allow this until 2019.

Councilman Moncure said there is less drama with the budget because of the tremendous job by town staff and the budget plan we have had in place for several years now.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said currently we have \$25,000.00 in the budget for weatherization. He said we have used the majority of Program Income so we will now be using Weatherization Funds. He said this year in the budget we are requesting to double the \$25,000.00 and make it \$50,000.00 for Weatherization.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said in the proposed budget there is a full-time position to help transition into a Budget Plan and learn utilities.

Councilman Nash said there was a position in the budget for water/sewer, is this to work with Mr. Andre Hicks. Finance Director Hardy replied no, that was in there before we hired the Operator in Training, Mr. Fisher.

Mayor Coleburn said when we adopt the budget there needs to be a statement from the Town about the need for the increase at the Cemetery.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were no Consent Agenda items.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Industrial Park

Attorney Bacon said there is no new information.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town is entitled to serve their own facilities. He said does it make sense to work out an arrangement where some of the privately-owned facilities could be considered Town facilities

Councilman Green entered the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there are other issues, there have been some proposals for the Gravatt farm, he said Southside Electric thinks there are some industrial prospects but there is not, it is just housing.

Mayor Coleburn asked to get something in writing that the Town is able to service their own facilities.

2. Beautification Committee

Mayor Coleburn provided a list of proposed beautification committee members.

Jimmy Johnson, Chairman, South Main Street
Jenny Davis Bunn, College Avenue
Debra Moore Coleburn, High Street
Monica Frisby, 4th Street
Anne Stiles, College Avenue
Thomas Taylor, Harris Street
Tiana Tucker, Gravatt Avenue
Shelia Mae Williams, Sullivan Street
Pamela Willmott, Oak Street

Mayor Coleburn said this Committee would meet quarterly with no authority, but instead to make recommendations to beautify areas, town and privately owned.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the Beautification Committee list as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

3. Burn Building

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he received a review on what can be done with a reasonable amount of money and it was advised to hire an engineering and architecture firm.

Manager Vannoorbeeck asked for authorization to issue an RFP to hire an architectural firm with the intention that the grant monies pay all, if not all, a portion.

Councilman Nash asked about the funds left in the Burn Building account. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied the intention is to use those funds first. He added the match for construction will fall on the Town.

Councilman Scott made a motion to authorize Manager Vannoorbeeck to issue an RFP for architectural firms for the Burn Building and to use the Burn Building funds until depleted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

4. Keep Virginia Beautiful

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised this is a small grant to plant annual flowers.

Councilman Nash said he had been approached about pots on North Main Street. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied there is a block downtown that does not have pots. He believed there was some money left over in the Centennial Fund and if it is Council's intention we can purchase pots for that portion of North Main Street, as long as people will take care of them.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised the Centennial Fund has \$8,252.00.

Councilman Nash asked for the cost of the pots.

ON-GOING PROJECTS:

1. Dilapidated Buildings

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised we are working on two properties, Falls Street and Mann Street. He advised of a house next to Blackstone Glass, the house has been condemned but thought this property had been recently sold.

Councilman Nash asked about the house on Church Street with the hole in the roof. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied that is correct but at the same time it is only fair that we take action with the County for their dilapidated school buildings that have roof leaks as well.

Councilman Nash made a motion that the Town actively enforce the Building Code on all structures that have roof deterioration for the general health, safety and welfare of the people of Blackstone. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.

Mr. Nathaniel Miller asked what if there was an accident there. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied the County owns the buildings but our Lease requires the Town to carry liability Insurance on the structures.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

2. Meals Tax

There was nothing to report.

3. Street Improvement Projects

Mayor Coleburn said we are waiting on Whitehurst to tar and gravel Councilwoman Thompson's Ward.

Mayor Coleburn said we are waiting on curb and street painting bids.

4. Wigglesworth Sports Complex

Mayor Coleburn said recently there have been two B&E's

Councilman Scott asked about a security system or new doors.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we have asked Investigator Murphy to advise on some cameras outside that observe movement.

Councilman Green said he spoke with Mrs. Marcia Martin today and she was meeting with someone about security.

5. East End Neighborhood Project

Mayor Coleburn asked when the Town would hear about the grant application. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied in late July or August.

6. Weatherization

Mayor Coleburn advised the County declined our request to help someone in need.

Manager Vannoorbeeck recommended using \$50,000.00 of Weatherization Funds. He said Southside Outreach has agreed to put in \$10,000.00. He added this will zero out the Weatherization Fund but it will be replenished after the first of July when the budget is passed.

Councilman Moncure asked if taking money from the Weatherization Fund was going too deep when replacing a whole house. He said Weatherization doesn't go very far but at least more than one person gets something out of this.

Mayor Coleburn said Councilman Moncure made a good point but staff called this a dyer emergency.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we tried to stretch the money by going to the County. He said the County has \$80,000.00 of Program Income.

Councilman Green asked why the County would not help. Mayor Coleburn replied they feared it would set a dangerous precedent according to their letter.

Councilman Nash said obviously this person is elderly, what happens once they pass. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied for example if we put a ten-year deed of trust on the property, half is forgiven and the other half is based on income.

Councilwoman Thompson made a motion to reconstruct the Field's home on Stokes Street using the \$50,000.00 in the Weatherization Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Nash asked for a copy of the letter with the County's response.

Councilman Green asked what the County was planning to do with the money. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied every locality that receives DHCD Funding has to have a Program Income Plan that should be public information.

7. Rental Property Maintenance

Mayor Coleburn said the County is going to charge \$50.00 per unit for inspection and this will be passed along to the property owner.

Mayor Coleburn said Manager Vannoorbeeck is requesting a list of names for the Appeals Board.

Two names were suggested, Mrs. Carolyn Davis and Mrs. Monica Frisbee.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there will be a Public Hearing at the June Council Meeting to revise the current Ordinance for the Building and Maintenance Code and to include the \$50.00 fee.

Mayor Coleburn asked for Council to present five names and two alternates for the Appeals Board.

Councilman Nash thought the Town paid for the service already. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed building inspections were paid by being a resident of Nottoway County.

Mr. Nathaniel Miller asked if the Building Inspector would advise what is needed to be done. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied he would be following the 2012 USBC Virginia Maintenance Code.

8. Utility Upgrade Project

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised this is for the renovations at the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants. He said this project is out for bid but does not include the water lines from the Main Gate back to the Bowling Alley, this will be lumped in with the East End Project.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Robinson, Farmer, Cox – Engagement Letter

Mayor Coleburn advised it is the same fee as last year.

Councilman Nash thought he remembered Councilman Green saying instead of \$20,600.00 it was \$20,000.00. Finance Director Hardy explained the fees. Councilman Green said he liked \$20,000.00 himself.

Councilman Green made a motion to authorize Manager Vannoorbeeck and Mayor Coleburn to sign the engagement letter and amend the amount to \$20,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

2. Virginia State Police – Trash Removal Services

Mayor Coleburn advised we will continue to bill the State Police for trash services at \$4,640.00 a year.

Councilman Moncure made a motion to approve the continued trash removal services at the Driver Training Center on Ridge Road. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

3. Resolution – Joint Land Use Study

Mayor Coleburn advised Nottoway County did adopt this at their meeting on Thursday.

Manager Vannoorbeeck introduced the summer intern, Ms. Holly Steele from Amelia.

Ms. Steele said she attended the meeting on May 1, 2018 concerning the Land Use Study. She said there were representatives from the Department of Defense, Pickett, Blackstone, Nottoway, Dinwiddie and Brunswick. She said essentially what they are trying to do is pinpoint current and future encroachment sources that could lead to conflicts with Pickett and surrounding jurisdictions. She said the overall goal is to give Pickett space to expand and the jurisdictions to sustain as well. She added this does align with the Resolution Nottoway County adopted per Mr. John Prosis.

Mayor Coleburn advised Community Development Director Wilson will be the Town's representative.

Ms. Steele said this is not a binding contract, it is just saying we support them conducting the Study and when there are future development decisions you will consider their recommendations.

Councilman Green made a motion to adopt the Joint Land Use Study Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

COMMITTEE REFERRALS:

1. ParkAware – Downtown Parking

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

2. Drug & Alcohol Policy

Mayor Coleburn referred this to the Employment & Police Committee.

3. Rehire Policy – Bus Shop

Mayor Coleburn referred this to the Employment & Police Committee.

MAYORS MINUTE:

Mayor Coleburn said due to the turnover for Council that will take place on June 30th, as we did in 2010 when we had five new members of Council, the law will allow the five electives to meet with one or two elected officials and staff before June 30th. He said he would like to hear from the five new electives on issues to see if there is a consensus to hit the ground running.

Mayor Coleburn said Councilwoman Thompson thought it would be a good idea for the new members to go through what VML new member orientation. He said he would be willing to go with the new officials.

Councilman Green said it is extremely informative and helpful.

Mayor Coleburn advised Manager Vannoorbeeck wanted to give the new officials a bus tour as well.

POLICE REPORT:

There was nothing to report.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Mr. Waymond Mitchell said Coffee with A Cop would start back at McDonald’s in June and the cookouts would start in September.

Mrs. Doris Winn thought it was a good idea to include the burial fee with the mortuary expenses.

CLOSED SESSION:

Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711

1/ Personnel – Bus Shop - Administration

Councilman Scott made a motion to go into Closed Session for discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Green 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 Scott.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Councilwoman Thompson made a motion to rescind a previous motion to deny Mr. Tim Bauer's signage request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Nash made a motion to grant the signage appeal for Mr. Tim Bauer, to halt legal action against Mr. Bauer and undertake the immediate review of the current Historic Business District sign regulations on or before June 30th. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn continued this meeting to Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

_____ APPROVED AND ADOPTED

TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA