

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, June 19, 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 Vannoorebeek, 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; Sam Murphy, Investigator

Town Attorney:

Those Absent: Chief Kuzmiak, Gweneth Procise

Mayor Coleburn called the June Council Meeting to order.

Councilman Nash delivered the Invocation.

Mayor Coleburn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### ***FY18 Budget (ad is attached)***

Mayor Coleburn advised Council cannot adopt a budget tonight, it cannot be adopted less than seven days after the Public Hearing.

Councilman Green advised the electric rate decrease is more significant than we anticipated. He said we advertised a \$.02 increase for Real Estate and would be recommending we scratch that. He said his Committee met with a delegation of the Police Department and they were more concerned about LEOs rather than raises.

Councilman Green said the electric rate was going to drop 11% so the recommendation was to leave the rates as they are and use the funds for the following. He said first we will use 4%, which is around \$180,000.00, this will go back into the General Fund to reimburse the Town for the bucket truck purchased recently.

Councilman Green said 2% will be dedicated to fire and safety equipment, which is roughly \$36,000.00. He said 3% we would like to dedicate to the Reserve Account.

Mayor Coleburn asked how much the 3% would be. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied about \$110,000.00. Councilman Green added to go in the Electric Reserve Account.

Councilman Green said the remaining 2%, roughly \$80,000.00, will be set aside for the switchgear project, which we have already saved \$205,000.00. He said the additional \$80,000.00 will give us the funding needed for this overdue project.

Mayor Coleburn asked what justification Dominion Power gave for this reduction. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied they are giving reimbursement for overcharging last year.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the budget is \$16,250,984.00. He said the electric rates remain static. He said water and sewer rates, we have made a commitment for the East End Project, so the intention for the increase is to service the debt for the project.

Councilman Green asked to continue this meeting to Wednesday, June 28, 2017.

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

#### **Mrs. Ann Hoover**

Mrs. Hoover said the way this affects her, there are six houses on her block and five are inhabited by widows who want to stay in their homes as long as they can. She said their Social Security in past years had not been increased with the cost of living. She explained her concerns about raises, paying for healthcare and not wanting to deny the Police Department.

#### **Mr. David Patterson**

Mr. Patterson asked where the money was going from lottery that is supposed to be going towards the school system. Mayor Coleburn replied it is going straight to Richmond and are then saying it can only be used for construction. He added the Mayor of Crewe has come up with a proposal that is being studied this year about every lottery ticket in the Commonwealth, the proposal would include every ticket bought in Blackstone, 5% would come back to the Town.

Mayor Coleburn said we get nothing from the lottery and in his opinion, the lottery takes money that might be spent in local shops, 5% goes to the retailer and the rest goes to Richmond. He said it is a tax on the poor and hurting small communities.

Mayor Coleburn closed the Public Hearing.

***Councilman Green made a motion to continue this meeting to Wednesday June 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. to adopt the Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.***

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

**Inoperative Vehicles**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
TOWN OF BLACKSTONE**

*The Town of Blackstone Town Council shall hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., Monday, June 19, 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 58-136, Removal of Inoperative Motor Vehicles on Residential, Commercial or Agricultural Property in the Town of Blackstone.*

Mayor Coleburn clarified this Ordinance would allow Town forces to enter private property to enforce the existing Ordinance.

Councilman Green asked if this new Ordinance would encompass the entire corporate limits of the Town. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes.

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

***Councilman Green made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.***

Councilman Nash asked how it is determined to be inoperative. Councilman Green replied the definition in the State Code is very specific.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

## **VISITORS**

### **Mr. Jim Hasbrouck**

Mr. Hasbrouck said on behalf of the Rotary, he was requesting authorization for use of Main Street for the motorless parade on July 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 a.m. He was requesting the street be closed.

Councilman Green asked that they fill out the Parade Permit.

*Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the street closure for the motorless parade on July 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.*

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

### **Mr. Waymond Mitchell**

Mr. Waymond Mitchell asked to have business owners make sure the handicapped parking is marked better, the lines are faint.

Mr. Mitchell said the Blackstone Ministerial Association will be having another service on July 30<sup>th</sup> in Seay Park at 9:30 a.m.

### **Mrs. Sharon Dalton**

Mrs. Dalton advised her husband died last year and is buried in Lakeview Cemetery, where she bought several lots. She was requesting to put Mr. Dalton's headstone at this head, the Town wants it to be in the middle of the lot. She explained how some of the lots were currently in the cemetery.

Mayor Coleburn said there are policies in place but Council has made provisions in the past.

Chairman Green advised the Committee met on May 26<sup>th</sup> in the Chambers then adjourned to the Cemetery. He said the Committee voted to have the Town Manager and Councilman Hamner present to the full Council.

Councilman Hamner read the rules and regulations and said this would be out of place with the rest of the headstones in the cemetery. He added the Committee did not come up with any recommendations because all the rules would have to be changed.

Chairman Green said there was one headstone that needed to be moved.

Councilman Nash asked if this was in the new block. Mayor Coleburn replied yes.

Councilman Nash asked how many lots are owned by the Daltons. Mrs. Dalton replied 24.

Councilman Nash asked if what Mrs. Dalton was proposing still faced east to west. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied yes.

Councilman Nash said there should not be an alignment issue since there will be no other headstones there. Councilman Hamner said there will be an issue but the section is not filled up yet.

Mayor Coleburn clarified that Council was being asked to make an exception to the current policy in the Cemetery.

Chairman Green praised Mr. Dalton, but asked how many people have been buried in that Cemetery according to the rules, why have the rules, it is not fair to everyone else in the Cemetery.

***Councilman Green made a motion to deny the request.***

Mrs. Dalton asked why wasn't this explained to her when she bought the lots. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied that Treasurer Procise said she informed Mrs. Dalton.

Mrs. Dalton said she purchased the lots over the phone while Mr. Dalton was in MCV and was told to come pay for them when she was ready.

Councilman Hamner asked Mrs. Dalton if she knew where the lots were she was buying. Mrs. Dalton replied she just asked to be in the new part of the Cemetery.

Chairman Green said the Town made an exception to open the new area before lots were filled in other areas.

***The motion was seconded by Councilman Hamner.***

Councilman Nash said we are talking about following policy, but currently we don't follow policy by having trinkets throughout the Cemetery, so how is this different than what we currently do. Mayor Coleburn replied one could make the argument that the trinkets are temporary but the headstone will be long lasting. Councilman Nash added it is still a violation.

Councilman Nash said he would like to see what the block looks like or either have it mapped out. He said the reason for the policy is yes aesthetics, it does look nice, but it is more for cutting grass.

**Mrs. Peggy Stewart**

Mrs. Peggy Stewart said the Town is trying to make it easier to cut the grass. She said it is not about where the stones are but where they are cutting the grass. She said everyone deserves a headstone and the people doing the perpetual care have to take more pride in it. She advised the employees were running over flags and hitting the stones. She said how you position a stone other than to the eye when you drive in will not make a bit of difference with the upkeep of the lawn care. She said until the perpetual care maintenance crew is improved it won't make a difference.

Councilman Green said two Council members would like to look at this further so he withdrew his motion.

Mayor Coleburn asked to have this added to the Agenda for June 28<sup>th</sup>.

**MINUTES**

*Councilman Moncure made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented the Regular Council Meeting Minutes from May 15, 2017 and the Special Called Meeting Minutes from May 23, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.*

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Tomer said he was still working on quotes for Unit 2 and was meeting with a representative on Thursday. He said they sold the old suburban on GovDeals for \$5,900.00., which was surprising for a 1987.

Chief Tomer advised the Bull Blast has been postponed until October so he will approach Council again for advertising.

Chief Tomer advised ladder testing was done and there was no major work to be done. He said they planned to put the old skid unit on GovDeals.

Councilman Nash asked what the minor issues were with the ladder testing. Chief Tomer replied on the ladder truck there was a hydraulic leak.

Councilman Green made a motion to approve the \$4,600.00 for nozzles and hose that failed.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said he was figuring, the tanker was sold for \$18,000.00 and \$5,900.00 for the suburban and there is \$8,000.00 left to outfit the vehicle from USDA. He asked if we would be spending as much or more outfitting the truck. Chief Tomer replied he had no idea what the cost would be.

Manager Vannoorbeeck asked if Council would hold off for the nozzles and hose because there may be money left over for this purchase.

Councilman Green withdrew his motion.

Councilman Green pointed out there have been 100 County calls and 60 for the Town, year to date.

Mayor Coleburn advised the County agreed to pay their 1/3 match, he received a letter from Prince Edward advising they now have a Burn Building available for fire training, and no longer use Blackstone's Burn Building. He said the Board of Supervisors did not approve the funding so that just leaves Dinwiddie.

Councilman Hamner asked if any businesses contribute loyally to the Blackstone Fire Department. Chief Tomer replied yes, we do have some loyal businesses within Town.

Mayor Coleburn added nozzles and hose to the June 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Chief Tomer advised he would be working.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills that have already been paid are in the amount of \$379,067.76.

*Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the bills that have already been paid in the amount of \$379,067.76. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green.*

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Mayor Coleburn stated the bills not yet approved but to be paid are in the amount of \$196,547.20.

***Councilman Green made a motion to approve as presented the bills not yet approved but to be paid in the amount of \$196,547.20. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.***

Councilman Nash asked about Amelia Overhead Doors at Wrigglesworth, is that replacing from the first or second incident. Finance Director Hardy replied the first. Manager Vannoorbeeck added the second incident didn't damage the door so this was from the first incident.

Finance Director Hardy said we have already received a check for the first incident.

Councilman Nash asked if anyone was ever caught for that. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied for the second incident.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Buildings, Property & Cemetery – met on 5-26-17 – minutes included in June's Council Packet**

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Account & Finance – met on 5-30-17 and 6-13-17 – minutes included in June’s Council Packet**

**DBi Budget**

Chairman Green said the Committee voted to make a contribution to 60% over a 2-year period for DBi's total budget \$65,127.00. He said this is informational because it is included in the Budget.

**DMV Stop Fees**

***Councilman Nash made a motion to increase the stop fees to match what DMV is charging. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green.***

Councilman Nash said it was \$20.00 and will now be \$25.00. Mayor Coleburn added the Town will just be breaking even.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

**Meals Tax**

Chairman Green said included is a letter to be sent to the restaurant owners that explains the Town Code and requests what the Town needs.

***Councilman Green made a motion to approve sending the letter to all restaurants as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.***

Mayor Coleburn asked if we are able, on a monthly basis, to find out if meals tax is taking a hit or going through the roof, generally speaking. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied we can do a trend.

Mayor Coleburn asked when the letters would go out. Finance Director Hardy replied Treasurer Procise was out and she had to sign them, so they would go out Thursday.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Moncure suggested once we start accumulating this information, that we create a page and show it from month to month.

Mayor Coleburn said he did worry because if you divide by .065, you can track their sales, that is proprietary. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied with this more accurate data we won't have to do that.

Mr. Jim Hasbrouck asked with the Meals Tax, how much of that is going towards tourism. Mayor Coleburn replied we collect 6.5% with a total of \$550,000.00 a year, which goes towards running the government of Blackstone. He added the answer to your question is probably 0, maybe not 0 because some goes towards DBi.

Procurement Policy

***Councilman Green made a motion to approve the Procurement Policy as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Moncure.***

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Joint Meeting with the Budget Committee of the Board of Supervisors

**Councilman Green made a motion to formally prepare a written request from this Town Council to the Nottoway County Board of Supervisors, the request is to include the following:**  
**(1) in order to adequately provide public safety to the proposed Nottoway Commons project, Nottoway County shall increase its fire apparatus contribution to the Town of Blackstone to the sum of \$125,000.00 per year, (2) that Nottoway County agree to an uncontested boundary adjustment at the Town's terms, which includes the Town owned property that extends past the Airport and taking in the right-of-way of Route 40, (3) that Nottoway County commit to provide up to \$120,000.00 toward the capacity upgrades at the Wastewater Plant to service the growth expected as a result of the FASTC project through Tobacco Commission Funds.**

Mayor Coleburn clarified, we are talking about the 73-acre tract next to the bowling alley. Manager Vannoortbeeck added it would be the Armory, the bowling alley, 73 acres, just past the Main Gate on Route 40 on the right and left-hand side and the Airport.

Mayor Coleburn advised the Supervisors had agreed in spirit to allow the Town to take in the 73-acre tract beside the bowling alley. He said he has heard privately that if the Town seeks to go beyond the 73 acres, there could be some opposition.

Councilman Nash said the only part of the motion he was concerned about was the first part, he thought we agreed to wait to see what would be needed. Councilman Green replied he did not mind adding as needed.

***The motion was seconded by Councilman Moncure.***

Mayor Coleburn said he did not have a problem with the motion because there is no date. He said he will ask this, it appears to be a lot of potential expenses, right now there is 73 acres of weeds and brush, but he would like to have Attorney Bacon meet in a Work Session and have the County sign an agreement that does bind the Board of Supervisors and the Town with the boundary adjustment but with elections, the players could change. He added if FASTC comes and the Meals Tax revenue is growing, we may be able to sit back with the \$420,000.00 from water and sewer and not have to pick up trash and charge extra because they are out of Town.

Mayor Coleburn said he would rather commit the sin of going to slow than too fast. Councilman Green replied he would rather have a level playing field to know what is no and what is yes.

Chairman Green said if we take the 74 acres into Town and it remains weeds we have only lost the 50% premium at the bowling alley but gained \$120,000.00 from the Tobacco Commission to upgrade our sewer pumps.

Councilman Nash said get the commitment but go slow with the boundary adjustment.

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Chairman Green asked to approve the letter at the June 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

**Airport & Transportation – met on 6-9-17 – minutes included in June's Council Packet**

**Airport Lease Agreement**

Chairman Moncure advised the Committee discussed a request from Mr. Joe Allman to renew the lease on the property, with the current rate being \$7,500.00 an acre and with a six-month option to purchase.

Chairman Moncure said Mr. Allman has asked to renew with two new options, one being he might be interested in more property and since FASTC bought property for \$4,000.00 an acre he would like to see his price reduced.

Mayor Coleburn said FASTC paid Nottoway \$6,500.00. Manager Vannoorbeeck said they discussed what was paid for Nottoway Commons, which was \$4,200.00 an acre.

Chairman Moncure asked if the land was worth less today than it was when Mr. Allman took out the first option. He said the Committee agreed on \$5,700.00 an acre.

Mayor Coleburn asked if 5 acres were sold to Mr. Allman. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied 4.9 acres.

Mayor Coleburn asked how much additional now. Mr. Allman replied it was as discussed previously, 5-8 acres more.

Chairman Moncure said they accepted the offer of \$5,700.00 because part of the value is what Mr. Allman has put into the property with his own money. He added this property is more valuable than the Commons property because that doesn't have an airport.

***Councilman Green made a motion to accept the offer of \$5,700.00 an acre with an existing option of six months and with a six-month extension totaling twelve months. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.***

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Airport Layout Plan

Chairman Moncure said Mr. Allman advised we have virtually no advertising for the Airport. He said Mr. Allan said there is a website that advertises for Airport amenities, which is \$654.00 per year.

Mr. Allman explained the process for the website and said Blackstone was starting to have some presence. He added they provide WIFI and a courtesy car.

***Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the \$654.00 for one year for the website to come from the fueling funds. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.***

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Airport Fueling Contract

Chairman Moncure advised the fueling agreement with the Federal Government had been renegotiated. He said this would be from June 1, 2017 through March 2021 and the prices per gallon for receipts will increase from \$.65 to \$.69.

***Councilman Moncure made a motion to ratify the airport fueling agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.***

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Nash asked about the 618,000 gallons. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied it is an estimation for the three-year period.

#### Airport Road

Chairman Moncure said the Committee has met previously and is concerned with the entry road from Dominy Corner into Mr. Allman's property. He said core samples had been taken and the base is sufficient. He said they could add 2" of asphalt to suffice but there is only a two-year guarantee, but by spending another approximately \$50,000.00 there can be a better road. He said we are not being forced into a decision right now.

Councilman Nash clarified this road runs along the fence from Dominy Corner Road. Mr. Allman added it is the entrance to the Industrial Park.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

No items for the Consent Agenda.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **1. July Council Meeting – Date Change Request**

Councilman Green withdrew this request.

##### **2. Board of Zoning Appeals Appointment**

Mayor Coleburn added this to the June 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Councilman Nash suggested Mrs. Sally Beale.

## **ON-GOING PROJECTS**

### ***1. Dilapidated Buildings***

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we have been in contact with the property owner on Mann Street.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised there is a property on East Broad Street that they were hoping to incorporate with the project.

### ***2. Meals Tax***

There was nothing to report.

### ***3. Street Improvement Projects***

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised S. Main Street Revenue Share Project bids came in high. He said the budget was \$550,000.00 and the low bid was \$733,000.00. He added unless something happens he did not have the additional money and would have to reject the bids.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised he would present the Engineer's recommendation at the June 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Councilman Nash said the street needs work.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised Whitehurst would be here the second week in August doing tar and gravel work in Councilman Tucker's Ward primarily. He said but before that work can start Colony would be here first for patching. He added the revenue has been set aside.

### ***4. Church Street Project***

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised as part of the Church Street project, the property owner of the old church on Second Street has agreed to have it demolished.

### ***5. Wrigglesworth Sports Complex***

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised there are temporary light poles next to the second basketball court in order to keep people from driving on the court. He said the permanent fix will come with the curb and gutter Tap 21 project.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised the formal vote by the State Transportation Board for the Tap 21 Grant will be next week. He said tentatively the Town has been approved for \$206,000.00. He added this will cover Oak to Birch Street, curb and gutter and sidewalk will go to Harris Street and north to the Volleyball court.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the replacement playground equipment is sitting at the shop.

***Councilman Moncure made a motion to authorize Councilman Green, Councilman Nash and Councilwoman Thompson to meet in order to give direction on where the replacement playground equipment will go. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker.***

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised he talked with Mr. Dan Martin and asked him to start the bidding process for lights for the second basketball court.

#### **6. East End Planning Grant**

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised all the paperwork had been submitted and we are waiting on news for the Construction Grant.

#### **7. Nottoway Avenue – Revenue Share Project**

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised they are now in the County portion of the project. He believed the paving would be done in August.

Councilman Nash asked that the new pavement be better than what was done on Church Street. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied with pavement, they will just be tying into the existing pavement.

#### **8. Utility Upgrade Project**

There was nothing to report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Robinson, Farmer, Cox – Audit Services**

Mayor Coleburn advised there were no changes in fees.

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised the auditors emailed a checklist of things needed before the preliminary audit and on this list, they wanted an executed copy of the Engagement Letter.

***Councilman Green made a motion to ratify executing the Engagement Letter with Robinson, Farmer, Cox prior to Council approval. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.***

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

### **2. Stairway to Success**

Councilman Nash advised we are already doing some of the items and have points but wanted Council to authorize Community Development Director Wilson to head this project up.

Mayor Coleburn clarified this is a friendly competition between localities but we would receive points for activities.

***Councilman Nash made a motion to authorize Community Development Director Wilson to proceed with the Stairway to Success Program through VML. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker.***

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

### **3. Waste/Refuse Collection – Virginia State Police**

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised the contract price is the same as currently, which is \$320.00 a month, with \$80.00 for any additional visits.

Councilman Nash asked if we were seeing it was costing the Town more. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied no, it is not causing any problems.

***Councilman Green made a motion to approve the Virginia State Police trash collection contract. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.***

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

### **4. Virginia Main Street Signs**

Mayor Coleburn said he had seen the signs and they looked very sharp. He said the only problem is we received two signs and there are six entrances into Town.

Mayor Coleburn recommended the two signs here now should be installed coming in on North West Avenue and South Main Street.

***Councilman Green made a motion to have the Town pay for the extra four signs needed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.***

Councilman Nash asked where the funds would come from to pay for the signs.

Mr. Zachary Whitlow asked if Council preferred single or double sided for the signs. Councilman Green replied the motion would include leaving that at the discretion of DBI. Mayor Coleburn added the signs we already have are double sided.

Councilman Nash asked why the current signs were hung so high, he asked that they be installed lower.

Mayor Coleburn asked what will be done with the old signs. Mr. Whitlow replied we are not required to send them back.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

### **5. Veterans Day Ceremony**

Mayor Coleburn advised next year on Veterans Day will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will also be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Seay Park. He said if it were not for Mr. John Hill and the local Veterans, this community that prides itself on being a military Town really would not have a Memorial Day or Veterans Day Service. He said he would like to see the Town do something on Veterans Day 2018, maybe engage DBi and the Chamber.

Councilman Green offered the Buildings, Property and Cemetery Committee to take this on.

### **6. Award Generator Maintenance Bid**

Mayor Coleburn said it was recommended to award the low bid to Standby Systems with an annual price of \$7,250.00.

Mayor Coleburn said we were expecting a delegation tonight that did not come, but he was asked by a local business if bids are close could the Town deviate and award to a local business instead. He said we received a ruling from Attorney Bacon that with procurement if both bidders are responsible and responsive we must go with the low bidder.

Mayor Coleburn advised Manager Vannoorbeeck had a good point, the reason we advertise locally is in hopes of getting local bids.

***Councilman Nash made a motion to award the low bid for generator maintenance to Standby Systems in the amount of \$7,250.00 annually. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott.***

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

#### **7. Award Landscaping Bid – Medical Center**

Mayor Coleburn advised there were only two bids this year and Roark's Property Maintenance was low.

***Councilman Green made a motion to approve the low bid from Roark's Property Maintenance at \$2,196.00 annually. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.***

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

Councilman Nash asked for future bidding to remove fertilizing since Greg Young is doing this work.

#### **8. Award Exterminating Bid**

***Councilman Green made a motion to award the low bid to Bugs, Bats & Beyond in the amount of \$1,995.00 annually. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson.***

Councilman Nash asked about additional visits. Clerk Daniel replied it is rarely a need for additional visits.

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

#### **9. Award Concrete Bid**

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised this price went up, but last year one of the line items was \$1.00 a linear foot. He said this is awarded on lump sum, but we have never contracted for that amount of work. He said we are agreeing to a linear foot cost.

Council members made mention that we only received one bid for this work.

***Councilman Nash made a motion to award the annual concrete bid to S. Walker Construction in the amount of \$249,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green.***

Mayor Coleburn asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

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

Manager Vannoorbeeck advised this did not include the Tap 21 project, that would be bid out separate.

#### **COMMITTEE REFERRALS**

There were no referrals.

## **MAYORS MINUTE**

Mayor Coleburn said with FASTC, nobody really knows how positive this will be and the numbers keep changing. He said two years ago the average stay of a trainee was going to be two weeks, it is now one week. He said the other day it was said the trainees would be up to 10,000 a year, 65% will come in on a Sunday and leave on Friday. He said those people will only be able to go downtown Monday through Thursday.

Mayor Coleburn said last year Pickett trained about 120,000 military personnel, and FASTC is going to be 10,000 a year. He said yes, it is going to be positive, but that is one of the reasons he was talking about going slow on the boundary adjustment.

Councilman Green asked for a Closed Session for the Disposition of Real Estate.

## **POLICE REPORT**

There were no comments.

## **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mrs. Hoover asked about the landscaping in the historical area, there are lots of weeds. Councilman Green replied the Finance Committee was working on a proposal to privatize grass cutting for next year's budget.

Mr. David Patterson asked how FASTC was going to affect the people of Blackstone as far as real estate values with everything else going up. Mayor Coleburn replied none of us know, but in 2012 the study showed that 85% of the people would live in Chesterfield and 15% would choose Nottoway. He said over time people looking for a slower pace will choose Nottoway County.

Mr. Patterson pointed out that there is not a lot for people to do and there is nothing open 24 hours if people need food or gas. Mayor Coleburn replied Mr. Orlando Gomez, who wants to develop out there, will hopefully solve some of that.

Mayor Coleburn said he was approached about rules for opening a bikini bar in Blackstone, so already people are trying to find unique ways to capitalize on FASTC.

Mr. Patterson asked about a YMCA in this area. Mayor Coleburn replied at one time there was talk about the YMCA being interested in the Armory and at VUMAC. He added Prince Edward has a YMCA and the Board of Supervisors had a 4-4 tie vote against cosigning a loan to help them meet expenses and they are a happening town, so he did not know if it would fly here.

Mr. Zachary Whitlow said they were actively working to adjust the landscaping around the Carriage Museum and Schwartz Tavern.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711

3/      Acquisition of Real Property

*Councilman Green made a motion to go into Closed Session for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scott.*

Mayor Coleburn asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

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

*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:

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

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR  
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
APPROVED AND ADOPTED

\_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN CLERK  
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA