

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on April 11, 2017, at 7:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Vice Mayor Thomas G. Gill presiding.

THOSE PRESENT

**Thomas Coleman III, Mayor (Absent)
T. G. Gill, Vice Mayor
W. H. Coleman
Bill Thompson
J. M. Kirkland
David M. Crowder
Ronny Worley
Shirley S. Bowen, MMC, Clerk-Treasurer
Krystle S. Magann, Deputy Clerk (Absent)**

GUESTS

**Mrs. Donna Ober
Mr. Will Ober
Mr. C. P. Reamy
Mrs. Allen Getz
Mr. R. H. Park III, Public Works Dir.**

Vice Mayor Thomas G. Gill opened the regular meeting by welcoming everyone for their attendance at tonight's meeting. He advised that due to Mayor Coleman III's recovery time, he would continue filling in for him. He began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence.

The Vice Mayor requested approval of the minutes from March 14, 2017. Councilman David M. Crowder moved to approve the March minutes as submitted, with Councilman J. M. Kirkland seconding the motion. All members voted unanimously.

Vice Mayor Gill requested a motion to pay the bills for the month of April 2017. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to pay the April 2017 bills as presented, with Councilman David M. Crowder seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.

Police Chief Danny R. Fox was unable to be at the beginning of the meeting due to assisting a motorist; therefore, the Vice Mayor read Chief Fox's report of police activity during the month of March. Vice Mayor Gill reported that Chief Fox had (4) vehicle stops, (1) speeding citation, and (1) reported theft at PATHS.

Mr. R. H. Park III, reported that Boydton's Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings Report of water pumped for March 2017, was 1,463,000 gallons. Mr. Park III updated the council on the progress of the sewage line from the WWTP to the Industrial Park. He stated it had been substantially completed and in service, with the exception of some "punchline" items to be finished. He continued by saying, that we are currently waiting for Virginia Dominion Power to install electricity for the metering manhole and once this is done, we would read this meter for future flow readings from the Microsoft Plant. Councilman W. H. Coleman inquired if he could tell whether we were capturing more flow than before, but Mr. Park III advised that as of now, he couldn't; however, he would know more when the power had been hooked up and tested. He also reported that a light pole would be installed there at the Gateway Sign location with underground power that would provide lighting for the sign. He continued to give an update on the progress of the renovations down at the WWTP. He stated that the work there was going smoothly and on schedule. He invited and recommended that the councilmen come

down and view it for themselves, possibly on the weekends, since it would be less congested due to the construction workers not being there, but advised that he would be there to furnish information or answer any questions or concerns they may have. The next item Mr. Park III reported on was the playground equipment. He informed the councilmen that he had gotten Mr. Ray Smith, to contact the school board regarding the town crew going to get it, but he found out that it was being utilized by the school board office employees, and so far, we hadn't had a return call from them regarding the equipment. He further stated that they are checking into being able to move used playground equipment from one site to another, and informed the council, if it's a public playground, it would have to be inspected by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and he was told that they would not approve moving playground equipment from one place to another. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk-Treasurer, advised that Mr. Matt Reid, Senior Safety Consultant, of our VML insurance company was contacted to get his advice concerning any and all of this new information, but as yet, he had been out of town and not returned her call. She assured the council that she would continue to check on this to see what could be done to get the equipment. Mr. Park III then advised the council that the new phone system with internet access had been installed and was working fine; however, the system in place down there was not suitable for the town office, since it doesn't have fax capability, nor will it handle a two-line phone system. Mr. Park III advised the council on bids for the lift station. He stated that he was able to obtain another bid from Biggs Construction Company, Inc. that was included in the council packets, as a comparison to Saunders bid. There were two who wouldn't bid, however. Electric Motor Company stated that the job was more than they could handle and F. L. Showalter was too busy with other jobs. Three other companies that were contacted, did not respond at all and those were attached to Mr. Park III's report. Mr. Park III asked that the council let him know what he should do. The council's consensus was that the two bids were too much of a difference in cost and that Mr. Park III should contact Mr. Saunders to see if his bid is correct and includes all the same expenditures. Councilman J. M. Kirkland asked Mr. Park III about VDOT road repairs being done to the streets in town, and if he would check on their future plans for repaving or repairs and report back at the next month's council meeting. He further remarked that it was ridiculous that other roads are being repaired/repaved while the "county seat" town was in much worse shape than others.

The council had some concerns as to whether it had been made clear as to who was in charge of the WWTP and who was in charge of the uptown maintenance. They apologized that this hadn't been made clear to the individuals involved. Councilman J. M. Kirkland moved that Mr. Renny Park III was to be in charge of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and that Mr. Ray Smith would be in charge of the uptown maintenance department. Mr. Park III was asked by Councilman Coleman, if Mr. Smith was helping out at the WWTP and he advised that he was when needed, and on the third weekend of each month. He stated that he could manage with that amount of help, if a part-time person was hired. Councilman Coleman stated that no one would be hired as part-time with Mr. Smith being hired and helping there, as needed. Councilman Ronny Worley seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor. Councilman Kirkland reiterated an apology for not making this point clear. Mr. Park III inquired as to who would advise Mr. Smith and the other employees of this change. Councilman Worley stated that he felt it would be best if he and Councilman Crowder on the personnel committee meet with him and Mr. Smith on Thursday at 4:30 P.M.

Vice Mayor Gill opened the floor for public comments. Mr. Charles M. Reamy, former Mayor, addressed the council regarding a signage ordinance for the town. He advised that he knew we

already have an ordinance for the Architectural District in town, but he would like the council to entertain the idea of a signage ordinance for the remainder of the town. His concern was that someone could come in and put any type of sign in town that they wanted and they'd have no ordinance to protect the town. Chief Fox responded to the question of whether political signs are allowed on property during election times. He stated that they are not prohibited from being erected during elections. After some discussion, Vice Mayor Gill appointed three (3) councilmen, consisting of Bill Thompson, David Crowder, and Ronny Worley to review and/or study the two ordinances from the Town of South Hill and Clarksville or more towns, to decide and report back to the entire council as to whether the town should move forward with a sign ordinance. Mr. Reamy thanked the council for looking into this issue.

The Vice Mayor stated that since Mr. Getz was unable to attend tonight's meeting, due to sickness, that he would postpone Mr. Getz's update on the playground, which could possibly be a "moot" point due to new information provided tonight. Mr. Ober asked if the town owned the playground equipment or not. He was advised by Vice Mayor Gill that we are waiting on more information and Mr. Paul Nichols, the School Board Superintendent, should be contacted, as well as, checking on previously discussed matters regarding the playground equipment.

Vice Mayor Gill inquired if any of the councilmen checked on the condition of the "yellow" house, that the town owns on Jefferson Street. A town resident is interested in purchasing it, since it adjoins his property. Councilman Worley advised that he, Mr. Ober, Councilman Coleman, and Councilman Kirkland went up there and looked at it, and even though they didn't have a recommendation, they all concurred that it was in bad shape, but no conclusion had been made as to what should be done about the house. Councilman Coleman's opinion was, if the decision was to sell the house, he would suggest selling approximately 3/8 acre of land with the house and the town keep the remaining acreage. Vice Mayor Gill definitely agreed with Councilman Coleman. Councilman Coleman stated that we, either need to sell the house or tear it down, with all councilmen and the Vice Mayor agreeing. Mr. Ober stated that it "could" possibly be repaired, but it would take a lot of money to do so. He remarked that the town could donate it to HBR, Inc., if they would like. Mr. Reamy interjected by stating that the town would be losing tax revenue, if it just sat there and nothing was done with it. Councilman Worley suggested that the remaining council members go look at the house and a decision be made at the next council meeting as to whether it be donated, sold, or to have it torn down.

Vice Mayor Gill stated that it is budget time again and asked Mrs. Bowen, Clerk-Treasurer, on a date as to when this process could begin. She stated that she would try to come up with a suitable date/time and contact each member as to when it could be done. Councilman Coleman, also, stated that he would like a full report on the delinquent taxes due before that date. Mrs. Bowen reported that the new real estate and personal property tax module was almost at the point of implementation and upon that being done, a full list of delinquent taxes would be available with a computer printout. She further stated that due to the software person wanting both she and her assistant, Krystle, to be trained at the same time via telephone, they had been unable to that with each of them being out sick and not being here at the same time. Also, if only one person was here...it was virtually impossible to be trained with interruptions occurring all during the day.

The Vice Mayor read an invitation from Southside Virginia Community College regarding a luncheon for Doctor Al Roberts, President, and stated, "It's your choice, if you want to go." Mrs. Bowen advised to let her know if anyone would like to attend, and she would RSVP for them.

Vice Mayor Gill stated that the town council would be going into a closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Councilman Ronny Worley moved that the Town Council hold a closed meeting to discuss the following, the deliberation of a personnel matter as permitted by the Virginia Code 2.2-3711 (A) (1).

The executive session being closed, the council reconvened into open session. Councilman Ronny Worley moved that the Boydton Town Council certify that, in the closed meeting just concluded, that nothing was discussed except the matters (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in a closed meeting and (2) lawfully permitted to be so discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in that motion. The motion was passed by a roll call vote as follows:

Ronald C. Worley	Aye	W. H. Coleman	Aye	David M. Crowder	Aye
J. M. Kirkland	Aye	T. G. Gill	Aye	Bill Thompson	Aye

No action was taken or motion made from the discussion after the closed session.

There being no further comments, questions or concerns, Councilman Ronny C. Worley moved to adjourn the meeting, which was recorded by the Clerk at 9:12 P. M. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor.

Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk-Treasurer
April 11, 2017

T. G. Gill
Vice Mayor