

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on December 12, 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

**Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Richardson
Mrs. Kathy Smith
Mr. Ray Smith, Maintenance Supervisor
Ms. Hannah Cox, South Hill Enterprise
Mr. R. H. Park, WWTP Chief Operator
Mr. Jim Walters, Rep. to Rails-to-Trails**

Vice Mayor Thomas G. Gill opened the regular meeting by welcoming everyone for their attendance at tonight's meeting. He led the council and guests with the pledge of allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence.

Vice Mayor Gill requested approval of the joint public hearing minutes from the public hearing held on November, 2017, between the Planning Commission and the Town Council and the regular minutes for November 2017. Councilman J. M. Kirkland moved to approve the combined set of minutes for November as submitted, with Councilman David M. Crowder seconding the motion. All members voted unanimously.

Vice Mayor Gill requested a motion to pay the bills for the month of December 2017. Councilman Bill Thompson moved to pay the December 2017 bills, as presented. Councilman J. M. Kirkland seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor.

Police Chief Danny R. Fox, was not present due to the death of his mother; therefore, no police report was presented for November. Vice Mayor Gill read a thank-you note from the Fox family for the flowers sent from the town in sympathy for Chief Fox's mother.

Mr. R. H. Park III reported that Boydton's Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings Report of water pumped for December 2017, was 2,063,000 gallons, which included a small water leak. Mr. Park III reported that another tree had fallen on the fence down at the WWTP and needed to be repaired. He stated that the bid came in at \$910.00, which is less than \$1,000.00; therefore, he didn't think our insurance coverage would take care of it as it had before, since the town had a \$1,000 deductible, unless it is a one time deductible. Mrs. Bowen, responded saying that she would check on it. Mr. Park III requested that the council approve his request. Vice Mayor Gill asked, "How many more trees are capable of falling down there?" Mr. Park III advised that he hoped none. He felt that due to Showalter's equipment lined up on one side and a hill on the other side, it caused the strong winds to funnel through that area causing the tree to fall, but they were now beginning to

move their equipment from the area, so he hopes that won't happen again. Councilman J. M. Kirkland moved to allow Mr. Park III to have the fence repaired with Councilman David M. Crowder seconding the motion. All members voted in favor. Mr. Park III updated the council on the progress at the plant by saying that we are over the contract time by about forty (40) days, but all the components have been installed and factory checked and are working well. He continued to say that the electricians are a little behind due to hooking up everything and getting the scada system to operate the equipment the way it was designed to do and it taking about four (4) weeks to get the electricity into the new switching gear. He stated that it should be the first of the year when everything is up and running as planned and the contract would be completed. He further stated that he would need some spare parts on hand (not covered in the grant) that would cost approximately \$700.00-\$900.00. He wanted the council to know that he would be ordering these spare parts, consisting of fuses, belts, and filters for the new pumps and air blowers just in case something should break down...they would have these parts readily available. Mr. Park III informed the council that Harman Saunders came by and he is getting the parts together for the pump station on Hwy. 707 and would, hopefully, depending on how the parts come in, he would be working on that before or after the holidays. There being no other questions for Mr. Park III, the Vice Mayor moved on to the maintenance report.

Mr. Ray Smith, Maintenance Supervisor, reported that everything in his department was moving pretty smoothly with the disposal of leaves and brush removal. Mr. Smith informed the council that Mr. Park III had passed off to him the issue regarding the three (3) fire hydrants on Washington Street that need to be repaired. He stated that the quotes he had were a couple years old and he would like the council's approval to get quotes from Showalter and Saunders to repair these while they are in the area or get more quotes from other sources. Councilman Coleman said, "I thought we actually hired someone to do the work. We never hired anybody, Renny?" Mr. Park III responded, "No." Councilman Kirkland said, "We've got the hydrants...correct?" Mr. Smith replied, "We have the valves and the hydrants." If we had the valves already there, it may be something the town crew could do themselves, but without them already being there, it's almost impossible for the town crew to do, since we don't have the tools or equipment to undertake that job. Mr. Smith also asked those councilmen on the fire department, if they thought one of the hydrants (the one near Farm Bureau and in the middle) could possibly be capped off due to the fact that it is very close to the other ones and have fiber optic cables all around it. Councilman Kirkland & others agreed that if it wasn't necessary to keep it in operation, to cap that one off and also, told Mr. Smith to go ahead and contact Mr. Saunders and Showalter to get this work done. Vice Mayor Gill stated that he was going to bring up that subject himself, as far as covering it up again, since the bag over it had blown off. Mr. Smith stated that he would take care of it. The Vice Mayor reiterated to Mr. Smith to get quotes as soon as possible and let the council know.

Vice Mayor Gill also commented on the Grand Illumination. He stated that it went well and right on schedule and commended the town crew on having everything ready. He then opened the floor for public comments. Since Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Richardson were in attendance for tonight's meeting, Vice Mayor Gill turned the floor over to them for comments or any concerns. Mrs. Andrews-Richardson stated that a few years ago, during the Skipwith Road Rehab Grant Project, a type of septic system was installed for them, and she was appearing before the council to make them aware that the system was failing. She stated that the odor is almost unbearable and keeps getting worse, along with water standing and mosquitoes in their housing area, which consists of three (3) houses. Mr. Richardson took over the conversation, and he was asking for help from the town. Mr. Park III stated that he knew of their complaint and they went over there a few months ago and pumped the tank out. The Richardson's stated that pumping it out worked for a while, but didn't last because surface water is back again and the odor is back, as well. After more discussion, Mr. Richardson asked could a lock be installed on the fencing around the area, due to the danger involved since his wife almost sank in the area and it could be dangerous, if someone else got in there. Mr. Park III stated that there was a lock on it, but there was a way to get in by bypassing the lock; however, he would put a chain on it to hopefully resolve that issue. Councilman Kirkland assured the Richardson's that the town would do whatever they could to make things right for them. Mr. Park III suggested that he could possibly reset the timer as to when it pumps or put a new timer on it. The Vice Mayor requested that Mr. Smith and Mr. Park III make this their top priority. He assured the Richardson's that the town would take care of the situation or find someone who could. He also told them to continue to keep the town updated on the situation. Mr. Richardson thanked the council for their time and request.

Vice Mayor Gill asked Mr. Walters if he had anything to report from the Rails-to-Trails. Mr. Walters reported that he spoke to the Clarksville town council and they are preparing a Resolution for the Rails-to-Trail to be signed at their meeting next week. Also, he will be going before the Rails-to-Trails board to recommend that they go forward with the trail between Boydton and Clarksville. He stated that he would be receiving a quote from an engineering firm, Land Planning and Design Associates (LPDA) from Charlottesville, VA who are the ones who did the master plan for the Tobacco Heritage Trail and that will give us something to go forward to the State in order to possibly get funding for this project. Vice Mayor Gill thanked Mr. Walters for his continued fine work done on towards this endeavor.

Councilman Kirkland stated that he had spoken to Mr. Ray Smith regarding the extremely bad condition of the streets in the Town of Boydton. He continued by saying that he'd like a meeting to be arranged with VDOT officials sometime after the first of the year to see what can be done, since we are the County Seat town. He also stated that "cold patch" was not a "fix" for our streets and he'd like something more to be done. After further

discussion, it was requested that Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, to contact whoever was in charge at VDOT, on matters of this nature, to set up a meeting and possibly have pictures available or take them to the sites to let them view these bad conditions. Mrs. Bowen stated that she would contact John Legg at VDOT to see what could be done.

Vice Mayor Gill stated that the Boydton Volunteer Fire Department had their annual election of officers and he read who they were. (Attached) Councilman Thompson advised that the Boydton Rescue Squad had their same meeting and the officers stayed as is. He also thanked and commended Mr. and Mrs. Ray Smith for their volunteerism and the time they give to assist the squad along with other councilmen thanked them, as well.

Vice Mayor Gill informed the council that the exterminator contract was up for renewal for the Presbyterian Church and the Town Hall. He was requesting the council's approval to continue this contract or not with American Exterminating. Councilman Ronny Worley moved to approve the contract for another year. Councilman J. M. Kirkland seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor.

The Vice Mayor advised the council that the town employee Christmas dinner would be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at noon to be catered by the Copper Kettle. He noted that the council was invited, as well.

Vice Mayor Gill updated the council on the responsibility the town had towards the Boyd Tavern regarding tours and the use of their bathrooms for tourists. He stated that Mrs. Bowen had found out from Sandra Tanner that there was no monetary obligation due or promised from the town. Councilman Thompson also spoke to former Congressman, Virgil Goode, and he stated that the town should not have been involved in any agreement with the Tavern. It was then the consensus of the council that the town was relieved of any obligation regarding having the Boyd Tavern open.

There being no further comments or questions, Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to adjourn the meeting, which was recorded at 8:15 P.M., with Councilman J. M. Kirkland seconding the motion. All members voted unanimously.

Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council & Treasurer
December 12, 2017

Vice Mayor T. G. Gill

