

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on June 13, 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**

GUESTS

**Mr. & Mrs. Donna Ober & Grandchild
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Getz, Jr.
Mr. R. H. Park III, WWTP Chief Operator
Ms. Olivia Allison, South Hill Enterprise
Mr. Walter Beales
Mr. Kyle Rosch
Mr. Ray Smith, Maintenance Supervisor**

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

The Vice Mayor requested approval of the minutes from May 9, 2017. Councilman J. M. Kirkland moved to approve the May minutes 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 June 2017. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to pay the bills for June 2017, as presented. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor.

Police Chief Danny R. Fox greeted everyone and briefed the council on police activity during the month of May. Chief Fox reported that he had (4) vehicle stops, (1) citation for 42 mph in a 25 mph zone on Madison Street, and (1) rescue assist for the month.

Mr. R. H. Park III reported that Boydton's Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings Report of water pumped for May 2017, was 1,574,000 gallons. Mr. Park III reported there was a large amount of sewage discharge from the pump station at the end of Washington Street on May 25th, which happened over a three day period of rain. He stated that a report was sent to DEQ, which was included in the packets for their perusal. He updated the council on the electrical service at the metered manhole for the Industrial Park. He reported that Dominion Power was trying to obtain an easement from the land owner, but the only obstacle at this time was arranging a time to get his signature. Once this is done, a tentative date to start work would be no later than August 15, 2017. Mr. Park III updated the council on the progress at the WWTP by stating that everything was going smoothly with a few little bumps in the road, but nothing that can't be handled. The new chlorine building and the new storage building at MCC have been weathered in, as well, and the wiring for both have been started. The contractors have redone two clarifiers and two pump stations, along with the EQ basins concreted in.

Mr. Ray Smith gave an update on the old Lake Country Laundromat concerning repairing the entrance. He spoke to the Virginia Department of Transportation and was told that since it's a place of business, they would not repair the entrance; however, if it was residential, they would. Mr. Smith spoke to Mr. Matt Reid with the Virginia Municipal League and he sent a contact list of playground contractors to Mrs. Bowen in order to get more bids on doing the work for the playground. He stated the one bid that we did get was very costly; however, it was all inclusive with handicap parking, sidewalks, diverting the ditch, regrading, and all materials with the cost totaling \$75,000. Vice Mayor Gill recommended that we definitely need to get another quote. Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Reid informed him that the grant for the playground would only be in the amount of \$1,000.00, which wouldn't cover much of the cost. Vice Mayor Gill asked if anyone remembered the name of the man that worked with Microsoft who was, at one time, going to have his crew move the playground equipment. Mrs. Bowen stated that his name was Preston Butler. Mr. Allen Getz, Jr. interjected, by stating that he had spoken to the main project manager with Microsoft and was advised that due to past events with the Town of Boydton, they basically said they have no interest in helping. Councilman Bill Thompson stated that he and Gene Coleman had met with a company who was representing Microsoft and they stated that they were very much interested in improving their image by helping out the Town of Boydton. He stated that he didn't know if anything would come from this meeting, however. Vice Mayor Gill stated, that he was led to believe by Mr. Butler that Microsoft had approved to help us with this endeavor, but they had to wait a year on the warranty period for the Rails-to-Trails to connect to the current site. When Mr. Butler moved away this all seemed to fade away. Vice Mayor Gill reiterated to Mr. Smith that he just needed to continue to get more bids for now. Mr. Smith repeated that this project would be extremely costly for everything that had to be done to make it handicap accessible. Mr. Smith, also, advised that the yards had been cut that were mentioned at last month's meeting. A few other comments were mentioned regarding residential yards, with Mrs. Bowen stating that she would check on them.

Vice Mayor Gill stated that he would like an approval by the council to advertise for a public hearing for the FY 2017-2018 budget. Councilman J. M. Kirkland moved to approve the advertisement for a public hearing regarding the new fiscal year budget to be held next Tuesday night, June 20, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. Councilman David M. Crowder seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor.

The Vice Mayor advised the council that under a new law, HB 818, VA Code, Section §2.2-3704.2 a FOIA Officer needed to be appointed by the council. Councilman David M. Crowder moved to appoint Mrs. Shirley S. Bowen, MMC, as the FOIA Officer for the Town of Boydton. Councilman J. M. Kirkland seconded the motion, and all members voted unanimously.

Vice Mayor Gill advised that the advertisement for sealed bids was ready to be published regarding the "Yellow House," and in order to move forward, a motion was needed to proceed. He informed the council that the wording for the ad had been done and it had been

reviewed and approved by Mr. Thomson Lipscomb. Mr. Lipscomb suggested to Mrs. Bowen, that it should be advertised for three (3) weeks in one or two local newspapers with a date set to be due in this office, and opened by one or more designated council members on the date specified. Mrs. Bowen informed the council that Mr. Lipscomb had, also, made a suggestion to possibly put a time that someone could schedule an appointment to view the house. Councilman Kirkland suggested that someone who would like to bid on the house, could call the Town Hall to schedule an appointment time to view the house & property. Councilman Thompson stated that he would be available to show the house, if he was called. Councilman Coleman suggested that the council should set a minimum amount on the property before the opening of the bids and to make sure that the zoning rules for the town are definitely stated, prior to the bidding process. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, reiterated from the last meeting, that the house and land were zoned as an R-1, Residential District, and if anyone wanted to change that, once it was purchased, they would have to come before the planning commission and the town council, file a rezoning permit, advertise for a public hearing, and the council would make the final decision to change the zoning of this property before it could ever be changed. Councilman J. M. Kirkland moved to have the Clerk of Council advertise for sealed bids on the property at 865 Jefferson Street, Boydton, VA. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion, with all members voting unanimously. Councilman Ronny Worley suggested that the bids should be opened on the night of the next town council meeting.

Mr. Will Ober stated that the town clock on Madison Street, beside the courthouse, hadn't had the correct time since the electrical storm during the previous week. Councilman W. H. Coleman asked Mr. Ray Smith if he would get that reset. Mr. Smith affirmed that he would.

Vice Mayor Gill stated that Mrs. Bowen had advised him that the town had been without an attorney for two (2) years and he said that although, we don't need one very often, it's good to have one that will keep in touch with us on upcoming events and matters that would need an attorney's attention. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, stated that Mayor Coleman III had mentioned in the past an attorney located in Kenbridge. Mrs. Bowen commented, that there is an option to have an attorney on a retainer, which she doesn't believe the council would want to do, or possibly arrange an agreement with the attorney of choice. Councilman Bill Thompson stated that Mr. Cal Spencer of Kenbridge may consider it, and that Mr. Walter Beales possibly knows Mr. Spencer. Mr. Walter Beales stated that he knows Cal very well, but didn't think he'd take the town on since he was getting away from municipal law, but stated there was another attorney, Tessie Bacon, in his office who may be willing to work for Boydton and furthermore, she's the Town of Chase City's attorney, as well. Mrs. Bowen then remarked, that Ms. Bacon was the attorney Mayor Coleman III was speaking of. Vice Mayor Gill asked the council how they felt about Mrs. Bowen touching base with both of those attorneys. Councilman W. H. Coleman asked that Mrs. Bowen contact each of them to see if they would be willing to accept the town as their client and to find out the cost involved. Vice Mayor Gill advised Mrs. Bowen to follow up with each of them and update the council at our next meeting.

Vice Mayor Gill stated, that Mrs. Bowen presented him with an email from Angie Kellett, Director of Mecklenburg County Office Economic Development, requesting a tentative commitment/participation from the Town of Boydton (on a per capita rate of \$1.04, from the 2010 Census population of 431) to help cover the cost of \$10,000 to “Retail Strategies,” a marketing/recruitment company, which would work with the various towns on retail recruitment efforts. The town’s cost would be \$448.24, with the other towns, also, sharing in the cost of \$10,000. The County’s cost would be another \$10,000, as well; thus, making the total cost \$20,000 to be paid to Retail Strategies. Vice Mayor Gill stated that Mr. Kyle Rosch went to a meeting and asked if he would brief them regarding that meeting. Mr. Rosch stated that a couple of weeks ago, a consultant firm asked the people of the Town of Boydton their opinions of what’s going on with Microsoft. Mr. Rosch stated that he found out at the meeting that Microsoft was interested in working with the town in certain areas to gain a better image. Councilman W. H. Coleman stated that this consulting firm was doing a study and gathering information from the community that Microsoft serves and Microsoft’s concern was primarily on focused on building their image within the community. Councilman W. H. Coleman felt that more information was needed before a decision could be made to Ms. Kellett; therefore, no motion or decision was made. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, suggested that they give it more thought and possibly have a decision by next Tuesday’s meeting.

Vice Mayor Gill inquired of Councilman Bill Thompson, if his committee had done any more work on the signage ordinance. Councilman Thompson stated that he got a copy of Chase City’s, Clarksville’s, and the County’s signage ordinance and none of them was what they were looking for. Councilman Thompson had suggested that anyone that applies for a sign within the town limits should, 1) fill out an application with the Zoning and Planning Committee, 2) pay a non-refundable fee of \$25, 3) must present an exact location, 4) size of the sign, 5) present a description with a drawing of the sign, 6) no electric or neon signs, 7) must be on private property, 8) political signs were not to be displayed more than 60 days, 9) temporary signs need not be displayed any more than 30 days, 10) must be approved by the Zoning and Planning Committee first, and 11) approved by the Town Council. Councilman Thompson asked for any comments or suggestions, but there were none. Councilman W. H. Coleman stated that he thought when Dollar General installed their sign, that we already had a signage ordinance in place. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, stated that was true for a commercial building, if it fell in the architectural review district, which Dollar General did. She confirmed that she had looked in our ordinance book and through all of the ARB information that Mrs. Elaine Bowers had on file, and only found that a sign could be 3’ by 3’ square, but that was with tubing that went around the edge of the sign and it was for a neon type sign in the architectural review district. She stated that she couldn’t find anything else regarding signage. Mrs. Bowen stated, that it seems we only have a signage ordinance for the ARB, but hadn’t been able to locate any details on the size anywhere; however, she would continue her search.

Vice Mayor Gill informed the council that Mrs. Bowen spoke to Mrs. Karen Whitten at Citizens Community Bank regarding the town’s money market account rates. Mrs. Whitten advised she could give us a better rate and it’s much better than what we are now currently

earning. Council W. H. Coleman stated that the question for the council is, "Do we leave the money in a money market account or do we move it to a certificate of deposit?" Mrs. Bowen stated, that Mrs. Whitten, said that she could increase the money market interest rate in the morning, if the council agreed to it tonight. Mrs. Bowen stated that since we deposit and withdraw funds in our Sludge Fund & Presbyterian Church Fund, she felt those should stay in a money market account and transfer the other accounts into a 24 month CD. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to transfer the four (4) other accounts to a 24 month CD and leave the Sludge account and Presbyterian Church account in the Money Market accounts. Councilman Ronny Worley seconded the motion, and all other members voted in favor. Councilman W. H. Coleman requested that Mrs. Bowen get in touch with Ms. Carrilee Spence, with First Citizens Bank, regarding the town's regular Money Market checking account, and if she can't get us a better rate, then we should possibly move that, as well.

Councilman David M. Crowder inquired if anyone had heard anything regarding any meetings with the Rails-to-Trails. Mrs. Bowen advised that she had spoken to Mr. Jim Walters, our newly appointed representative from the town, and he requested that a letter be sent to him stating that he had been appointed by the council as the town's Rails-to-Trails representative, and he didn't mention any meetings that were forth coming. Mrs. Bowen also, informed Councilman Crowder and the other council members that Ms. Robin Tuck of the Southside Planning District Commission had resigned from her position there and would no longer be working with the Rails-to-Trails. She continued to say at this time, they have no plans to actually replace her, but are possibly planning on hiring a part-time person to help out in another position, as well as, helping out with the Rails-to-Trails.

Councilman W. H. Coleman asked Mr. Smith if the town crew was cutting the grass along the trail. Mr. Smith responded by saying that they had been cutting two (2) strips down each side. Councilman Coleman stated that he was planning on spraying the edges of the trail with Round-Up to kill the grass and also asked, if they felt it would be a good idea to pull up the road with his box blade. Mr. Smith asked, "Would doing this make the road wash or not?" Councilman Coleman replied by saying he didn't know, but he would look at it this weekend, if his schedule permitted.

There being no further comments, questions or concerns, Councilman J. M. Kirkland moved to adjourn the meeting, which was recorded by the Clerk at 8:35 P.M. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion, with all the members voting in favor.

Krystle S. Magann
Deputy Clerk

T. G. Gill
Vice Mayor

Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk-Treasurer