

**The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on March 14, 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)  
Ronny Worley  
T. G. Gill, Vice Mayor  
W. H. Coleman (Absent)  
J. M. Kirkland  
David M. Crowder  
Ronny Worley  
Bill Thompson  
Shirley S. Bowen, MMC, Clerk-Treasurer  
Krystle S. Magann, Deputy Clerk**

**GUESTS**

**Mr. David Goodwin  
Mr. Will Ober  
Mr. Charles Rouse  
Mr. Allen Getz  
Mr. R. H. Park III, Public Works Dir. (Absent)**

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

**Vice Mayor Gill requested approval of the minutes from February 14, 2017. Councilman J. M. Kirkland moved to approve the February minutes as submitted, with Councilman Bill R. Thompson seconding the motion. All members voted unanimously.**

**Vice Mayor Gill requested a motion to pay the bills for the month of March 2017. Councilman Bill R. Thompson moved to pay the bills for March 2017, as presented, with Councilman J. M. Kirkland seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.**

**Police Chief Danny R. Fox greeted everyone and briefed the council on police activity during the month of February. Chief Fox reported that he had (5) vehicle stops, (3) vehicles he unlocked, and (1) disabled vehicle in the intersection of Washington & Madison Streets. When questioned regarding the larceny of last month, Chief Fox stated that the investigation was still in progress.**

**Due to the absence of Mr. R. H. Park III, Vice Mayor Gill reported that Boydton's Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings Report of water pumped for February 2017 was 951,000 gallons.**

**Vice Mayor Gill referenced last month's meeting regarding Mr. Allen Getz being volunteered to check into the playground equipment, and inquired if he had any updates. Mr. Getz stated that he went to a presentation last month at Park View High School about expanding the Centennial Park in South Hill by making it handicap accessible; however, he he believed that Boydton can do it better & faster. Mr. Getz asked the council, "How attached are people to the old elementary school on School Street?" He stated that he had contacts for people that would be able to dismantle two of the buildings and sell the bricks**

and metal for funding for the handicap accessible playground. Councilman Bill Thompson stated that the building belongs to the County with Vice Mayor Gill concurring. Mr. Getz reiterated that the old high school building could be dismantled and the building that the Fire Department holds bingo in could be renovated/expanded and used for other various other events. Councilman Bill Thompson stated that in the HBR Meeting, Gene Coleman and several others volunteered to move all the playground equipment that belonged to the town, down to the Hull Street location as planned and agreed upon in a prior meeting. Councilman Ronny Worley stated that Gene Coleman called him, prior to tonight's meeting, and offered to let the town use his trailer to move the playground equipment down to the Hull Street site because he was afraid if we don't move it soon, we may lose the equipment. Councilman Worley stated that the town employees had previously agreed to move it and once that is done, we will pursue it after that. Vice Mayor Gill asked, "What are your (councils) opinions on what needs to be done?" Councilman J. M. Kirkland stated that the property and building belongs to the County and it's been mentioned a few times to make use of the building. He said that we need to know what the County's plans are now to do with the property or can we purpose it for something else. Vice Mayor Gill stated that when former Mayor Salzmann was in office, he pursued that site for a playground and the County didn't want the liability or responsibility of having the playground. Vice Mayor Gill stated that the Rails-to-Trails board didn't know about the accessibility from the trail to Hull Street for the playground. Mr. Charles Rouse stated that in previous minutes of years past regarding the Rails-to-Trails access, they "did" approve stairs to the playground after their one year warranty period had passed (which had now passed) and after that, it could be implemented. Vice Mayor Gill asked, "How should Mr. Getz follow up on this?" Councilman Worley stated, we need to first move the equipment down to Hull Street and maybe reach out to Microsoft to make it happen. Mrs. Shirley Bowen, Clerk-Treasurer, reported that she spoke to the town's VML representative, Matt Reid, a while back about the playground and he stated that with the new laws, a playground would have to be handicap accessible to be covered by our VML insurance company and do so, regular wooden mulch would be the required material in order for wheelchairs to roll across it easily. Mr. Getz stated that there are grants for towns with a population of five thousand or less. He noted that he had information from three companies who specialize in building handicap playgrounds and they work with the town on locating grants. Mr. Getz asked, with the council's permission, "If he could research the grants?" Councilman Kirkland stated that he felt like we needed to go ahead and move the equipment before we lose it and he didn't see a reason to not let Mr. Getz research the grants, being he's so kindly taken this upon himself to volunteer and he appreciated his efforts. Councilman Kirkland reiterated that he'd like for Mr. Getz to continue his research and for the town employees to get the equipment moved. More discussion ensued and Councilman J. M. Kirkland moved to go ahead with the plans to relocate the playground equipment from the schoolboard site down to Hull Street and have Mr. Getz continue his research on the grants for the playground and report again to the town. Vice Mayor Gill pointed out that the Hull Street property does belong to the town, whereas, the property at the old high school site doesn't belong to the town. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor.

**Councilman David M. Crowder asked if we should pursue the question of what the County wants to do with the property. Vice Mayor Gill stated that he felt the town could own that property on School Street by noon tomorrow, for a dollar and added that's how bad they want to get rid of it. He stated that water has been in the basement of the school for years and the only reason it's still there was because of donations to repair it, and the windows have been repaired and some outside work, but it's still in rough shape. Mr. Will Ober stated that he kept the basement dry for two years and replaced all the windows as they became broken. He stated that he stopped taking care of the building over a year ago because the County wasn't doing a thing with it and didn't seem to care about it, either. He continued to say that he went to the County, as President of HBR, Inc., to ask them to allow HBR to put the park up at the old high school location and they wouldn't accept that responsibility/liability and they, also, decided not to put the equipment at the location on Hull Street, since it had standing water during heavy rains, as well as, poison ivy.**

**Vice Mayor Gill opened the floor for public input. Councilman Ronny Worley, stated with regards to the yellow house, that since the last meeting, we've had a town citizen to come forward to offer to donate the money for a termite inspection. Vice Mayor Gill asked, "Do we need to give this person permission?" Councilman Worley stated that the person said, he'd be happy to pay for it, if that's what the town wanted to do. Vice Mayor Gill advised that he heard in the past that termites had taken over the house. Mrs. Shirley Bowen, Clerk-Treasurer, reported that there was water damage to the outside wall and sheetrock according to the bank spokesperson. Councilman J. M. Kirkland moved to have an inspector come and inspect the house and move forward from there. Councilman David M. Crowder seconded the motion. Mr. Will Ober interjected by offering to go look at the house for termite damage in order to save the town money and to see if the house is salvageable. He said that he thought the house, from the outside, looked sound and was very well worth saving. Vice Mayor Gill, Councilmen Worley and Crowder agreed to go with Mr. Ober to look at the house; however, no date or time was scheduled to meet. Councilman Kirkland then rescinded his prior motion, along with Councilman Crowder rescinding his second to the motion.**

**Vice Mayor Gill commented that he and the council wished Mayor Coleman III a speedy recovery. Mrs. Shirley Bowen, Clerk-Treasurer, stated that she had spoken with Mayor Coleman III prior to tonight's meeting and he advised her that he didn't feel up to attending meetings at this time, and that he was spending most of his time going to doctors and therapy, but that he was getting better.**

**In another comment, Councilman J. M. Kirkland mentioned that he thought in the job description of a supervisor for the town, that it was a requirement for a supervisor to attend council meetings in order to answer questions that may have come up during the month since the prior meeting, and if that person couldn't be here, they would send a representative under him or her to answer any questions from the council or public. Therefore, he reiterated once again, that at council meetings, the supervisor or a representative (especially being on the agenda) should be present or a representative of the town sent to answer any questions that may be brought up during the meeting by the council or public. Vice Mayor Gill stated that this practice had already been established for**

many years. Councilman Kirkland stated that he felt we need to re-establish this practice with the town's employees.

Vice Mayor Gill asked that Chief Fox advise him/them when the "cold patch" comes to repair the roads, since he didn't want it just sitting for any length of time with the places not being patched. Chief Fox responded by saying, he would. Councilman Ronny Worley, also, asked if anyone knew where paving was going to be done in or around town. No one knew or responded as to where the repairs would be made.

There being no further comments, questions or concerns, Councilman Ronny C. Worley moved to adjourn the meeting, which was recorded by the Clerk at 8:12 P. M. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor.

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**Krystle S. Magann**  
Deputy Clerk

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**Thomas G. Gill**  
Vice Mayor

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**Shirley S. Bowen, MMC**  
Clerk-Treasurer  
March 14, 2017