

A Public Hearing, regarding the FY 2018-2019 Budget, was held at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Council Chambers on June 12, 2018, preceding the regular meeting at 7:30 P.M. with Vice Mayor Thomas G. Gill presiding.

THOSE PRESENT

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

GUESTS

**Mr. R. H. Park III, WWTP Chief Operator
Mr. Johnny Roberts, Jr., Maint. Supervisor
Mrs. Will Ober
Ms. Catherine Graham
Mrs. Chris Thompson
Mr. Walter Beales**

Vice Mayor T. G. Gill opened the meetings by welcoming everyone for their attendance. He first led the council and guests with the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

The Vice Mayor opened the public hearing in order for citizens to voice their questions or concerns pertaining to the properly advertised FY 2018-2019 budget as published “once” in the News-Progress. Vice Mayor Gill advised that the town wouldn’t be implementing any new rate increases for FY 2018-2019. Upon responding to a few questions, Vice Mayor Gill declared the public hearing closed. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, stated that due to State laws, the budget was to be adopted seven (7) days after the public hearing.

After closing the public hearing, Vice Mayor Gill asked Ms. Graham and Mrs. Thompson about their organization, “Humanity Road.” Ms. Graham asked Councilman Kirkland, who was appointed as the Incident Commander, to elaborate on the exercise done on May 9th at the library with the help of PATHS, the public library, the Boydton Life Station, the Boydton Volunteer Fire Department, the town’s maintenance department, the town’s Wastewater Department, John Taylor, Incident Commander of the County, and the town’s Police Department. Councilman Kirkland reported that he was extremely impressed with the exercise that was done that day and it was a phenomenal experience in witnessing what can happen during a disaster and the help offered by Humanity Road who was working with FEMA to get things up and running again. Ms. Thompson added that FEMA conducts a national level exercise every two years to promote local, state, regional, and national preparedness in case of a disaster. Ms. Graham and Mrs. Thompson thanked Mrs. Bowen for her time and “charm” she offered to the film crew from DataPath who came into Town Hall to record a video of the equipment that was used in the exercise. She stated that the video would be available to view at a later date. Councilman Kirkland and Vice Mayor Gill thanked these

two ladies for such an outstanding job they were doing, not only for the Town of Boynton, but nationally, as well, and stated that they had the full support of the town.

The Vice Mayor, while waiting for the time of the regular meeting to begin, stated that he had heard that the Big, Bad, Barbecue Battle had been cancelled and asked Mr. Ober if he could shed some light on this, since he was totally “lost” as to what happened. Mr. Ober informed him and the council that KCBS had advised him yesterday (Monday) that they were to have a larger number of teams signed up, as well as judges, and as of yesterday they only had four (4) teams signed up and there weren’t any judges assigned, thus far, in order to be sanctioned by the KCBS. Therefore, the committee of three (3), decided that it should be cancelled for this year, since the required number of teams and judges weren’t in place or had been met. He further stated that the BBQ Battle could still be held on that date, since the firemen had stated they wanted to do it, and they could go on with it as had been done in the first four (4) years; however, it couldn’t be sanctioned by the KCBS this year. Mr. Ober stated that it was strictly volunteers of Brooks Lenhart, his wife, Donna, and himself, and they just couldn’t do it themselves again this year, as had also been previously stated last year after the event. He said, “We sure did want to have it, but we just can’t do it again without the help of the KCBS for the work they do with the teams and all the “behind the scenes” work that is done, and the work that Donna and Brooks do...we’d just come to a point that we couldn’t do it!” He reiterated, “Again, it doesn’t mean we can’t have a BBQ Battle here in Boynton...it just means it won’t be sanctioned by the KCBS this year.” Vice Mayor Gill said he understood we only have four (4) teams signed up so far, and he asked, “In the past, we’ve had how many at this time?” Mr. Ober responded, “We usually have twelve (12) to fifteen (15) teams signed up by now, but we took a chance on saying that last year and we had eighteen (18) teams, which was the minimum and fortunately we got them. This year we were to have twenty-five (25) teams signed up and we only had four (4) and “zero” judges. It was a decision we didn’t want to have to make, but it had to be made, since Donna and I, and Brooks just won’t be doing it!” Councilman Thompson asked why were the number of teams increased each year? Mr. Ober responded by saying that they had thirty (30) teams last year to show up, so he had expected that we would have at least twenty-five (25) teams this year...and we don’t. The event was only two (2) months out and we usually had more and more teams signing up each week and it wasn’t happening this year. Vice Mayor Gill said, “Well, I guess it seems to have left us in “left field.” Mr. Ober again stated that the town could still have a barbecue on that day, but it would mean that it wouldn’t be sanctioned by the KCBS, but someone else could take it over and go with it as we did. Vice Mayor Gill stated, “It is surprising to me that so many had stated that they would be back next year and only four (4) had signed up for this year and I assume they are repeat competitors, so I don’t know what went wrong.” Mr. Ober stated, “Believe me, we did not want it to “not” be done this year, we did not! We talked about it

back in January when we originally talked to the firemen about taking it over and it was given a great/good response, so we figured...well, when we get back from Florida, we'll get going with the guys on this thing and they can take over all the duties and stuff and get it going. So HBR, Inc. went ahead and paid all the fees and got things set up with the KCBS and we got it done. It's just that it wasn't followed up on. That's what we didn't do. So it's gotten to this point where it now "has to be done" or it should have been done already, and it's just not there. No judges are signed up...none...not a one. Last year at this time, we probably had fifteen (15) judges signed up wanting to come and with no judges signed up...it's a very disturbing number. Something must be going on that we don't know about, so we cancelled it." Councilman Kirkland stated that he had a lot of people contact him who weren't happy about it, but said, "What's done is done!"

Vice Mayor Gill then officially opened the regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council. He requested approval of the May 8, 2018, regular minutes, as submitted. Councilman J. M. Kirkland moved to approve the minutes for May 2018 as presented, with Councilman Bill Thompson seconding the motion. All members voted unanimously.

Vice Mayor Gill requested a motion to pay the bills for the month of June 2018. Councilman Bill Thompson moved to pay the bills, as submitted for June 2018, with Councilman David M. Crowder seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.

Police Chief, Danny R. Fox, reported on his police activity for May. He reported he had two (2) vehicle traffic stops, and one (1) unlocking of a vehicle. He also reported that the disaster exercise that was held by Humanity Road, as part of the FEMA National Level Exercise, went well on May 9th and commended Ms. Graham and Mrs. Thompson for their efforts. Mrs. Thompson asked if the town had received any complaints about the heavy traffic on Washington Street. She was speaking about the log trucks coming through town and driving in the center of the road leaving no room for another vehicle to drive by; thus, almost running her and her sister off the road. And added that the logging trucks were going faster than the speed limit. Chief Fox responded that he was aware of this and he knew their job of cutting trees would possibly be completed within the next two (2) weeks, but he advised them that he would contact someone with the logging company regarding their concerns.

Mr. R. H. Park III reported that Boydton's Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings Report of water pumped for May 2018, was 1,738,000 gallons. Mr. Park III also stated that the DMR report, included in the packets, showed no problems. Mr. Park III informed the council that the surplus items on GovDeals had all been sold with \$4,336.00 being collected, which included the fire truck that sold for \$1,500.00 and the lawnmower sold for \$1,366.00. He reported that a letter dated May 21, 2018, to DEQ was in the packet that was concerning

the heavy rain storm in which 3.5" of rainwater fell and caused an overflow to some of the town's manholes. He further stated that they've been evaluating some of the sewer lines and found that there was a problem down on Jefferson Street and his plans were to work with the maintenance crew to resolve this issue. Mr. Park III handed out copies of photos taken on a portion of Jefferson Street in front of his house, which proved to be a dangerous situation. There is a VDOT ditch that isn't draining properly, and at times during heavy rains, it gets as much as three (3) feet deep. VDOT has been notified of the problem and is claiming that it's not their problem due to the drainage area being on private property. Mr. Park III explained that a small child could drown in that much water. He felt something should be done regarding this due to a Day Care Center being across the street on Madison and other small children in the area. He felt that a "sharp" letter should be sent to VDOT from the town. He said, it seems the water is backing up from a 36" pipe that has disintegrated & collapsed over time and is located on Dr. Eason's property. He felt that since VDOT had been using this pipe for over 60 years, and the concrete had disintegrated, that VDOT should take the responsibility of maintaining and replacing the pipe. He continued by saying that he doesn't know who installed it so many years ago, however, he felt that VDOT should "still" take the responsibility, since they've used this pipe for this long by allowing so much water to run through it. Councilman Thompson said he had the same problem, but VDOT wouldn't do anything about it; therefore, he had to pay \$3,000.00 to have the pipe replaced. Councilman Kirkland stated, with the council's approval, he would contact the person with VDOT (John Legg) about this problem to see what could be done. It was the consensus of the council to allow Mayor-elect Kirkland to look into this matter. Ms. Graham suggested that the town could also look into mediation funding from FEMA, as well.

Vice Mayor Gill asked Mr. Johnny Roberts, Jr. to report on the maintenance work done during the month. He reported that since the last meeting, the backhoe front grill had been replaced and the bucket had been repaired, the water leak on Hull Street, near Mrs. Walker and Farm Bureau, had been repaired, and the water meter on Madison Street at a resident's home (Mr. Chillemi) had been replaced. The sewer jetta was used over near Kerr Dam for H & S, and the decals have been ordered for the town trucks and should be ready in two or three weeks. He also reported that he had purchased some paint to mark the streets; however, that would have to be planned ahead for the proper time to paint, since painting during regular working hours wasn't feasible with all the vehicles that are in town during the day. It may have to be done in the late afternoons or on a weekend; therefore, he wanted to get with the council for their recommendation. Mr. Roberts, Jr. stated that the doors for the shop, which were discussed during the budget sessions, have been checked on for prices, but only one company (KC Garage Doors near Kenbridge or Victoria) has given him a price of \$4,340.00

for all four (4) doors. Councilman Thompson suggested a company in Lacrosse that he used to install his doors and he would provide Mr. Roberts, Jr. with the telephone number.

The Vice Mayor opened the floor for public comments. Mr. Walter Beales updated the council on the money that was put up for engineers to do a survey and estimates on the Tobacco Heritage Trail, which he paid half and the town paid half. Their efforts weren't dealt with in the legislative sessions due to hitting an impasse and no amendments to the budget were taken this fiscal year. He stated, "That doesn't mean that this is over and we are continuing to work on our efforts." Mr. Beales brought up an article that was in the Sun newspaper regarding Mr. Richard Crowder who was under Secretary of Agriculture. He advised that Mr. Crowder played a pivotal role back in 2012, when the Medical Center was in serious default and facing foreclosure. Mr. Crowder made crucial contacts with people in Washington and as a result of his contacts, the medical center here was saved. Mr. Beales asked permission from the council to send a resolution that he'd drafted for the council to review and send to Mr. Crowder on behalf of the town by thanking him and expressing our appreciation for all he's done for the Town of Boynton. Councilman Worley moved to adopt this resolution for Mr. Crowder. Councilman J. M. Kirkland seconded the motion and all members voted unanimously.

Councilman Worley asked what the cost of out-of-town garbage pick-up would be, if added to a resident's bill. It was stated that a dumpster fee would be \$60.00 per month and regular garbage pick-up would be \$15.00 per month. The dumpster would only be picked up once a week and regular garbage was picked up on Monday's and Friday's.

Councilman Kirkland stated that he would like to apologize for having to step out of the meeting to take a phone call from the person who would be moving the playground equipment. He informed the council that it would be started on within the next two (2) weeks. He stated that Mr. Brian Dalton at the School Board Office, had been notified that this would be taking place, and also informed the council that he met with the VML representative last week and they went down and looked at the site where I told him my plans. He also thanked HBR, Inc. for their contribution to this venture and stated, "We hope to have it up and going before the end of the summer." He continued by saying, "A lot of little things would have to be done, like mulching and that kind of stuff for an inspection, but when they come in, they will have to set and grade it, and the VML people said everything should be fine." He said, "Not saying we may not have a few things to come up as we go, but it may be a "little work in progress" and all equipment would be set, but it may not all be ready to go until we put in mulch, borders, and that kind of stuff around it. That's the latest information I have and hopefully by the end of the summer we can begin to utilize it." Vice Mayor Gill responded by saying, "That sounds good," with a few councilmen agreeing.

The Vice Mayor asked Mr. Ober on the progress of the upstairs renovations. Mr. Ober responded that the architect had been let go and a meeting was held with the committee members that afternoon to discuss what we want to do upstairs. Mr. Ober also stated that another meeting had been set for next Monday evening, June 18th to meet with the contractors to get estimates in order for us to know the cost on what's being planned.

Vice Mayor Gill inquired about the letter and survey that was sent out to the residents. Mr. R. H. Park III stated that it is a required annual notice and survey that is mandated by the Department of Health advising residents of their water quality, which proved to be fine.

The Vice Mayor reminded the newly elected officials, once again, not forget to go to the Courthouse and take their oaths of office prior to July 1, 2018, and to also bring their paperwork to this office to be filed. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, advised that she would remind them before the final date.

Mrs. Bowen asked to allow her to clarify the town's rate with the Virginia Retirement as to why we were given two (2) rates, since Councilman Coleman made a motion to go with the lower rate, but it was contingent on what was found out from VRS and also, since he was a bit skeptical, as well, as to why we would want to choose the lower rate of 0.43%, rather than the higher rate of 3.93% as the town's portion of the retirement on our employees. She informed the council that she called Ms. ZaeAnne Allen of the VRS and she stated that the General Assembly set lower rates back in 2012, during the economic recession, in order to help employers give their employees a possible raise and the employer had a choice every two (2) years to choose a lower or higher rate. She was also advised by Ms. Allen that this would be the last year we would be offered a lower rate. After the years 2018 through 2020, we would have to go with the VRS rate and the town would not have a choice. She again reiterated that it would "not" affect the employees, if the lower rate was chosen. She said, "I hope this answers/clarifies everyone's questions concerning this. No one had opposition or voiced concerns to this clarification.

Since a date was not set during the public hearing for the adoption of the FY 2018-2019 budget, Councilman Worley suggested that it be set for Tuesday, June 19, 2018, at 5:00 P.M. All councilmen agreed.

There being no further comments or questions, Vice Mayor Gill declared the meeting adjourned, which was recorded at 8:13 P.M.

Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council & Treasurer

Vice Mayor T. G. Gill

June 12, 2018