

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on August 14, 2018, at 7:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor John M. Kirkland presiding.

THOSE PRESENT

**John M. Kirkland, Mayor
T. G. Gill, Vice Mayor
W. H. Coleman (Absent)
Bill Thompson
David M. Crowder
Ronny Worley
Paul “Ray” Cherry
Shirley S. Bowen, MMC, Clerk-Treasurer
Angela S. Amos, Deputy Clerk
Chief Danny R. Fox**

GUESTS

**Mr. R. H. Park III, WWTP Chief Operator
Mr. Johnny Roberts, Jr., Maint. Supervisor
Mrs. Mildred Winn
Will & Donna Ober, Susanna Manton
Jackson, Jeb, and Kelly Medlin
Jenny & Bob Salzmänn
Mr. Glanzy Spain
Mr. David Goodwin
Ms. Susan Kyte, Mecklenburg Sun
Ms. Hannah Cox, South Hill Enterprise**

Mayor John M. Kirkland opened the regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council by welcoming everyone for their attendance at tonight’s meeting. He then led the council and guests with the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

The Mayor requested approval of the July 10, 2018, regular minutes. Councilman Bill Thompson moved to approve the minutes for July 10, 2018, as presented. Councilman David M. Crowder advised that he was not in attendance for the July 2018 meeting, as was in the minutes. With that correction being noted, Councilman Paul “Ray” Cherry seconded the motion and all members voted unanimously.

Mayor Kirkland requested a motion to pay the bills for the month of August 2018, as submitted. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to pay the bills as submitted for August 2018, with Councilman Ronny Worley seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.

Mr. R. H. Park III reported that Boydton’s Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings Report of water pumped for July 2018, was 1,458,000 gallons and there were no problems with the DMR Report for the month.

Police Chief, Danny R. Fox, reported on his police activity for July. He reported he had two (2) Alarm Calls, and (1) Petty Larceny, which proved to be unfounded, and three (3) Vehicle Stops. There were no questions or concerns addressed to Chief Fox.

Mr. Johnny Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor, reported on the maintenance department’s activity for the month of July 2018. Mr. Roberts informed the council that the decals with the Town Seal had been placed on the town trucks. He continued by stating that the

handicap handrail on the side entrance to the Town Hall had been repaired. He also reported that the town's portion of the Rails-to-Trails had been bush hogged and Councilman Worley had brought some inmates down to the area to cut back some limbs. Mr. Roberts stated that Virginia Rural Water Association had come to help find where the leak was coming from at the old Melody Manor nursing home, but after two days, their efforts had been futile, since it "still" could not be determined where the leak was originating. He further remarked that the only other resolve to the problem, would be to pump the water out and then go under the building to check further. He stated they would continue to work on this problem. Concerning another matter, Mr. Roberts informed the council that the garbage truck was in need of a tire, even though it passed inspection. Also, two light fixtures in the town shop needed to be repaired. Mayor Kirkland advised him to go ahead and do what needed to be done in both cases, and to consider it general repairs. Mr. Roberts stated that the electric service in the bollards on Bank Street, that are used for Boynton Day, weren't working and in need of repairs. Mayor Kirkland requested that Mr. Roberts try to find someone to do this work, as soon as possible, due to the our Boynton Day Festival approaching quickly, at the end of October. The Mayor asked if anyone had questions for Mr. Roberts. Vice Mayor Gill brought to the attention of Mr. Roberts, that he felt there was a leak at the old High School and another one across from Dollar General. Mr. Roberts advised that he had the person from Virginia Rural Water to check the one across from Dollar General and he felt it was coming from the fire hydrant across the street. They found that the hydrant was not closed off entirely and upon shutting it off, it seemed to resolve the problem. As for the leak at the old High School, he thought that was the same problem as in the past, but they would continue to work to find where it was leaking and report on it at the next meeting.

Mayor Kirkland welcomed and introduced a few "special" visitors for tonight's meeting. Miss Susanna Manton, Jeb & Jackson Medlin approached the council with Susanna thanking the council for moving the playground equipment to Hull Street and then requesting that it be completed as soon as possible. The Medlin boys and Susanna presented the council with a check in the amount of \$2,414.00 that consisted of proceeds from their lemonade sales, along with a matching amount from Historic Boynton's Renaissance, Inc. to help with the completion of the park. The Mayor, Council, and audience gave the children a huge round of applause and thanked them for their efforts to get this project completed. Mayor Kirkland personally thanked the children by saying, "This is what it's all about. It is just refreshing to see children in this day and age doing things that children of this age should be doing." He continued by thanking the parents and grandparents for steering these young people in the right direction. He then addressed

Susanna by saying, “We are going to do what we can, young lady, to get this thing finished as soon as possible!”

The Mayor introduced and welcomed Mr. Glanzy Spain, our town representative on the Board of Supervisors, to acquaint him with our new Councilmen Paul “Ray” Cherry” and the new Deputy Clerk, Angela Amos, as well as, updating everyone on the progress of the consolidated schools and the location, if known. Mr. Spain and council, were given a Resolution adopted on April 10, 2012, requesting that the location of the school be constructed and located near the Town of Boydton due to all the beneficial aspects of the location being near Boydton and that was still the town’s request at this time. Mayor Kirkland expressed his desire and that of the council, that since the town is centrally located within the County and has fire and rescue, it only seemed logical that it would be the best place to build the consolidated school for the children of the County. Mr. Spain responded by stating he understood the town’s concern and it’s future growth. He stated that several sites were looked at/studied, but they had to consider which one would be the best location. He also stated that the two boards have to work together to get this issue agreed upon and there’s a lot on the table to consider, as well as, needing five votes to settle on the land. Mr. Spain advised that the project is to be done by 2020-2021 and to do this, quick action needed to be taken, but wanted to make the school something everyone could be proud of. He stated that taxes have not been raised and there were no plans to raise them at this time, but the cost of the school would be approximately one hundred million dollars plus, at this time. The site that is being looked at is located off of Hwy. 58, east of here on Wooden Bridge Road; however, there was rock found on this site that is not considered a problem, at this time. A few questions from the council were asked of Mr. Spain, regarding “rumors” of issues regarding the elimination of an auditorium, track, and other things necessary for a consolidated school. Mr. Spain stated that none of these rumors were of concern and they would be included. Vice Mayor Gill stated that he felt the site being considered off of Highway 58 and Wooden Bridge Road would *not* benefit any surrounding town in the County and he also felt that the Park property, which was once considered, would help the Town of Boydton. Councilman Thompson and Councilman Crowder also voiced their opinion in favor of the school being built in or nearer to Boydton as being cost effective, as well. Mayor Kirkland conveyed his appreciation for Mr. Spain’s attendance at tonight’s meeting and his candor to the town and council regarding the consolidated school and all that he’d done for the Town of Boydton over the years.

The Mayor opened the floor for public comments. Mayor Kirkland recognized Mrs. Mildred Winn by mentioning that he’d heard she’d been under the weather and advised her to let him know, if she needed anything, and he’d be happy to help her.

Mayor Kirkland had distributed three (3) bids from contractors to complete the park and he asked for their opinion or thoughts. He further stated that he would like their support in order to get this project completed. The Mayor also informed the council that there had been some performance issues with the website recently, and with the help of Alex Wells, the County's IT person and the ladies in the office, the website was now up and running again. He stated that if anyone has something they would like placed on the website they should contact the Clerk-Treasurer or the Deputy Clerk. Another proposal the Mayor suggested was to create a simple email address for each of the council members and the employees. He felt this way it would streamline the efficiency of the functions of the office, along with the council members and/or the public to be able to quickly contact and communicate more easily. The cost of this would be around \$70-\$90 per email address, which would be an approximate annual cost of \$1,200 -\$1,500 and could be budgeted each year, and if it didn't work out, it could be eliminated. The Mayor requested a motion to go forward with this new plan of communication. Councilman Paul "Ray" Cherry moved to go forward with the email address project that will be tied in with the website. Councilman David M. Crowder seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

Mayor Kirkland thanked Councilman Cherry for attending the VML Conference for newly elected officials. Councilman Cherry reported that he found it to be extremely beneficial to him as a new councilman. The Mayor advised that there was another conference to be held in Hampton, VA at the end of September that he plans to attend and hopefully it will be beneficial to him, as well as, the town.

The Mayor advised that he took the liberty of hiring Alice Ghee to clean the town offices at an initial cost of \$175.00 to clean the entire lower level of the building, which took two (2) days. He stated, "It had almost gotten away from us and it was well worth the cost." He was proposing to have the council agree to allow Mrs. Ghee to continue to come every two (2) weeks to clean the building at a rate of \$70.00 for each cleaning. Councilman Ronny Worley moved to re-hire Mrs. Ghee to clean the town offices at the rate of \$70.00 per cleaning. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion, and all members voted unanimously.

Mayor Kirkland announced the Community BBQ/Chicken dinner to be held on Saturday, August 25, 2018, from 5-9 P.M. with a bouncy house for the children, and Tobacco Road Band playing various genres of music as entertainment. He advised that everyone is cordially invited and asked that the residents/citizens bring a dessert to share and a lawn chair.

Vice Mayor Gill brought up the issue of finishing the park and the timeliness of getting the work done. It was the consensus of the council to discuss the park within the next week to make decisions on this in order to hopefully have it ready by Boydton Day.

Mr. Will Ober interjected that he didn't understand why the town couldn't go ahead and put up the money to complete the park and in the meantime, keep on trying to get donations in while the work is being done, in order to finish it so the children could play on the equipment instead of it just sitting down at the site not being used. Mayor Kirkland thanked him for his opinion on the matter.

The Mayor advised that at this time the council would be convening into a closed session to discuss a personnel issue regarding hiring a maintenance employee.

Councilman Ronny C. Worley moved that the Town Council hold a closed meeting to discuss the following, as permitted by the Virginia Code 2.2-3711 (A) (1) for the purpose of discussing hiring a maintenance employee.

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	Absent	David M. Crowder	Aye
Paul "Ray" Cherry	Aye	Bill Thompson	Aye	T. G. Gill	Aye

Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved that the maintenance person to be hired would be the applicant that the personnel committee recommended for the position. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor with the exception of Councilman Ronny C. Worley who abstained.

There being no further comments, concerns, or questions, Mayor J. M. Kirkland declared the meeting adjourned, which was recorded at 9:10 P.M.

Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council & Treasurer
August 14, 2018

John M. Kirkland, Mayor

