

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on October 9, 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 D. Amos, Deputy Clerk
Chief Danny R. Fox**

GUESTS

**Mr. Johnny Roberts, Jr., Maint. Supervisor
Mrs. Mildred Winn
Will & Donna Ober
Mrs. Mildred Winn
Mr. Walter Beales**

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 to the flag followed by a moment of silence.

The Mayor informed the council that Shirley’s husband had been in the hospital and that she had been back and forth to keep up her job, and our Deputy Clerk, Angela, had “stepped up” to make sure everything ran smoothly in her absence. He asked for continued prayers during his recovery.

Mayor Kirkland requested approval of the September 11, 2018, regular minutes. Councilman Ray Cherry moved to approve the minutes of September 11, 2018, as submitted. Councilman David M. Crowder seconded the motion, and all members voted unanimously.

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

Police Chief, Danny R. Fox, reported his police activity for September. He reported that he had no calls, two (2) vehicle stops, worked two (2) days in service with three (3) more days to be completed, along with preparing for Boydton Day. Chief Fox stated that he would be here on Halloween night and requested assistance from the maintenance crew to help with lighting from their town vehicles to assure the children’s safety while “trick or treating.” He further stated that he would be working on Friday night for the Vesper Services, prior to Boydton Day, and would be back on Saturday morning for Boydton Day festivities. No other questions or concerns were addressed to Chief Fox. Halloween hours were set from 5:30 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. and would be posted on the Town’s website and our Facebook site.

Mayor Kirkland advised that Mr. R. H. Park III and Mr. Ray Smith, of the WWTP, were attending a class near Staunton today and due to traveling back home, Mr. Park III would not be here for tonight's meeting. He stated that the water report was in the packet and if anyone had any questions or concerns, he'd let Mr. Park III know and he would respond back to them.

Mr. Johnny Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor, reported that a fire hydrant at the corner of Jefferson and Washington Streets (near the library) had been hit by a motorist and was currently not in working condition. The individual's insurance company was to take care of replacing it, at a cost of \$1,966.50. He stated that he had a spare at the shop and would use that one to replace it, then the new one that's ordered will become our spare. Vice Mayor Gill inquired as to why water didn't come from the hydrant when it was hit. Mr. Roberts advised that it had a sleeve that would snap off, which kept it from opening. Mr. Roberts also reported that there were two (2) meters that go to the Waste Water Treatment plant and one of them is broken due to someone possibly driving over it, which broke the face of the meter and they are not able to read the meter any longer. The cost to replace this meter would be \$2,419.70. The Mayor asked Mrs. Bowen to check with VML (our insurance carrier) to see if this cost would be covered. Mrs. Bowen referenced another hydrant that was hit in the past and VML took care of it. Mr. Roberts then advised that the parking situation, which was mentioned at the last meeting, had been partially resolved and he hoped to have it completed before Boydton Day, but that would depend on other Boydton Day issues taking priority. Mr. Roberts informed the council that the 1999 Ford truck wasn't working and had been having electrical problems. It was suggested by Vice Mayor Gill to check with Mark Parrish to see if he could determine what the problem could be and if not, he could check on other options to get the truck repaired.

The Mayor advised that the maintenance crew had painted some parking lines on the streets, and painted the front entrance to Town Hall to help spruce up the town for Boydton Day. He continued by saying the town crew had been working closely with the Boydton Day Committee to make sure things were going smoothly for Boydton Day and were also working to assure all the electrical bollards were in working order for the vendors. He informed the council that he had spoken to the County officials at the Goode building advising them that due to accident issues and complaints from the citizens, a couple of parking spaces (possibly three spaces) over at their office would be eliminated to hopefully resolve this issue. He said they were very cooperative and totally understood the situation. Mayor Kirkland thanked Mr. Roberts and his crew for all they do round town.

Mayor Kirkland introduced Mr. Walter Beales and Mr. Jimmy Walters to report on a Rails-to-Trails grant application and a resolution pertaining to that application. Mr. Beales advised that a draft resolution had been circulated among the council for their perusal. He reported

that Mrs. Gail Moody, of the Southside Planning District Commission, had submitted the only application from the State of Virginia for a Federal “Build” Grant that’s 100% funded in the amount of \$19 to \$20 million dollars. He conveyed his appreciation by stating that this was a significant factor in our continuing efforts to construct the trail from Boydton to Clarksville. He advised that Mrs. Moody and her staff worked hard to get the application in and succeeded. By doing so, Mecklenburg County was the only one in Virginia who had applied for this grant. The only other states that applied were North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Mr. Beales informed the council and audience that all the surrounding towns in the area were backing this and writing resolutions to endorse the County, hoping to receive this Federal “Build” Grant and the Town of Boydton needed to do so, as well. Vice Mayor Gill asked Mr. Beales, if Sandra Tanner was in favor of this. Mr. Beales stated that she was very much in favor of this Federal “Build” Grant, since it would be fully funded with Federal money. Mr. Jimmy Walters interjected that all discussions, previously held, had been received favorably. Mr. Walters advised that all the work and discussions that were done, prior to this grant submission, would be paid for by this grant, if we were to succeed in getting it for our area. Mayor Kirkland expressed his gratitude and thanked Mr. Beales and Mr. Walters, as well as, others for all the hard work that had been done behind the scenes for this great opportunity that he’d just learned about since becoming the town’s Mayor. Councilman Ronny C. Worley moved to adopt this resolution. The Mayor requested that the resolution be submitted to Southside Planning District Commission with the words “lynch pin” being changed to “pivotal” in the fourth paragraph, as pointed out by Mr. Beales. With that one change, Vice Mayor Gill seconded the motion, and all members voted unanimously. As requested by the Mayor, Mrs. Bowen stated that she would make sure this was taken care of and sent to the SPDC.

The Mayor opened the floor for public comments. Mr. Will Ober requested that the town workers inspect an area on Jefferson Street where a sewer line runs down on his property and had created a little “lake area” and he’d like to see if the town could help with this problem by taking some dirt/gravel and filling it in. Mayor Kirkland advised that he would speak with Mr. Park III and the maintenance workers to see if they would come and meet with him and together take a look at it, to find a resolve that would hopefully correct the problem.

Mayor Kirkland touched on several issues regarding activity around town during the past month. He began by saying the town guys have been doing “little cleanup projects” and working on Boydton Day, while stating that he was impressed with all the volunteers who were on committees for Boydton Day in helping to make the event a success. The Mayor updated the council and audience by first stating that we have been waiting for the contractor to come back to finish up with the playground, but due to the weather, it had possibly held them up. He passed out signage rules to be used at the town park for the council’s review. He stated that the sign would be approximately 4’x 8’ designating the rules of the park, along

with the park name, which would be discussed later. He further stated that there would be two (2) additional smaller signs that would be erected at the Plank Road replica and another one (1) installed at the apartments across the street that specified “No Parking” there. He noted that the cost of these signs would be approximately \$1,345.00. The signs would be vinyl with a “clear coat” applied to protect them from the weather, along with white posts with caps. He suggested that the sign be placed at the end of the road, rather than at the beginning of the street to avoid being close to the apartments. Once the signage is approved, the company stated that it would be an approximate ten (10) day turn around to have them ready to install. Mayor Kirkland then asked for any other recommendations regarding the signs. Councilman Cherry remarked that he liked the signs and he thought they were a good price, as well. He further stated that he felt something should be added to “hold the town from harm” for insurance purposes. Hours of play were also discussed to be added to the larger sign. The Mayor advised that he would check with our VML insurance company on all these recommendations, meanwhile, asking if he had the council’s approval to go ahead with the pricing of the signs in order to confirm this with the sign company. Vice Mayor Gill moved to approve and proceed with placing the order for the signs once the wording is finalized. Councilman David M. Crowder seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor.

The Mayor informed the council that we were still working on the emails for the town, while waiting on the “IT person” to get back with us. He also mentioned that he realized there were a lot of things in our personnel policy that should be updated; however, it states that evaluations are to be done on our town employees annually, and it hasn’t been done in quite a while. He advised that he had spoken to the department heads and recommended that a brief meeting be held with all the employees where they would all be given a copy of their job descriptions, along with a copy of the evaluation sheets, and be advised of how this will work. He stated the supervisors would be evaluating their workers, and the Mayor, along with the personnel committee, would be evaluating the department heads. He stated that he felt this was a positive factor for the employees and would help point out the positives and negatives of their job performance, as well as, being documented; which in turn, would help determine compensation for the employees when budget time arrives. He also stated that according to policy, one more person should be on the personnel committee and advised that Councilman Bill Thompson had volunteered to be that third person. The Mayor asked for a motion to accept Councilman Thompson as the third person on the committee who would be joining Councilman Crowder and Councilman Worley. Vice Mayor Gill moved to approve Councilman Thompson as the third person on the personnel committee with Councilman Ray Cherry seconding the motion. All remaining members voted in favor. Mayor Kirkland noted that he would periodically (in the future) be asking for a few meetings with the committee to discuss updating sections of the personnel manual.

With no further comments or concerns, Mayor Kirkland adjourned the meeting at 8:05 P.M.

Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council & Treasurer
October 9, 2018

John M. Kirkland, Mayor