

The regular meeting and a public hearing was held by the Boydton Town Council on April 13, 2021, at 7:00 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
Bill Thompson
David M. Crowder
Paul “Ray” Cherry
Mr. Ronny Worley
Chief Danny R. Fox
Angela D. Amos, Deputy Clerk
Shirley S. Bowen, MMC, Clerk/Treasurer

GUESTS

R. H. Park III, WWTP Chief Operator
John M. Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor
R. H. Park III, WWTP
Dr. Dave Eason
Teresa Downey
Howie Fischer
Rex Worley
Susan Roberts
Walter Beales
Jimmie Cox
James Caknipe

Mayor John M. Kirkland opened the Public Hearing regarding the proposed sale of property currently owned by the town at 370 Madison Street (former Melody Manor) with adjoining home at 1181 Jefferson Street, which had been properly advertised in a local newspaper as required, by the Virginia State Code Section § 15.2-1800. The Mayor explained the reason for having a public hearing on the above listed property was due to mandates set by the Virginia State Code to advertise for a period of two (2) weeks regarding the sale of real property, which was properly done. He further stated the intentions of the town are to sell this deteriorated property, that has been an “eye sore” to the town for many years. This property faces Madison and Jefferson streets, along with Monroe Street on the side. We are seeking to turn this property around by hopefully making it a nice addition to the town. He then asked if there were any questions from the public. Dr. Dave Eason asked what condition is it in or if it needed to be bulldozed and taken down? The Mayor advised it was in very bad shape and, in his opinion, it wouldn’t be worth repairing. Several councilmen voiced their opinion, which was unfavorable as to its repair, due to water standing under the building and the floors have fallen in. The Mayor also stated that later in the evening the council would possibly make a decision on how the property would be sold, either by sealed bid or a public auction. Attorney Walter Beales inquired if there had been an environmental study done or if anyone knew of one being done. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, stated that she’d been working for the town since May 2002, and there hadn’t been one done during that time frame. Since there were no other questions or comments from the council or audience, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Mayor Kirkland opened the regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence.

The Mayor requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021, meeting. Councilman Ronny C. Worley moved to approve the minutes of the March 9th meeting, with Councilman Bill Thompson seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.

The Mayor called upon Chief Fox for his monthly report for March. Chief Fox reported that he'd been informed that a group at Easter time, went down to the town park on Hull Street and smashed boiled eggs all over the picnic tables, making a huge mess. It was suggested by the Chief to possibly install a sign at the park saying that children should be accompanied by adults to avoid this type of thing being done in the future. A brief discussion ensued, but no action was taken or decided upon.

Mr. R. H. Park III reported that Boydton's Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings Report of water pumped for March 2021 was 974,000 gallons and the DMR's for the month of March were satisfactory, as well. The Mayor stated that he and Mr. Park III had discussed the new sewer lines being installed and that he'd had some questions and concerns regarding them. Mr. Park III invited the council to come to the WWTP to review the plans and he'd show them his concerns that need to be addressed before the town accepts the responsibilities of these new sewer lines and before putting their final approval on accepting them. He stated that this could be addressed at any time during the process, however, it needs to be done prior to the council accepting these sewer lines. He advised that he'd already spoken to the engineer and he's aware of his concerns.

Mr. Johnny Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor, was requested to give his monthly report for March 2021. Mr. Roberts advised that he'd repaired the town street clock, that wasn't keeping the correct time. He also stated that he and the crew were preparing to repair the drain pipe at the bingo hall, hoping to keep the sidewalks clear; however, he doesn't know if it will correct the problem totally, but they won't know until it's done. He felt that when the truck got stuck up there it caused rust to develop in the pipe and that could be part of the problem. He also reported there was a big sewage blockage between Virginia Homes and the USDA building and the water is now flowing, but there's still something in the pipe and a part was ordered to clear the blockage completely and as soon as it comes in, they will go back and complete the repair. Mr. Roberts asked how the council felt about having Boydton Day this year and what their thoughts were on going forward with it. After several comments from the council, the Mayor, and Teresa Downey, it was decided that we'd wait until our next meeting in May, to hopefully, have a clearer understanding on the State mandates made by the Governor in order to make a definite decision.

Councilman W. H. Coleman asked Mr. Roberts about a deep hole across from Dr. Eason's house that needed to be fixed. Mr. Roberts responded by saying that he'd contacted John Griles of VDOT and he'd already sent a crew to repair it. Councilman W. H. Coleman also asked or wondered what would cause a hole like this to appear. Mr. Roberts stated that Renny had told him it could be a sewer line that had a gap in it and would possibly need to be dug up and slip lined, if the problem persisted.

The Mayor opened the floor for public comments. He introduced Mr. Jimmie Cox who represents the Sons of the Confederate. Mr. Cox stated that their group hired someone to come and test the area at the cemetery and no grave sites were found with his sonar equipment. He continued by saying it was enough room to place it at the site chosen, however, they wanted it moved about ten (10) steps back. Councilman W. H. Coleman suggested that Mr. Lipscomb (head of the cemetery committee) be contacted first. After it was confirmed that the cemetery was owned by the town, the suggestion was withdrawn.

It was then the consensus of council to contact our attorney to draw up an agreement between the Town and the Sons of the Confederate to cover all parties concerned to protect each entity and the Statue from being moved again.

The Mayor asked if anyone else had a comment. Mr. Rick Worley stood and voiced his concerns about speeders going by his house and stated that nothing had been done about it, since his first complaint about four (4) years ago. He said he'd lost many pets due to these speeders flying up and down the road in front of his house, which has a 25-mph speed limit. He further stated, if nothing was going to be done about it, then the town should have VDOT come remove the speed limit sign of 25-mph. The Mayor then said, we had done things about it. Mr. Worley asked that he explain to him what had been done. The Mayor responded by saying that the speed sign had been placed up there, but Mr. Worley retorted that no one paid any attention to it. Councilman Coleman asked if the speeding was being done in both directions? Mr. Worley replied, "Yes, both ways." At that time, Mr. Worley also reminded the council that an in-town resident was to be provided sewage according to the Virginia State laws, and the town was in violation on that, as well. Mr. Worley asked if something could be done about these two (2) issues he was making the council aware of. The Mayor responded by saying, "Well, we've been accused of not doing anything, so I reckon anything we do will be a blessing...want it?" Mr. Worley said, "It will at least be a start." Mayor Kirkland replied, "We try to work with you any way we can, but obviously anything we do isn't good enough." Councilman W. H. Coleman asked Chief Fox, if he could spend some time up there, with the Chief replying that he'd spent time up there on numerous occasions and also asked a State Trooper and a Deputy to sit up there, as, well. He continued by saying the only thing he hadn't done was ask the first Sargent to go up there and he could ask the Chief Deputy of the Sheriff's office and the first Sargent to sit up there again. He said the other thing he'd done was speak to the Director of Transportation and after that, it slowed down a little bit. Mr. Worley thanked Chief Fox by saying he wasn't aware this had been done, but added that it may have lasted a week, but that's it. Chief Fox advised that he spoke to the person in charge of the bus drivers and the school drivers in cars who take children to school, since he felt they were a cause of a lot of the problems. Mr. Worley stated that he'd asked for the mobile speeding unit to be placed there and he hadn't seen that yet, either. He felt that would slow vehicles down by seeing the speed they're going. Vice Mayor Gill asked Chief Fox, if when clocking their speed, were they speeding excessively? The Chief said, "They were going between 35 & 40 mph. Most of them were coming around the curve and at the place I have to sit, it is a dead spot and not a safe spot to clock someone." Mr. Worley also stated, "Since I am an in-town resident, my grass should be cut alongside the road, too, the same as other in-town residents who are provided this service.

With no other comments on that subject, the Mayor asked if anyone else had any remarks to make. Dr. Eason informed the council of the reason for his attendance tonight. He stated that the Ruritans would like to refurbish the Herbert Park area on the corner of Washington and Madison Street to add to the beauty of the park and town at no cost to the town. He also advised that there would be a removable flower pot placed in the center of the area, in order to place a Christmas tree there during the Christmas season. The Mayor, along with the council, thanked Dr. Eason for the Ruritan's generosity to do this.

Councilman W. H. Coleman mentioned the upstairs project for the Train Club, as to what needed to be done with the old items stored up there. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to advertise the items on social media for 30 days and what's not sold, take it to the landfill. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor. The discussion continued regarding the electrical service upstairs for the Train Club, whether it would be added to the town's service or a separate meter installed, which caused some questions and concerns to be raised as to how we could accommodate the club. No motion was taken on this subject.

The Mayor asked if there was an update from HBR, Inc. regarding the Bluegrass Concert for this summer. Angela Amos, President of HBR, Inc., stated that she'd met with Gene Coleman from the Fire Department and Donna Worley from the Ladies Auxiliary to discuss whether they would like to join HBR, Inc. to do one Bluegrass Concert on Saturday, August 28, 2021, that would not only benefit HBR, Inc., but the Fire Department, as well. She continued by saying they both met with the Fire Department and the Ladies Auxiliary and it was decided to go along with HBR, Inc. in this endeavor. Ms. Amos also stated that some sponsors have already committed to sponsor the concert event and other sponsors are being contacted; thus, hopefully making this a profitable event for both entities. She advised that the tickets will be sold for \$10.00 this year, rather than \$5.00, and the Lonesome River Band will be the main attraction with the Tobacco Road Band being the "startup or presenting band."

The Mayor asked if there were any other comments to be made. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk-Treasurer, reported that Brian Upton (contractor) when he was here to repair the front flooring at the entrance to the building, was taken back to view the deteriorating flooring at the back of the building, and he stated that he wasn't interested in doing the job. The Mayor stated that we'd continue to look for a contractor who would be willing to give us a quote to do the flooring repairs.

Mayor Kirkland advised the audience that the council would be going into a closed session.

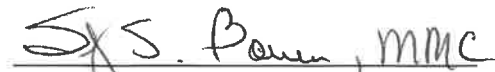
Councilman Worley moved that the Town Council hold a closed meeting to discuss the following, as permitted by the Virginia Code 2.2-3711 (A) (3) Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of publicly held real property.

The executive session being closed, the council reconvened into open session. 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	Aye	David M. Crowder	Aye
Ray P. Cherry	Aye	T. G. Gill	Aye	Bill Thompson	Aye

With no motions made from the closed session, Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to adjourn the meeting, with Councilman Ronny C. Worley seconding the motion. All members voted in favor of adjournment at the recorded time of 8:40 P.M.


Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council & Treasurer
April 13, 2021


John M. Kirkland
Mayor