

**The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on August 10, 2021, 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  
Paul “Ray” Cherry  
Mr. Ronny Worley  
Chief Danny R. Fox  
Angela D. Amos, Deputy Clerk (Absent)  
Shirley S. Bowen, MMC, Clerk-Treasurer**

**GUESTS**

**R. H. Park III, WWTP Chief Operator  
John M. Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor  
Jimmie Cox, Sons of the Confederacy  
Kirk Gravitt  
Jonathan Billings**

**Mayor John M. Kirkland welcomed everyone for their attendance at tonight’s meeting and called the meeting to order. He then led the council, audience, and employees with the pledge of allegiance to the flag, followed by a moment of silence.**

**The Mayor requested a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13<sup>th</sup>, and July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, meetings. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to approved these two (2) sets of minutes, with Councilman Paul “Ray” Cherry seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.**

**Mayor Kirkland requested a motion to pay the August 2021 bills. Councilman Paul “Ray” Cherry moved to pay the bills for the month of August, and Councilman David M. Crowder seconded 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 was 874,000 gallons and the DMR’s for the month of July were satisfactory, as well. Mr. Park III also advised the council that it was mentioned at the last meeting about checking on some other possible grants for the failing sewer lines around town. He continued by saying that Mr. Scott Erhardt and Drew Arnold had stopped by the treatment plant and he asked them, if they knew of any grants of this nature were available. They both said there was going to be some money available for this type of thing, but there wouldn’t be any 100% grants...they would either be a grant loan of 80%-20% or the worst would be a 50/50 grant loan. The loan would possibly be 25 yrs. with a 1.1% interest rate. Mr. Park III asked if the council would like him to pursue this with the first step being to get the engineers to do a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), which would have to be done prior to going forward with the next step. Mr. Park III left the decision to go forward, to the council’s discretion. Councilman Thompson asked if there was a cost to get them back down here, with Mr. Park responding, “No,” that he’d catch them when they’re down this way again. He also advised we’d done this in the past (around 2-3 times) and as he and Shirley had discussed, it’s not cheap; however, not that expensive, either. The Mayor “paused” Mr. Park by saying we already have a good amount of money coming in that can be used for**

infrastructure. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, interjected that this was true, and it didn't have to be repaid to anyone. Mr. Park III stated, any infrastructure work would need a PER and felt this money, received from the State, would apply and could be used. Mr. Park III informed the council, even if we shouldn't qualify for some reason for a grant/loan, a PER report would at least give us an indication or a direction of which way we should proceed with the infrastructure of new sewage lines and would also prove beneficial to the town. Vice Mayor Gill asked, "Do we have any idea of the cost?" Mr. Park III advised, we possibly had one done about six (6) years ago, and it was approximately eight thousand dollars, not that it wouldn't be higher now, due to the economy. Councilman Cherry asked, "Do they do a thorough assessment of each line?" Mr. Park III responded with, "No, not exactly." They only test the lines, do measurements, etc., to get an idea of what's need, such as replacement or slip-lining the old lines by doing it as economically as possible, then after we know we're getting the grant funds, they'll go into more detailed engineering studies with costs involved as to footage and the number of lines needed. Councilman Cherry questioned whether they could determine the integrity of any other sewage lines that are continuing to collapse, since we'd had a couple of them to collapse in the past few months. Mr. Park III stated it would require a camera to find that information and the cost would fall on the town. The engineer would determine the age of the lines and how many lines had collapsed. The Mayor reiterated that he felt it would be a good idea if we were to get a "ballpark" figure of what Dewberry would charge for the PER. Mr. Park III replied, "Well, I'll check with them and hopefully have an idea of the cost by our next meeting."

Mr. Park III then informed the council of a sewer overflow on Washington Street during an excessive amount of rainfall on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. It came from the sewer line that runs from Washington Street, which is parallel to the Heritage Trails and continues to go back up into the woods, and behind the courthouse. He said that sewer line has been jetted and found no blockages, but was found that the sewer line had dropped, which proved that the weight of the tree roots (about 6 trees on top of that line) are causing this. If this continues to happen, the town is going to have to remove those trees and possibly install approximately 100 feet of sewage line. Vice Mayor Gill asked, if this was on town property, with Mr. Park III replying that it's on the right-of-way of the sewer line. Mr. Park III continued by saying one problem was now resolved on Washington Street, however, another problem had now come up with this issue. He said, when Mr. Erhardt comes down, he will be advised of this, as well. Councilman Cherry also inquired about replacing all the sewer lines in town, but was advised by Mr. Park III, this was not feasible due to the cost involved and trying to locate all the lines from 1929, plus, he added that it would be best, or the least costly, to just slip-line the lines that are deteriorating. The next item Mr. Park III brought up was the muddy discharge from the old prison site (LVL South site) and informed the council that he had contacted the right people, through Eddie Harris' office, and it was corrected quickly and after two more rains, he's not had any problems. The Mayor concurred with Mr. Park III about the necessity in getting this problem resolved.

The Mayor asked for Mr. Roberts monthly maintenance report. He stated that the new guys were on board and doing a good job. He reported that he'd gotten the ditch opened up that was flooding Jeannie Neal's yard, since VDOT wasn't willing to do this type of thing anymore. Also, Washington Street sewer line was replaced with a 14' section and we'd have to repave that section of the highway, since VDOT wouldn't cover the cost. Mr. Roberts commented on Sheriff's Street by reporting the same thing seems to be happening there, as it did on Washington Street, but it's now, yet to be determined. Vice Mayor Gill inquired if we could get Harman Saunders to look at that, too, but Mr. Roberts advised that he would rather wait for now to see what happens, since our equipment isn't showing a blockage, but he could fill the eight-foot hole with gravel, if nothing else, or just wait and see what happens from here on out.

The Mayor introduced Mr. Kirk Gravitt to address the council regarding a new venture he was considering for garbage pickup in various towns within the County and he'd talked to Mr. Wayne Carter, County Administrator, about doing something like this, as well, in the County. Mr. Gravitt then introduced his partner, Mr. Jonathan Billings. He explained that he and his partner were attending town meetings, speaking to them and the County, to offer a trash pickup plan and bring it to the different boards to see, if there would be an interest or any possible savings to them with his method of running a route to do this type of work. He advised he would be purchasing a 20-27-yard truck that would be fully automated. He passed out a sheet showing the trash cans that would be provided from his potential company. Mr. Gravitt was asked, by the Mayor, if they had an idea of the cost per household. His response was around \$30 a month with once-a-week trash pickup. The Mayor stated he felt the residents of the town would prefer a twice a week pickup, since this is what they were accustomed to. Mr. Gravitt stated this would be something that could be further discussed and considered, but noted they would only do household trash...not leaves, tree limbs, or larger household items that are sometimes picked up by the town crews in various towns. Councilman Crowder inquired about the size of the trash cans. Mr. Gravitt replied that they would use 64-and 96-gallon commercial grade cans, depending on the size and needs of a family and the cans would stay on the property. The Mayor asked if the contract would be with the town or the residents themselves. Mr. Gravitt responded by saying they'd prefer to deal with the town to keep it simpler for each entity. After some closing comments, the Mayor thanked Mr. Gravitt and Mr. Billings for coming with their presentation. He advised that he, along with Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Bowen, would try to "crunch" some numbers to see, if this would be feasible and practical for the town's residents, also asked if they had other proposals or options, to let us know.


The Mayor opened the meeting for public comments. Since there were none, he voiced his Mayor's comments. He advised that in prior meetings, a contract had been discussed with Mr. Jimmie Cox of the Sons of the Confederacy and the town, regarding the relocation of the Confederate Soldier statue. Mayor Kirkland stated that he was advised by Mr. Cox, just

prior to tonight's meeting, that the footing had already been poured for the statue at the Presbyterian Cemetery, where it had been discussed for its placement. Mayor Kirkland stated that Mr. Cox made a suggestion at the last meeting, to simply have an agreement written up between the Sons of the Confederacy and the town (leaving attorneys out of it) that would protect both entities and make sure the statue is always secure by stating, if either entity wanted to have it moved in the "distant future," that entity would have to pay for its removal. This agreement would be notarized by both parties, if agreed upon. (Included in the packets) Mr. Cox stated that he and his organization would like to use the Presbyterian Church to have some very good programs later on for the community. Mr. Cox also thanked Mrs. Bowen for undertaking the task of using some of his words to write this agreement and was sure it saved the town a lot of money without having legal fees. Mayor Kirkland complimented her by adding "Oh, yes, she can always work "her magic" in doing things of this nature." Other comments were made with Mayor Kirkland thanking Mr. Cox and the Sons of the Confederacy working with the town for an equitable solution to this issue.

Mayor Kirkland reminded everyone of the Bluegrass Concert coming up on August 28<sup>th</sup> and felt everything was still on track. Councilman Thompson advised that Gene Coleman had met with Robin Rawles, President of the Boyd Tavern Foundation and her son, Alexander, Vice President, and everything was worked out with them, regarding past issues that had arisen.

More discussion ensued regarding the proposal made by Mr. Gravitt regarding trash pickup in town, but stated as of now, it's just being discussed. The Mayor remarked that we'd just wait and see if more information would be forthcoming from them as to their proposal.

With no further business, Councilman Thompson moved to adjourn with Vice Mayor Gill seconding the motion. All members voted in favor. The time of adjournment was 8:40 P.M.



Shirley S. Bowen, MMC  
Clerk of Council & Treasurer  
August 10, 2021



John M. Kirkland  
Mayor