

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on January 14, 2020, at 7:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor John M. Kirkland presiding.

THOSE PRESENT

**John M. Kirkland
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. R. H. Park III, WWTP Chief Operator
Mr. Johnny Roberts, Jr., Maint. Supervisor
Mr. David Goodwin
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Smith
Mr. Walter Beales
Mr. J. E. Harrell
Mr. H. Wayne Carter III, County Admin.
Mr. Percell Owens
Mr. Nick Echols
Mr. Eric Tollerson**

Mayor J. M. Kirkland called to order and opened the regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council by welcoming everyone for their attendance. He then led the council, employees, and audience with the pledge of allegiance to the flag followed by a moment of silence.

The Mayor introduced Mr. H. Wayne Carter III, Mecklenburg County Administrator, to speak to the council regarding a much needed new parking lot to be built on Hull Street for extended parking at the Sheriff’s office, Social Services, Juvenile/Domestic Court, and the General District Court. He laid out a diagram of a map regarding the property and plans for this expansion. His request was the approval/permission from the council to burn the debris at this location that would enable them to clear the land. He stated that he had approval from the County and local fire department; however, he needed approval from the town to do begin the project and hoped to have it completed by June or July. Councilman Bill Thompson moved to grant permission to the County to burn the debris as requested, being in compliance with the burning laws, and the approval of the Fire Chief. Councilman Ray Cherry seconded the motion, and remaining members voted unanimously.

The Mayor requested a motion to approve the regular minutes of December 10, 2019. Councilman David M. Crowder moved to approve the December minutes with Vice Mayor T. G. Gill seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.

Mayor Kirkland requested a motion for the bills to be paid as submitted for January 2020. Councilman Bill Thompson moved to pay the bills for the month of January 2020, as presented. Councilman David M. Crowder seconded the motion, with all members voting unanimously.

Police Chief, Danny R. Fox, reported that due to the holidays, he took off much of the time and had nothing to report for December. There were no questions for Chief Fox.

Mr. R. H. Park III reported that Boydton’s Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings Report of water pumped for December 2019, was 1,062,000 gallons. The DMR’s came back as satisfactory, he said. There were no other questions from the council for Mr. Park III.

Mr. Johnny Roberts reported on the Maintenance Department's work during the month. He stated that basically things ran smoothly for the month of December. Mr. Roberts asked the council, if they would like to put the old unusable Chevrolet maintenance pickup truck (sitting down at the Wastewater Treatment plant) on GovDeals, along with some other scrap. It was the consensus of the council for Mr. Roberts to get in touch with GovDeals to help sell the items. He also advised the council of a concern up at the old Randolph-Macon College, regarding the group who was trying to stabilize a portion of the building. He reported that he'd been asked if the town could move the debris from the site. He informed the council that at first he thought this could be feasible, but the debris had metal, brick, and other things in it that should not be placed in a ravine where someone could walk or travel on and for that reason, he didn't feel it was a good idea for the town to do the work. He felt it should be done by a contractor. It was suggested that Mr. Roberts speak to the contractor, who would be doing the work for the new parking lot, about removing it during his time here for a possible tax write-off for the contractor. If not, the Mayor stated that the town could possibly get it up and take it to the landfill; however, there would be costs involved of tipping fees, the use of our equipment, and the employees time to do this.

Mayor Kirkland advised the council that they were to vote tonight on whether to partner with "Ever Wonder" with their website for the next three (3) years and pay them \$5,000.00, to get this going. Some discussion ensued, however, the majority of the council felt this was a great opportunity to get our town more in the "public eye" and bring in visitors to our historic town, especially since we would be having the Bluegrass Concerts again this year. Councilman David Crowder moved to partner with "Ever Wonder's" website, along with paying the required amount of \$5,000.00. This would be the initial payment for the first three (3) years; thereafter, it would cost the town \$800.00 annually. Councilman Ray Cherry seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor. Ms. Amos advised that she had texted Ms. Morgan and she stated if the town decided to opt out, we could do so as well, at no other expense to the town.

It was brought to the attention of the council, by the Mayor that Mr. Doug Davis, the town's representative on the Lake Country Airport Commission, had moved out of town and would no longer be representing us. The Mayor asked for recommendations for his replacement. No one had any suggestions; therefore, the Mayor asked that it be tabled until another representative could be found. He also asked that the council try to think of someone who would make a good replacement to serve the town in this capacity and bring their names back to the next meeting.

Mayor Kirkland opened the floor for public comments. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, advised the council that the Rescue Squad had applied for a variance on their site, which means the Board of Zoning Appeals would have to meet and vote to approve this, along with a public hearing being held. She wanted to notify the council of this application and if possible, the public hearing could possibly be held next month, but she would let them know, if it works out. Mr. J. E. Harrell commented that he felt the town partnering with this new "Ever Wonder" website was an excellent idea for the town's future growth. Mr. David Goodwin requested to revisit the issue of utility adjustments, by stating, in his opinion, the town should continue giving adjustments since Shirley had been here for over 17 years, and this practice had been

done for that length of time, so the town should continue to do so, since he felt it had set “precedence” during this time. Mr. Goodwin continued by saying in the past four (4) years he’d been here, he’d saved over \$1,300.00 by being given these adjustments, since the water wasn’t going down the sewer system. He asked for the council to consider these seventeen (17) years of precedence of giving these adjustments. Mrs. Bowen interrupted by saying, “More than seventeen (17) years, since it was done before I was here.” Vice Mayor Gill said, “It depends on what you call done before you got here.” He stated a water line bursting was what that was considered, in my opinion.” Mrs. Bowen, remarked, “Yes, but I don’t want to take the whole blame for these types of adjustments.” Mr. Goodwin stated, “I wasn’t pointing the blame at you, Shirley.” He further stated, “J. E. and I have spent a lot of time and energy on beautifying our yards, flowers, etc. and we want to continue to do so. We’ve said we’d pay for all the gallons of water being used...but we want an exception for what does not go through the sewer. We’ve also come up with a meter that is less costly than the one offered by the town and it won’t take digging up our yards, either.” He said we are proposing that the residents be responsible for supplying the figures off of those meters to the town and these meters be offered to all the residents of the town...it won’t be just J. E. and I. Mr. Harrell interjected by stating that he’d even help devise a new policy for the town regarding giving adjustments. Mayor Kirkland thanked Mr. Harrell and advised Mr. Goodwin that we would be going into a closed session to discuss this. Mr. Harrell then asked if the water hose carts had been approved to be purchased. Councilman Worley and Thompson stated that it was approved; however, the council had advised them to look into a heavier duty cart that would hold up for a longer. Mr. Goodwin stated that he’d already checked into this, and the one provided to council last month, was the heavier duty cart that he could find. The Mayor advised if this had been determined, and approved by council, then he should go ahead and do what was needed.

Mayor Kirkland read a thank you note from the Henry Gregory family for the beautiful “Peace Lily” sent to them and the kindness shown from the town, due to the passing of Mrs. Helen Smith Gregory. He stated that she was a fine longtime lady and resident of the town and noted that Mrs. Gregory was almost 99 years old at the time of her passing. He added that he was sure the family would appreciate our continued prayers.

Mr. Harrell informed the council that a 100th birthday party for Mr. “Sox” Allgood (the longest living member of the Boydton Fire Department) was being planned in March and invited everyone to come by the fire house to show their love and appreciation for Mr. Allgood.

The Mayor noted that Friday and Monday are State holidays and the town office would be closed; therefore, garbage pickup would be Thursday this week and Tuesday of next week. He advised that a notice had been placed on the front door, as well as, being posted on our website and Facebook site.

The Mayor informed the council and audience that Connie Boyd from the County Library would be in attendance at the February council meeting to further discuss preparations for the “Wall That Heals” coming to Boydton the first week in April. Mrs. Bowen stated that

information regarding the “Wall That Heals” is on the counter in the front office and is on our website and FB page, as well.

Mr. Percell Owens addressed the council regarding the use of the ballfield for ball tournaments and asked what was required or the criteria from the town for him to use the field. The Mayor advised that he should write down the dates needed and give it to one of the office staff to in order to verify the availability, as well as, he should check on insurance liability for the tournaments with and a possible waiver from him that would state that the town is not liable for any damages or harm that may occur.

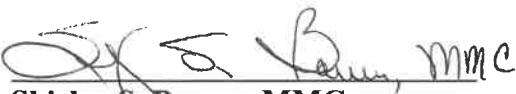
The Mayor advised that the council would be going into a closed session to consult with legal counsel. Councilman Worley moved that the Town Council hold a closed meeting to discuss the following, as permitted by the Virginia Code 2.2-3711 (A) (8) Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision or legal advice by such counsel.


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 (Absent)	David M. Crowder	Aye
Ray P. Cherry	Aye	T. G. Gill	Bill Thompson	Aye

A motion was made by Councilman David M. Crowder to turn the matter, discussed in closed session, over to our attorney to write up town ordinances/policies needed regarding Code Section 34-105, Code Section 34-79, and Code Section 34.248, which would be drafted by her, and for her to return to the February meeting with these in regard to the town’s utility issues. At which time, the town council could review her recommendations, with the possibility of a public hearing being held at a future designated date and time to adopt them.ZXc Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion with all members voting in favor.

There being no further comments, questions or concerns, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 P.M.


Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council & Treasurer
January 14, 2020


J. M. Kirkland
Mayor