

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, beginning 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
Bill Thompson
David M. Crowder (Absent)
Paul “Ray” Cherry
Mr. Ronny Worley
Chief Nathan Bowen
Rhita M. Burton, Deputy Clerk
Shirley S. Bowen, MMC, Clerk-Treasurer**

GUESTS

**R. H. Park III, WWTP Chief Operator
John M. Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor
Karen and Ron Sciamacco
Billy Persuitte
Danny Fox, Former Chief of Police**

Mayor John M. Kirkland welcomed everyone for their attendance and called the regular meeting to order. Afterwards, he led the council, audience, and employees with the pledge of allegiance to the flag, followed by a moment of silence.

Mayor Kirkland expressed his appreciation for the Christmas Dinner held for the town council, the employees, and himself. He stated it was a delicious meal enjoyed by all.

The Mayor asked that former Police Chief, Danny Fox, come forward to be presented with a plaque in recognition and appreciation for his 7 ½ years’ service to the Town of Boydton from the time of December 16, 2014 - June 30, 2021. The former Chief accepted and thanked the Mayor and Council for this expression of gratitude.

Vice Mayor T. G. Gill came down from his seat to present Mayor John M. Kirkland with a “Proclamation of Appreciation” for his service to the Town of Boydton for the past 4 ½ years or two (2) year terms he served as Mayor from July 1, 2018 - December 31, 2022. Mayor Kirkland thanked everyone for this Proclamation and the kindness shown to him during his time serving as Mayor.

Mayor Kirkland acknowledged Mr. Billy Persuitte for being at tonight’s meeting regarding the large water bill at the Garnett building, which was discussed at November’s meeting and tabled until tonight for a decision on an adjustment. The Mayor inquired of Mr. Johnny Roberts the status of the meter at this time, after turning the water back on. Mr. Roberts advised that everything was working as it should now, since the parts in the tank of the commode had been replaced by Mr. Persuitte, and the water was turned back on. He further stated there were no changes in usage during the past month and the meter had normal readings and usage. The Mayor asked what the council’s wishes were pertaining to this situation. Vice Mayor Gill asked if the water bill was drafted from Mrs. Garnett’s bank account. It was confirmed by the Deputy Clerk, Rhita Burton, that it was. Councilman Cherry stated that he’d been in this situation himself and unfortunately, he knew how it felt to have an expensive bill. Councilman W. H. Coleman and Vice Mayor T. G. Gill both, stated they’d paid large water bills due to a leak being discovered, as well. The “only” time where we’d adjusted a water/sewage bill was when a pipe had burst and then we only adjusted the sewage amount, if

sewage usage was charged on the billing. With that being said, Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to charge the water/sewage bill as it was, and to write-off the late fees, penalties, or interest. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

The Mayor stated the next item on the agenda was someone from Dominion Energy sent in some information regarding installing fiber optic in the town; however, since no one was here to present their project, and with the paperwork being sent in too late (after the packets had gone out) he felt this should be discussed and explained at our next council meeting, when hopefully one of their representatives could be present. This issue was tabled by the consensus of the council until our January 10, 2023, meeting, with the Clerk of Council, Mrs. Bowen, advising them of their decision and to ask them to send a representative to our next meeting.

Mayor Kirkland asked for a motion to approve the minutes, of November 8, 2022, as submitted. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to approve the November minutes, as presented, with Councilman Bill Thompson seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.

Mayor Kirkland requested a motion to pay the bills for December 2022, as provided. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to approve the bills for the month of December, as submitted. Councilman Paul “Ray” Cherry seconded the motion, and all members voted unanimously.

The Vice Mayor called upon Chief Bowen for his monthly, November 10, 2022, through December 7, 2022, activity report. Chief Bowen reported he had five (5) calls for service, seven (7) traffic stops, with four (4) of those being citations. Chief Bowen stated the House Tour, organized by Historic Boydton’s Renaissance, Inc., went very well on December 11, 2022, with a great turnout of people. Councilman Coleman reiterated by saying the town was filled with people and he felt it was a huge success. Mayor Kirkland asked if anyone had more questions or concerns for the Chief. Mayor Kirkland thanked Chief Bowen, since there were no other questions or concerns from the council for him.

Mr. R. H. Park III reported Boydton’s Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings Report of water pumped for November 2022, was 964,000 gallons of water purchased from the RRSA with the DMR results returning as satisfactory. Mr. Park III updated the council on the projects going on at the WWTP. First, he noted the expansion at the WWTP was going as scheduled with the pipe and conduit moved in and the contractor had been there and has plans to start on this new expansion project after Christmas or the New Year’s holiday. Secondly, he reported there have been some issues over at the LVL North site on Ridge Road with rock and concrete getting into the temporary lift station. He advised Microsoft had pumped it out three (3) times; however, there was one (1) more pump that rocks have to be removed. He said he’d spoken to Drew, of Dewberry, about this situation and the permanent lift station. He’s told him he felt there should be some type of “rock guards” placed on the permanent lift station to alleviate this problem, since that will be the one used after this temporary lift station is eliminated. Drew advised he would look into this and handle it for the town. Mr. Park III informed the council the grant money the town had applied for, had been approved for \$2.1 million dollars; however, it was actually a “loan only” funding. He notified Drew of this, and

Drew re-submitted a second application to the DEQ (due to our not receiving the first round of funding) and since there was a “second round” now, we may possibly be awarded this one. It is in the same amount as the first one we applied for, and if we should get this in “all grant” funding, we could forfeit the approved loan. Thirdly, Mr. Park III’s opinion was to “not” repair all the lines at one time and do them as the need arises. Along with this suggestion, he felt it would be the best direction to go at this time, due to the economy, and he didn’t feel the Federal Government could continue giving out all this funding.

Councilman W. H. Coleman asked (and directed to Shirley, the Clerk-Treasurer, and to the council) as to why the excess amount of money in the savings/checking account wasn’t in a CD, that could possibly be drawing more interest. Mrs. Bowen, responded, that first of all the council would have to direct her or give her the authority to do that, since she couldn’t make those type of decisions on her own. She, also, stated that the large amount of money in the savings/checking account had gotten this large, due to \$426,000.00 NEU grant funding had been direct deposited to that account for the budgeted items in that grant, and the entire amount would have to be spent by June 30, 2023. Also, she stated she hadn’t written the \$40,000.00 due to the Fire Department. Councilman Coleman stated, “Well, at least possibly a third of it could be put into a CD.” Mrs. Bowen agreed, however, she reiterated, it would be the council’s decision to direct her or give her the authority to make this transfer.

Mayor Kirkland called upon Mr. Johnny Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor, for his report of November 2022. Mr. Roberts reported that he’d asked Mrs. Bowen to put quotes in the council packets regarding the gateway signs being repaired or replaced for the council to review. He stated, Signs and Designs has a three (3) month backlog and he felt something should be decided quickly, due to the time it may take to get this done. He also advised VDOT had come into town and painted the parking areas on the streets. He further reported the water meter down at “Up to You” Bar & Grill, had been replaced and a lock put on it with the dumpster being removed, as well. He noted he did this for the protection of the town. Mr. Roberts was advised by the train guys upstairs that there was a small leak in the roof and causing a problem in the bathroom area. The Mayor and Councilman W. H. Coleman asked Mr. Roberts to check on getting the roof repaired and he responded he would check around on finding someone. Mr. Roberts also informed the council there were a couple of trees on Washington Street, next to Mr. Hite and Mr. Harrell, that had limbs falling from them that could harm someone when walking down the sidewalk, and he’d asked Dominion Power to look at them to see, if they could be taken down. He informed the council of repairs needed for the backhoe. He stated it had several cylinders (around seven (7) leaking) and it wasn’t wise to use it until these cylinders were repaired. In checking on the price to repair them, he quoted a price of approximately \$4,000.00. The question was asked as to the length of time it would take to have it repaired. Mr. Roberts stated the mechanic told him it would take approximately sixteen (16) hours. The Mayor asked for a motion to have the backhoe repaired. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to have the backhoe repaired with Councilman W. H. Coleman seconding the motion. All members voted in favor. Also, the Mayor requested a motion to repair or replace the gateway signs. A few questions were asked of Mr. Roberts regarding these signs with Councilman W. H. Coleman moving to replace both gateway signs. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor.

Mayor Kirkland advised the council they were required to vote on a member, to serve on the Roanoke River Service Authority for the town, as he’d done in the past, along with an

alternate. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to have the new incoming Mayor, Chris Starke, as the town's appointed representative and Mr. R. H. Park III, as the town's alternate. Councilman Paul "Ray" Cherry seconded the motion, and all members voted unanimously.

The Mayor noted there would be a "Grand Opening" to be held tomorrow at 11:00 A.M. for the "Pearl On Jefferson Street" and it was his hope some of the council would drop by there during those hours. He welcomed the Sciamacco's, by saying, "Everyone is happy you all decided to move here and re-opening the bed & breakfast, as it was a valuable asset to the town." Mr. & Mrs. Sciamacco thanked everyone for their kindness and invited them for refreshments during their "Grand Opening." They also thanked Chief Bowen for his assistance with the house tours, as well.

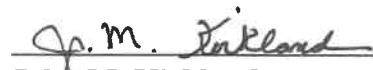
Mayor Kirkland thanked all the councilmen, staff, and employees for all they'd done, since he'd been Mayor and he'd enjoyed his time serving as the town's Mayor. He also stated "he thought" we had the best employees, now on board, working for the town. He continued by congratulating the new incoming Mayor Starke and told him he would be available to help him with anything he needed.

In closing, Mayor Kirkland remarked, "You all mean the world to me as one big family, having "Mama Shirley" keeping me "inline" for a long time, and I love each and every one of you. And, if any of you ever need me...you know where I am." He finished by saying, "God bless you all and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!" Councilman Ronny Worley and Vice Mayor T. G. Gill, along with the other councilman, thanked Mayor Kirkland for serving them, and the employees as our Mayor, as well as, being the Mayor for the town citizens the last 4 ½ years.

With no further comments, concerns, or discussion, Mayor Kirkland adjourned the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shirley S. Bowen, MMC".

Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council & Treasurer
December 13, 2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Kirkland".

John M. Kirkland
Mayor