

The regular meeting of the Boynton Town Council was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, beginning at 7:30 P.M., in the Town Hall Council Chambers with newly elected Mayor Christopher D. Starke presiding.

THOSE PRESENT

**Christopher D. Starke, Mayor
T. G. Gill, Vice Mayor
W. H. Coleman
Bill Thompson
David M. Crowder
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
Christy Taylor, Dominion Energy-Rep.
Bryasan Mealy-Norris, Dominion Energy, Rep.
Joseph Newton, Dominion Energy, Rep.
Andrea Baxter**

Our newly elected Mayor, Christopher D. Starke, welcomed everyone for their attendance at the regular monthly meeting and called the meeting to order. Afterwards, he led the council, audience, and employees with the pledge of allegiance to the flag, followed by an invocation and moment of silence.

Representatives from Dominion Energy were introduced by Mayor Starke to address the council regarding a “Proposed MOU Agreement,” which would allow fiber optics to be installed on their poles within the town to allow internet services to be provided to rural residents outside the town limits, who don’t have this service. This MOU agreement would be added to the existing franchise agreement accepted and dated in October of 1985 and renewable in 2025. After the representatives distributed materials regarding their purpose and proposal, a brief discussion between the council and the representatives was held. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to send the “MOU agreement” along with a copy of the original franchise agreement to our town attorney for a legal opinion on this proposal. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill seconded the motion with all members voting unanimously. The council and Mayor thanked the group for coming and advised they would let them know after the next council meeting on February 14, 2023, of their decision, when hopefully this agreement would also be signed.

Dr. Dave Eason was requested by Mayor Starke to state his purpose for requesting to appear before the council. Dr. Eason advised the council of the expired terms of the Planning Commission and his suggestions for new appointees to this board. His proposed members were Ron Sciamacco, Andrea Baxter, Will Coleman, and David M. Crowder as the liaison from the council to serve on this board. He also stated, with the council’s approval, he’d continue as the Chair of the Planning Commission. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to approve Dr. Eason’s appointees with Dr. Eason continuing to be the Chairman. Councilman Ronny C. Worley seconded the motion, and all remaining members voted in favor. Dr. Eason also advised the Comprehensive Plan was to be adopted every five (5) years and the Planning Commission would be meeting to discuss the changes needing to be made to re-adopt the plan. He continued by stating this newly revised plan would soon be brought back to the floor at a future council meeting for the council’s approval to advertise for a public hearing in order to re-adopt this newly revised Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Starke asked for a motion to approve the minutes, of December 13, 2022, as submitted. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill mentioned one error in the minutes where it was written that he had called upon Chief Bowen for his report, when it was actually Mayor Kirkland. The Clerk of Council apologized and stated she'd note this error in her minutes of tonight's meeting. Vice Mayor Gill moved to approve the December minutes as presented, with Councilman W. H. Coleman seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.

The Mayor requested a motion to pay the bills for January 2023, as submitted. Councilman W. H. Coleman inquired of Mrs. Bowen, if she'd spoken to anyone regarding the town's financial fund accounts as had been discussed at the last council meeting. She responded, "Yes, I have." She continued by saying she'd contacted Karen Whitten at Touchstone Bank who advised of a type of checking/savings account that paid 3.5%; however, she wasn't sure of the specifics and would have to contact Karen again to get a clearer understanding of the proposal. She also stated, if the CD's were moved, prior to June 2023, we'd have to pay a penalty, of which she was uncertain of the penalty amount. Councilman Coleman advised Mrs. Bowen to ascertain all the information she could regarding these funds and let the council know at the next meeting. He felt the rate of 3.5% would be on the first \$15,000.00, but asked that she check on this. She agreed to do so. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to approve the bills for the month of January, as presented. Councilman Paul "Ray" Cherry seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor.

Mayor Starke called upon Chief Bowen for his monthly, December 8, 2022, through January 8, 2023, activity report. Chief Bowen reported he had four (4) calls for service, one (1) transport to South Boston emergency room, one (1) assist to the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office with a run-a-way juvenile, and seven (7) traffic stops, with three (3) of those being citations.

Mr. R. H. Park III reported Boydton's Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings Report of water pumped for December 2022, was 874,000 gallons of water purchased from the RRSA with the DMR results returning as satisfactory. He stated the expansion of the WWTP began last week with a lot of contractors and subcontractors down at the plant and when the weather breaks, they would be working on that at a faster pace. We will be having another progress meeting report on the LVL North site on Ridge Road and the plant expansion on the 25th of January here at the Town Hall beginning at 10 A.M. until noon, if anyone is interested in attending. He advised the council on the water line that feeds the line from the RRSA to town (and was included in the grant from the Department of Health) had been denied. He suggested that we go ahead and break that out from the preliminary engineering report and use the NEU grant funding for that portion of line with a separate contract from Dewberry. He requested the council allow them to go ahead and get bids for this waterline coming down by VA Homes, since it is the line that serves the town and has given us trouble several times. A few questions were asked of Mr. Park III, with Councilman Worley moving to approve Mr. Park III's request to allow Drew, of Dewberry, to request bids on this. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion with all councilmen voting in favor. Mr. Park III asked how the council felt about his son doing small welding jobs for the town. Councilman Worley stated he had Lewis Metal Works to do work at the Baskerville

Prison, but Councilman Coleman stated he felt he should check to see who would be the cheapest to do this type of work, and he didn't feel it would be a conflict of interest. Mr. Park III stated he would check with Lewis Metal Works and compare the cost. Also, it was pointed out to Mr. Park III by the Deputy Clerk regarding 4,500 gallons of water that was gotten from the town by the town of Clarksville and asked, in the council's opinion, would they want to charge them for it. Councilman Worley moved to allow them to have the water free of charge due to them helping us out at various times at no charge. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor.

The Mayor called upon Mr. Johnny Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor, for his report of December 2022. Mr. Roberts stated the backhoe had been repaired and working like a new machine. He also reported the contractor would be starting on the gateway signs within the next couple of months. He advised of a pipe bursting in on old well pump in the old building behind the town hall saying they had plugged it, until they can get the line abandoned. Mr. Roberts stated some of them had probably noticed that one line of streetlights are burning during the day and he and Aubrey Russell were working on the issue to get it repaired to save an \$800.00 repair bill. He informed the council we still had the old garbage truck as a spare in case we needed it and they had tried to move a dumpster with it and found it had transmission fluid pouring out. He asked if the council would want to spend money on it, put it on GovDeals, or put a for sale sign on it. It was the consensus of the council to leave it up Mr. Roberts as to what to do with it. Mr. Roberts also reported that LaDonta Hawks had now obtained his CDL license. The council stated they were well pleased that all the town workers now have these licenses. There were no further questions for Mr. Roberts.

Councilman Coleman directed a question to Mrs. Bowen and Mr. Park III, which was to check on the availability of grant funding to run a sewer line up to Rudd's Creek for a person who owns land on the right side of Highway 58 and wants to develop that area into a hundred lots. Mr. Park III stated there were blueprints here to put water and sewer lines up in that area and a pump station was also included. Further discussion ensued with Mr. Park III stating he would check with Drew of Dewberry to see if there are any funds available for this purpose, since the paperwork was here and had already been done.

Mayor Starke stated, as accustomed, the new Mayor appoints a Vice Mayor at his first meeting. He advised he'd asked Vice Mayor Gill, if he would accept the position again, during his term of office and he had accepted, upon approval of the council. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to approve T. G. Gill to continue as Vice Mayor for Mayor Starke's two (2) year term of office. Councilman Ronny C. Worley seconded the motion with all members voting unanimously.

With no further comments, concerns, or discussion, Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M., with Councilman W. H. Coleman seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.

Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council & Treasurer
January 10, 2023

Christopher D. Starke
Mayor