

**The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on January 11, 2022, at 7:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor J. 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  
Shirley S. Bowen, MMC, Clerk-Treasurer**

**GUESTS**

**R. H. Park III, WWTP Chief Operator  
John M. Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor  
Rebecca Ratcliff  
Anisia Small**

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

**The Mayor requested a motion to approve the regular minutes of December 14, 2021 and the called meeting minutes of December 28, 2021, as submitted. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to approve these minutes as presented, with Councilman Bill Thompson seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.**

**Mayor J. M. Kirkland also requested a motion to approve the bills as presented, for January 2022. Councilman Bill Thompson moved to approve the current bills to be paid for January 2022, as submitted. Councilman Paul “Ray” Cherry seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.**

**Police Chief Nathan Bowen reported on activity in his department from December 15, 2021 through January 7, 2022. He stated that he’d had one (1) arrest, three (3) calls for service, two (2) EMS assists, and seven (7) traffic stops. He informed the council that his radar is now up and running, since his car had been calibrated along with the tuning forks. He also advised that he’d been looking into grants for his department, however, spring is the time for most grants to be sought.**

**Mr. R. H. Park III reported that Boydton’s Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings Report of water pumped for December 2021, was 905,000 gallons, with the DMR’s being returned as satisfactory. He advised the council that he’s contacted Microsoft several times for meter readings from the LVL site, with no response. He requested that the council give him permission to bill them based on the water readings taken by the RRSA. He stated that he’d gotten a meter down at the WWTP, but it didn’t arrive in time for the December billing period. He noted that this would be measured for the January billing. By using the RRSA’s water reading, we could bill them off the water usage. This same thing happened at the first Microsoft site. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to bill Microsoft for the LVL site by the water usage readings from the Roanoke River Service authority. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. Mr. Park III advised that the supply chain disruption has begun to affect ordering necessary parts that are needed at the Waste Water Treatment plant. There are delays**

on parts, and some parts aren't coming in within a given time period. He advised that he'd like to put a plan in place by ordering necessary parts during the year and putting them on the shelf, so they would be there when needed or in case of an emergency. He reported that he'd had a pump out for three (3) months and in the shop to be repaired with no known time frame given as to when it would be fixed, due to lack of parts. He stated that if they'd approve this plan, he'd like to go ahead and order a new sewer pump for the 707-lift station, at a cost of \$6,000.00. Some questions and concerns were directed to Mr. Park III regarding this plan. He stated he'd come to the council before ordering any other parts each time he felt the need. Councilman Crowder moved to approve this purchase of a sewer pump for the 707-pump station and Councilman Paul "Ray" Cherry seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Mr. John Roberts reported that he'd stored the leave machine for this season, however, if anyone needed leaves picked up, he and his crew would get them up. He stated that he'd gotten the information together (and given it to Shirley) to advertise our old dump truck on GovDeals. He also researched the price on this type of truck and they have gone from \$4,000.00 to as high as \$8,200.00; therefore, he put a reserve of \$6,000.00 on the truck.

Vice Mayor T. G. Gill remarked that he felt the town was being taken over by buzzards and asked if anyone else had seen them. Mr. Roberts advised that he'd seen them and they seemed to be mostly attracted to grease (Our Happy Place) or where food may have been dumped and those lids were up on the dumpsters. He stated when he saw the lids were up, he or one on his crewmen would close it, so as not to attract the buzzards. Chief Bowen stated that when he was working in South Hill, they used "blank" shot gun shells to scare them away. He advised that he'd look into this.

The Mayor opened the floor for comments. Ms. Anisia Small and her grandmother Rebecca Ratcliff were in attendance for tonight's meeting. Ms. Small addressed the council to advise them of her house being burned and had lost everything in December of 2019. She stated that she had gone through a lot of problems in trying to get another house built at 48 Jones Street, since she'd never dealt with anything like this. She explained that after all was done, Mr. Jackson, of Jackson's Mobile Homes advised her that the stoops for the house and termite expense was not included in the cost of the house, which was \$2,310.00 and she would be required to pay for the house in its entirety, before the keys would be turned over to her. Ms. Small also stated that she was advised by Southside Planning District Commission and the town, that there was eligible CDBG grant funding remaining, and it was a good possibility it could be used for her situation, with the council's approval; therefore, she and her grandmother were in attendance tonight to request a portion of those remaining funds be used to help her out. Mrs. Ratcliff asked the Mayor and Council, "What type of contract would have been signed by all parties, that wouldn't have included steps to get into the home?" Mayor Kirkland advised that he was aware of her dilemma and he agreed with Mrs. Ratcliff that the stoops and any other costs should have been included in the total contract price. He also stated that he and the council wanted to look out for her best interest and would like to speak to the building inspector to get a clearer understanding of what took place, before a definitive decision could be made by the council. More discussion ensued, with Ms. Small providing two (2) contracts for the home. Vice Mayor Gill asked Ms. Small, if at any time was Mr. Jackson told that a family member would be constructing the stoops. Ms. Small

told Vice Mayor Gill that on the first contract she did advise Mr. Jackson's secretary, Sandy, that a family member was going to construct the stoops, but later found out that he was going to charge her more; therefore, she went back to Sandy and told her to re-do the contract to add the stoops back. Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> contract May 23, 2021, was approximately \$3,000.00 more than the first one done on April 14, 2021, she felt this covered the stoops; however, it didn't mention two (2) stoops on either contract. The Mayor advised Mrs. Ratcliff and Ms. Small to be patient a while longer and we would try to contact the building permit office to see if more light could be shed on this and we'd try to get back to them as soon as possible. He also thanked them for coming.

The Mayor stated that probably the personnel committee should arrange a meeting next week or within the next few weeks to interview some potential candidates for an assistant in the office.

Mayor Kirkland advised that the meeting would convene into a closed session; however, the Clerk of Council stated she was unaware of a closed session for tonight's meeting and didn't prepare for one. The Mayor continued by stating the issues regarding an unpaid water bill, where neither party involved would take responsibility to pay the outstanding bill. He advised that Councilman Thompson, (person in charge of giving adjustments), stated he'd rather have the entire council decide what to do in the matter. After some discussion, the Mayor requested a decision from the council as to what should be done. The Clerk of Council, Shirley Bowen, commented on all events during this time and read both letters she'd written to the two (2) parties, which she felt were both justified and part of her job to help resolve the problem. Members of the council agreed that her letters didn't say anything derogatory, nor "out of line" and felt the letters were "on point." During the discussion, it was stated by the Mayor that the first owner spoke to Councilman Worley and stated that, "Shirley didn't do her part and we told Shirley to change it over to them and she didn't do it and that's all he said." Councilman Thompson said, "the new owner said he didn't use that much water, at least that's what he told Bill Coleman." Mrs. Bowen stated, "If the new owner, who said he'd pay the \$72.05, would pay that, it would leave \$153.46, which could possibly allow him or the other person off the hook, but I "do" resent the first owner blaming me, because he did say "tentatively" when I spoke to him before the 5<sup>th</sup> of October, which was "supposedly" the closing date; however, I don't change the bill over to someone else, if I don't have the proper paperwork done by the new tenant or owner." Vice Mayor Gill said he doubted seriously if the new owner was actually in the house. Councilman Worley advised the new owner hadn't taken occupancy and was only there cleaning, but felt he should be the one to pay the remainder of the bill. Mrs. Bowen reiterated the fact, if the first owner would pay the minimum bill of \$72.05 and the new owner would pay the minimum, as well, that would reduce the bill to a balance of \$81.41 and it would be the council's decision as to whether they wanted to adjust the bill by that amount or not. Councilman Thompson moved to send a minimum bill of \$72.05 to the former owner of the property and the remainder of the bill be sent to the new owner. Councilman Worley seconded the motion with all members voting unanimously.

Councilman Thompson brought to the attention of the council another person who came to his house asking for an adjustment on his water bill, saying he had to use a great deal of water to clean up his place due to the previous tenant leaving a horrible mess.

**Councilman Thompson told him, that was none of his concern and he couldn't adjust a water bill payment for that reason. Only an adjustment could be made, if it was a burst pipe. He decided to turn his water off and a lock be put on, until paid. The owner was also told that a new renter or buyer wouldn't be able to move in until the bill was paid.**

**Councilman Worley brought up the issue of Mrs. Ratcliff and Ms. Small's request again, by saying he wondered what Mrs. Ratcliff and Ms. Small would have done, if they hadn't known about the available CDBG funds. Vice Mayor Gill replied, in his opinion, Ms. Small had figured she could get the money from the town to pay for the stoops, so she could pay the family member to build them and then when it was a higher cost than Mr. Jackson, she felt the town had the funds to cover this, so it was left out of the contract with Mr. Jackson. Councilman Worley and the council agreed, but stated the building permit officer should be able to give us the proper answers when he's questioned about this. Mayor Kirkland stated that a building inspector wouldn't be able to approve the house without a way to get in the house; therefore, he felt the answers needed would be forthcoming in order for the council to know how to proceed with Mrs. Ratcliff's and Ms. Small's request.**

**There being no further comments or discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.**

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**Shirley S. Bowen, MMC  
Clerk of Council & Treasurer  
January 11, 2022**

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**Mayor John M. Kirkland  
Mayor**