

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, beginning at 7:30 P.M., in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Christopher D. Starke presiding.

THOSE PRESENT

**Christopher D. Starke, Mayor
T. G. Gill, Vice Mayor
W. H. Coleman (Absent)
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
Teresa Goode
Dr. Dave Eason, Chairman, Planning Commission**

Mayor Chris Starke, welcomed everyone for their attendance at the regular monthly meeting and called the meeting to order. The Mayor led the council, audience, and employees with the pledge of allegiance to the flag, followed by an invocation.

The Mayor requested a motion to approve the minutes of February 14, 2023, and February 28, 2023 minutes. Councilman Bill Thompson moved to approve both sets of minutes as submitted, with Councilman Paul “Ray” Cherry seconding the motion. All remaining members voted in favor.

Mayor Starke stated the bills to be paid were in the council packets and asked if there were any questions, and if not, he’d like a motion from the floor to approve them for payment. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to approve the bills as presented. Councilman Paul “Ray” Cherry seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor.

The Mayor advised the financial audit from Creedle, Jones, and Alga was in their packet and asked for a motion to approve. Some questions were asked regarding the audit; therefore, it was tabled for later.

Chief Bowen gave his monthly, February 10, 2023, through March 9, 2023, activity report. He reported he had four (4) calls for service within the town, and eight (8) traffic stops, with four (4) of those being citations. Chief Bowen reported he’d participated in “Read Across America” at the South Hill Elementary school, which was very gratifying. He also informed the council of being awarded a 2023 ARPA Grant of \$10,000.00, and he’d like to apply for it, with the blessings of the council. He prepared a packet for the items he would be applying for and described them, as well, while hopeful he’d be awarded this grant, which has to be in by April 24th, 2023. If applied for and approved we would be notified by May 11, 2023. There were no other questions for Chief Bowen. Chief Bowen also advised, he would be doing “in-service” training next week in South Hill, which is required every two (2) years for police officers, but advised he could be called, if needed.

Mayor Starke requested Mr. R. H. Park's public works report from the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mr. R. H. Park III reported the following:

- 1. Boydton's Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings Report of water pumped for February 2023, was 845,000 gallons of water purchased from the RRSA**
- 2. The DMR results were returned as satisfactory for February.**
- 3. The fire alarm company came by and discovered why the alarms were going off. They determined it was due to both of them malfunctioning. Now they are good to go.**
- 4. The annual audit and inspection on the water tank was done and nothing major was found. The water tank will be off-line for approximately 4 weeks when the scheduled maintenance with sandblasting and painting on the inside would be done. While this process would be done, the town would receive water directly from the RRSA.**
- 5. He needs to purchase an electric motor for the screw pump at a cost of \$250.00 to keep in stock. He also, installed a piece of metal on the pump as an indicator to give them a warning before it creates a big problem as before.**
- 6. He was going to C & L Machine Shop in Farmville to see if they can actually build the shaft up with some spare parts, he currently has from these two (2) bearings that have gone bad. This way, we'd have a spare part on the shelf to replace this part if the same thing happens again and by doing this, it would be a lot cheaper than having to purchase a new bearing.**
- 7. Construction crews have poured the pad for the tank to be installed at the WWTP and are installing new sewer lines going to the tank and have hooked up the force main going to the LVL site and starting to work on hooking up the pipe in-between the bores going over to the lift station on Ridge Road.**
- 8. Mr. Park III reported the DEQ had not awarded funding to the town for sewer line upgrades during their second round of funding. Also, applications would no longer be available; therefore, he would speak to Drew to see if funding was available, elsewhere. He stated it may be that the town needs to budget funding for this, from now on.**

The Mayor called upon Mr. Johnny Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor, for his report of February 2023. Mr. Roberts reported the old dump truck had been sold. He stated that VDOT had come on Sheriff Street and opened up the culvert and dug out some of the ditch and will keep an eye on it to see how it does after another heavy rain. They're hoping to work it as is without having to replace the pipe due to the pipe not being very deep. The dead tree was removed from the vacant property on Jefferson Street that belongs to the town. Two leaks were repaired at the ballpark and a hydrant needs to be replaced up there. The stumps were ground up on Washington Street and the crew repaired another leak on Park Street. He spoke with Josh Pittard with Dominion regarding the trees on Madison Street Extension and he's hoping to get the contractor that does this type of work, have them removed. One person of the Carter estate told him it would be fine, if this was done. He also informed the council that he'd checked into obtaining other bids to take down the building behind town hall; however, one returned his call, but the other one didn't; therefore, he's still waiting to get that bid. The Mayor advised he'd spoken to the school transportation officer of the County and asked if the children who get on the bus at that site, could be picked up at a different place due to this safety issue. He stated he was waiting to hear back from him. Councilman Worley asked about the tree up at the Salzmans house. Mr. Roberts stated they were considering it, but mostly, it was on the Salzmans to have it removed.

New Business: (Changed by the Mayor to discuss first)

Mayor Starke stated he would like to take a minute to talk about new business and come back to the old business. He advised the RRSA had an opening for a personnel committee person for their board and are resetting all the terms at the end of June 2023. He asked if anyone on the council would volunteer to sit on that personnel committee, but didn't have to let him know tonight. Just keep it on your "radar" to be discussed at the next meeting, but if anyone wanted to do it, let him know, in order to advise the RRSA sooner.

Old Business:

1. The Mayor advised that the "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) with Dominion Energy has been signed by all parties so that's been taken care of and went into effect on March 1, 2023.
2. Mayor Starke spoke about getting another representative to serve on the airport committee as our representative from Boynton to replace Doug Davis. Mrs. Bowen suggested that Howie Fisher be considered for the position, if it was agreeable with the council and airport commission. She agreed to contact Mr. Fisher and also speak to Mike Denton (Airport Commission) to get the commission's approval of Mr. Fisher.
3. Bernard Duncan had inquired about Juneteenth and a Proclamation to be read on June 17th. Mayor Starke stated, in his opinion, the town shouldn't have three (3) consecutive weekends of events. He asked Ms. Goode, if she'd mind Mr. Duncan contacting her to work in conjunction with each other, since it was for the same purpose regarding Juneteenth. Ms. Goode stated she didn't have any objections to him contacting her. The Mayor responded to Ms. Goode by saying, he would contact Mr. Duncan.
4. Dr. Eason spoke about the town's Comprehensive Plan. He stated he'd added some maps to the plan. He also said he'd like to add something about the old high school's use. It was pointed out to him, by the Mayor and Vice Mayor, that the old school had been sold and apartments were planned for that site, as soon as the fire department was out of the building. Dr. Eason questioned if the new owner would have to come to the town and Planning Commission for a variance or rezoning in order for these apartments to be approved in that location. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, stated the new owner would have to do that before he could put apartments there. Dr. Eason asked should he leave the use of that building out of the Comprehensive Plan or tell of the new plans. The Mayor advised he would like it in the plan, but he would like it put somewhere else. Mayor Starke also stated the purpose of a Comprehensive Plan is to lay the way ahead and to identify projective ways of growth and development. Upon review, he felt the goals are not stated in this newly revised plan...it's just a simple statement and he didn't actually see any clear projections on growth in the short- mid-or long-term future and that was quite concerning to him. He stated he'd spoken to several people in the community who are interested in the growth of the town and he'd be happy to go over that with him. He advised him of the "No rush to failure" concept and he felt all the planning commission members should be involved in a Comprehensive Plan and it didn't seem the new members were involved that much in preparing this plan. He apologized, if meetings were held regarding this, but he wasn't made aware of any other meetings, except for the first one, which he couldn't attend.

He asked for comments from the council. Councilman Crowder agreed with Mayor Starke. Dr. Eason then asked if the Mayor would be available to sit down and talk about this as soon as possible within the next few weeks. Mayor Starke stated he would be more than happy to have a meeting with him and the entire Planning Commission to come up with what the plan should consist of. The Mayor told Dr. Eason to please call, contact him via email, or text message as to when he'd like to set up a meeting. Dr. Eason agreed he would get back in touch with him at his earliest convenience. Dr. Eason also asked about the problem of "fire ants" being around the town and if there's anything that could be done about it. Councilman Worley advised that the councilman, not here tonight, had a remedy for them, and he'd be contacted about the problem. Again, Mayor Starke thanked Dr. Eason for being receptive to the things discussed tonight and they'd be getting together soon.

Mayor's Comments:

1. The Mayor advised on March 22nd the Chamber of Commerce is having the Annual Unity Luncheon and he, nor Tinker, would be able to attend. He asked for anyone from the council who would be willing to attend this luncheon and feels someone from the town should be there to represent the town. Councilman Thompson volunteered to attend with Mayor Starke thanking him for representing the town.
2. Mayor Starke informed the council that Shirley had been working with several banking institutes to present what they can offer to the town as far as their rates.
3. The Mayor stated he'd like the council meeting moved up one week to April 18th due to him not being in town and Vice Mayor Gill having a medical procedure, if the council had no objections. Councilman Thompson moved to approve moving the meeting to the 18th of April with the bankers being present the same night, if agreeable. Councilman Worley seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor. The Mayor advised he'd let the council know whether we could put this together for the same night and date.

Public Comments:

Mrs. Karen Sciamacco thanked the entire staff for everything they do and also thanked Chief Bowen for contacting the trucking company to reroute their trucks coming down Jefferson Street.

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) (6) for the purpose of discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the government unit would be adversely affected. And the Virginia Code 2.2-3711 (A) (1) pertaining to hiring a part-time employee.

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
Paul “Ray” Cherry	Aye	Bill Thompson	T. G. Gill	Aye

No motions were made from the closed session; however, upon reconvening, Councilman David M. Crowder moved to adopt the FY 2021 Financial Audit that was tabled earlier. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion with all members voting in favor.

Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, advised Mr. Jason Winters, came by yesterday and she asked him about redesigning and updating our website. After a brief discussion, it was suggested by Councilman Ronny Worley for Mrs. Bowen to check with Jane Clark, who works for the County at the “911” center and is also good at this type of work, to see if she would be willing to help the town out with this concern.

There being no further comments or business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council & Treasurer
March 14, 2023

Christopher D. Starke
Mayor