

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 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
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**

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

The Mayor requested a motion to approve the minutes of March 14, 2023, if there were no corrections, deletions, or additions. Mayor Starke addressed a couple of errors in the minutes that he felt should be amended. One, was it had been stated the dump truck had been sold, but in fact, it was the old garbage truck, not the dump truck as written in the minutes. The Mayor pointed out another error of language usage made about a change in the next meeting date. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, stated she would note those errors in the minutes. Vice Mayor Gill moved to approve the minutes as submitted, with Councilman Paul “Ray” Cherry seconding the motion. All remaining members voted in favor.

Mayor Starke asked for a motion to approve the April 2023 bills as provided in the council packets, if there were no questions or concerns. Councilman Paul “Ray” Cherry inquired about the replacement of a check. The Deputy Clerk, Rhita Burton, replied she had to write a replacement check to Dominion Energy, since they hadn’t received the one written the month prior. Councilman Bill Thompson moved to approve the bills as presented. Councilman Paul “Ray” Cherry seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor.

Chief Bowen gave his monthly, March 10, 2023, through April 13, 2023, activity report. He reported he had six (6) calls for service, four (4) traffic stops, with two (2) of those being citations. Chief Bowen reported he’d completed and sent in the 2023 ARPA Grant; however, it was sent back for corrections. He stated it would be May 11, 2023, when he’d be notified, if he would be receiving all or portions of this grant request. He also informed the council he’d completed his forty (40) hour “In-Service” training that’s required every two years. He further advised the council of speaking to a foreman down at the old Southside Oil site of concerns made by a resident regarding the company’s large trucks coming down through Madison Street Extension, at 4 A. M. in the mornings, which was awaking them and

their children. The company has since then, purchased some signs saying, "Children at Play" to possibly slow the trucks down. He also advised the resident that he'd spoken to the foreman and it was nothing more he could do about the time they work and she could come before the council and express her concerns to them; however, she didn't accept this request. Chief Bowen advised of another incident that happened the day before and he, along with Johnny and Renny, handled the situation, thus far. He was told of a crew from Richmond who were putting in fiber on Red Lawn Road and taking their truck with a water tank and getting water from a fire hydrant on Craddock Court. Johnny approached the person and asked why he was getting water from the fire hydrant and if anyone from the town had given their permission to do so. Chief Bowen also stated that he and Mr. Park III had gone and spoken to their boss. Afterwards, they came in and paid for the water and were also "emphatically" told not to get any more water from the hydrant, unless more information could be received. Councilman Coleman asked Mr. Park III, "Why couldn't a meter be put on the hydrant?" Mr. Park III responded, "I didn't want to do that while our water from the RRSA was offline." He continued by saying, the boss of the company was told that something could possibly be worked out when we get back online with the RRSA, if they would notify us.

Mayor Starke informed the council that Chief Bowen had asked, if he (or the town) could provide pizzas to the 911 communication center for "Dispatchers Week" and he told him that would be fine as long as it was a set amount, which was around \$90.00. Mayor Starke stated the 911 center was very appreciative of this act of kindness by Chief Bowen and he thanked him for his kind gesture to show the town's appreciation for their services. The Mayor also reported he'd reviewed the Police Department's "Policy and Procedures Manual" given to him when he took office. He said he'd made some minor (mostly grammatical) changes; however, he stated this belonged to the Chief. He further stated he was drafting and an MFR (Memorandum for Record) to provide to the council to put with this policy and procedure manual, as long as it doesn't violate any other laws. It would then go on record as the town's official police department's "Policy and Procedure Manual." There were no further questions regarding this or for Chief Bowen.

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 March 2023, was 890,000 gallons of water purchased from the RRSA and the DMR was satisfactory.
- 2.) The water tank had been cleaned, scraped, painted, and sterilized on the inside and we're in the process of filling it back up at this time. As soon as this is done, we'll be taking a series of bacti samples, which take approximately 48 hours and after the

results come back good, we can then put the tank back online with the RRSA by the end of the week or first of next week.

- 3.) The progress with the upgrade at the WWTP is going along fine with them finishing pouring the tank and starting to back fill in the next couple of weeks. They have started laying the 12" line going to the old prison site for the clean water and have pulled the 12" line under the creek.
- 4.) As far as an update on the LVL north site on Ridge Road, they are still waiting for the building to come in and have put in almost all of the conduit. After this is all done, they will start putting in the electrical, as well as, start back working on the clean water force main.
- 5.) Regarding hiring a part-time employee for the weekends, the uptown crew was asked if they'd like to work at the WWTP; however, they said they'd rather not work down there. Mr. Park III asked the council if Brandon Moore would still be considered. After some discussion, Councilman Paul "Ray" Cherry moved to allow Brandon to work on weekends when needed, at \$20.00 an hour. Councilman David M. Crowder seconded the motion, with all councilmen voting in favor.
- 6.) Mr. Park III asked if the council would like to go over the concerns of the new school complex; however, the Mayor advised tabling that discussion until later in the meeting.

Mr. Johnny Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor, was called upon by the Mayor for his monthly report. Mr. Roberts reported the garbage truck had been repaired. Also, the brush truck (old fire truck) was up at Mark Parrish's being repaired. He stated his desire would be to sell that truck due to high maintenance costs. It was suggested it be put out for sealed bids, but nothing was actually decided, except to get the transmission repaired and then let Mr. Roberts decide on what to do with the truck.

Old Business:

- 1.) Mayor Starke reported he'd spoken to Bernard Duncan about the Juneteenth Proclamation. Mr. Duncan stated he wanted a Proclamation signed each year for Juneteenth and asked that this be done. The Mayor advised him to speak to Ms. Goode, since she was having an annual Juneteenth Celebration here each year and he should collaborate with her. The Mayor told the council he'd not heard from him, since their phone call, and he felt the town had done due diligence towards Mr. Duncan's request and if anything, else should arise from this, he would handle it.
- 2.) Mayor Starke informed the council of Howie Fisher accepting the position on the Lake Country Airport Commission.
- 3.) The Mayor also asked once again, if anyone had a suggestion for someone to serve on the personnel committee at the RRSA, and if not, he'd appreciate anyone offering to take this position or suggest someone who would be willing to do this by their May meeting. Councilman Coleman asked, "Aren't you the person who was to be on that board?" The Mayor stated it was two (2) different positions and actually both positions were held by the former Mayor, Johnny M. Kirkland."
- 4.) He also informed the council that he and Renny were alternating as the board member on the RRSA. He'd stated, he'd be taking "odd" months, with Renny taking

“even” months. Mr. Park III commented that he’d find out more about it at the next meeting he attends and he “may” volunteer to serve on this committee. Councilman Coleman and the Mayor both thanked Mr. Park III.

- 5.) As a back brief on the Comprehensive Plan, the Mayor advised he’d met with Dr. Eason and the Planning Commission and basically explained to them that we would like to see for the town’s future. He felt they all now understood what should be happening and agreed to another meeting with Mr. Jimmy Walters speaking to them about the Rails-to-Trails.**
- 6.) Regarding the “fire ants” mentioned at the last meeting, the Mayor asked Mr. Roberts, if this had been addressed yet. Councilman Coleman stated he’d told Mr. Roberts to tell him where the ant hills are and he’d be there to get rid of them tomorrow morning.**

New Business:

- 1.) Mayor Starke stated at the Planning Commission meeting an application had been submitted to rezone the lot on Madison Street/Jefferson Street, formerly known as “Melody Manor” from Commercial to Residential. The Planning Commission approved this request to advertise for a public hearing, if approved by the town council. Councilman Bill Thompson moved to approve this advertisement request with Vice Mayor Gill seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.**
- 2.) The Mayor informed the council that he and Shirley were working on a spreadsheet to condense the financial reports sent out in the council packets, but it was yet to be completed. He asked if anyone had any questions or objections. There were none.**
- 3.) Mayor Starke thanked all the people who work tirelessly for their contributions to the town, day in and day out.**

Mayor’s Comments:

- 1.) The Mayor informed the council the amount of money (\$95,000.00) requested from the County in lieu of taxes, was denied and we would be getting the same amount as last year, which was \$80,000.00 for budget year FY 2023-2024.**
- 2.) Mayor Starke advised the council of a request from the County to rezone the property, formerly owned by Mayada Ghanem, and purchased by the County, to change it from Residential to Commercial.**
- 3.) The Mayor also advised of a preliminary budget meeting that would be held at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, April 24, 2023, with the supervisors.**

Mayor Starke opened the floor for public comments. There being no comments, he advised the town council would be convening into a closed session at this time.

Mr. Ronny C. 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.

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	Aye	David M. Crowder	Aye
Paul "Ray" Cherry	Aye	Bill Thompson	Aye	T. G. Gill	Aye

No motions were made from the closed session.

Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, asked for a motion from the council to advertise the rezoning of the property owned by the County at 37 Jones Street and to be included in the other rezoning request made by TOB, LLC in the first part of the meeting, if the Planning Commission's recommendation was made at the Monday meeting. Councilman Coleman moved to include this rezoning in the advertisement, if agreed upon. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion with all members voting unanimously.

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

Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council & Treasurer
April 11, 2023

Christopher D. Starke
Mayor