

**The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on Tuesday, June 13, 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  
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  
Ron Sciamacco  
Andrea Baxter**

**Mayor Starke, welcomed everyone for their attendance at the regular monthly meeting and called the meeting to order. He then 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 Joint Public Hearing (between the Planning Commission and Town Council) minutes of May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the regular minutes of that night, the “Called Meeting” minutes of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the minutes of the “Special Meeting” regarding the FY 2023-2024 budget, on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Councilman Paul “Ray” Cherry moved to approve these four (4) sets of minutes as submitted, with Councilman Bill Thompson seconding the motion. All remaining members voted in favor.**

**Mayor Starke requested a motion to pay the bills that were included in the council packets, if there were no questions. Councilman Paul “Ray” Cherry moved to approve the bills as presented. Councilman W. H. Coleman seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor.**

**Chief Bowen gave his monthly, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, through June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, activity report. He reported he had two (2) calls for service within the town, and five (5) traffic stops, with two (2) of those being citations. Chief Bowen reported on the Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. He reported there were no incidents and approximately two hundred fifty (250) to three (300) hundred people were here at one time with a time of enjoyment for all. He advised he was trying to arrange for several officers to be here for the Bluegrass Festival. He stated he had asked for ammunition money in the budget and the price had come in for \$930.36, which was less than he requested. It would cover ammo for the new rifle, shotgun, and pistol for training. He also informed the council that the cooling fan shattered and went through the radiator on the police car today. He advised he would be driving the town Nissan pickup tomorrow and would be looking for someone to repair the vehicle. Mayor Starke stated he would call the Town of LaCrosse tomorrow to see if we could borrow a car from them until the Chief’s car is repaired. Councilman Worley moved to go ahead and have the car repaired with Councilman David M. Crowder seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.**

Vice Mayor Gill asked why the Chief's report was not included in the packet with Councilman Thompson reiterating the same question. The Mayor stated that in a previous meeting, it was discussed to eliminate these reports to save time and paper. Councilman Thompson stated he'd been at all the meetings and it was never discussed to take these reports out of the packet. Mayor Starke asked the council members, if all the reports were preferred to be in the packets. It was agreed upon that all the normal reports be in their packets, as in the past.

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 May 2023, was 985,000 gallons of water purchased from the RRSA.
2. He reported the DMR results for May 2023, were returned as satisfactory.
3. He advised the expansion work being done at the WWTP was going along pretty smoothly. They're moving all the sewer lines over to the old prison site. The forced main on Ridge Road is currently being installed with no incidents.
4. There was one incident at the WWTP where an individual came off the Rails-to-Trails through the work site, came into the WWTP site, and existed off the road behind the Fire Department. No damages were done, but he felt he should install "No Trespassing" signs at the WWTP by trying to keep the plant as safe, as possible.
5. He reported he had a request from the Mecklenburg County School System to allow a food truck of theirs to dump the waste water from this truck into the sewer system at the school. Since it would be metered, he didn't think this would be a problem; however, the health department told them they would have to get the council's approval to do this. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to allow them to dump this waste water into the sewer system at the school with Councilman Bill Thompson seconding the motion. All remaining members voted in favor.

Councilman Coleman directed a question to Mr. Park III on how Microsoft was being billed, and if it was through a meter. He stated it was brought up later at the budget meeting, that it was calculated with one or two of them being figured with a percentage method. Mr. Park III responded by saying, "No, we have meters on everything. The Ridge Road site is billed through the site on Highway 58. It bumps into the back side of the Bin site, comes through the front, is metered, and is charged by the metered amount. The site over at the Prison has a meter at the WWTP and we meter it there. We have to do a little bit of math, since we have four (4) customers on that same sewer line that have to be deducted off that amount and the remaining amount is billed to Microsoft. All of this will change in six (6) to eight (8) months because they're putting sewer lines over there right now and new meters will then be installed. Councilman Coleman thanked Mr. Park III and stated it was his misunderstanding of how this was done. Councilman Thompson then asked Mr. Park III if he knew what was being done up on the left going towards Ridge Road, since he'd seen them there for the past three (3) weeks. Mr. Park III stated they were boring for a forced main for the Bishop site and the Ridge Road site that would eventually meet at the WWTP. He agreed it's taken a long time to do this, but it was due to not being able to find the forced main up to the new school. Council Cherry was prompted to ask, "Is this normal?". Mr. Park III replied, "It was due to the line being moved from the place it was shown on the blueprint and they didn't want to hit it."

**The Mayor called upon Mr. Johnny Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor, for his report of May 2023.**

- 1. Mr. Roberts reported the tree up at the Salzmans was currently being taken down by Dominion and they are going to remove two (2) more. The tree at Dr. Eason's house and the one across the street from where they are now are to be taken down, as well.**
- 2. He advised he had to replace a front tire on the backhoe and he really needed the other three (3) tires, since he's having to put air in those each time the backhoe is used; therefore, he was seeking prices for tires, due to their high cost.**
- 3. He informed the council he'd replaced some of the signs that say, "Slow...Children Playing" through the town, since they were looking worn and needed upgrading.**
- 4. He apprised the council he'd only received one bid on the old fire truck and it was over \$7,000.00. He asked if the council was satisfied with that bid, since he'd like to call the man tomorrow to come get it. There were no objections to this bid. The council told him to go ahead and contact him. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, asked for a motion to sell the fire truck. Councilman Ronny Worley moved to sell the fire truck with Councilman W. H. Coleman seconding the motion. All remaining members voted in favor.**

**Chief Bowen advised the council that he'd heard many compliments on the beautiful flowers that were planted again this year by the Historic Boydton's Renaissance, Inc. and their volunteers. Councilman Coleman stated that he and his son, Brandon, were going to spruce up the corner of Madison and Washington Street, prior to the "Bluegrass in Boydton" event on June 24<sup>th</sup>, at no charge to the town or HBR. Mayor Starke thanked him for this kind gesture.**

#### **Old Business:**

- 1. Mayor Starke stated that each councilman had a copy of the budget ad that will be published in the newspaper tomorrow for the council to review. Councilman W. H. Coleman addressed some questions to Mrs. Bowen and she replied that even though things were changed with the budget, she had done all she could to convert some monies from the general fund to the water/sewer fund, but it still wasn't enough to bring that fund up enough to stand on its own. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved that we advertise the budget and new rate increases, as it was presented. Councilman Ronny Worley seconded the motion with all members voting in favor.**
- 2. The Mayor reported some discrepancies had been found in the number of gallons of water used versus what we have billed. He stated that the Chief, Renny, Johnny, and Rhita had met, prior to the meeting, to discuss this matter. He further stated they were working on a plan to seek answers to identify these issues and once it was identified, we would move forward with a plan for to make corrections. Councilman Coleman asked Mrs. Bowen, was it as bad as she thought it was, with Mayor Starke, replying, "It's quite significant." Councilman Coleman then responded; "We must have a heck of a leak somewhere, don't we Renny?" Mr. Park III said, "Well, it's got to be going somewhere." The Mayor stated, "it could be a combination of several things." He also advised that a notice would be put on Facebook and our website stating, if anyone sees someone getting water from a fire hydrant to notify the Town Office, and/or Chief Bowen, immediately.**

#### **New Business:**

**Mayor Starke stated he knew of no new business to be discussed.**

**Mayor's Comments:**

The Mayor stated he really didn't have anything to discuss; however, he appreciated the support and input on all the things that had come up, along with the participation at various meetings held, since he'd taken office as the Mayor. He felt we'd made progress and would continue on to do so. Councilman Coleman asked Mrs. Bowen, when the budget had to be adopted. She replied, "The public hearing would be held on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, and the adoption of the budget would be held on Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, since at the public hearing it could not be adopted during that same meeting." She advised according to the VA Code, the adoption of the budget would have to be seven (7) days after the public hearing. Mayor Starke reminded the council that he'd sent Mr. Hooton of B & B Consultants, a "letter of favor" for VDOT. He commented that he'd reach out to Mr. Hooton to see if everything was satisfactory.

**Public Comments:**

There were no public comments from the public.

The Mayor advised the council would be convening into a closed meeting at this time. 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) Discussion of personnel issues, pertaining to carry-over time/share time for town employees.

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

Councilman Bill Thompson moved to table the issues discussed until the next meeting on July 13, 2023. Councilman Paul "Ray" Cherry seconded the motion with all remaining members voting unanimously.

There being no further comments or business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 P.M.

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Shirley S. Bowen, MMC  
Clerk of Council & Treasurer  
June 13, 2023

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Christopher D. Starke  
Mayor