

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on Tuesday, July 11, 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
Karen and Ron Sciamacco
Teresa Goode**

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.

Mayor Starke requested a motion to approve three (3) sets of minutes for the regular meeting on June 13, 2023, the “Public Hearing” on June 21, 2023, and the “Called Meeting” to adopt the FY 2023-2024 budget and new rates on June 29, 2023. Councilman Paul “Ray” Cherry moved to approve the three (3) sets of minutes as submitted, with Vice Mayor T. G. Gill seconding the motion. All remaining members voted in favor.

The Mayor requested a motion to approve the bills to be paid for the month of July 2023. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to approve the bills as presented. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor.

Mrs. Bowen, Clerk-Treasurer, advised she had revised the method of providing the financial banking information, which was now showing the monthly interest accrued from the new Benchmark “Sweep” Account. She stated the Touchstone CD’s would only show the interest accrued on a quarterly basis, and she would provide those changes on her report every quarter. The Mayor pointed out and reminded the council of how the “sweep” account was handled. He noted that Shirley had indicated at the bottom of their sheet some pertinent information for their perusal. He explained, also, how each night all of the funds, (except for \$50,000.00) are “swept out,” into other banking institutes in order to earn interest with the principal, plus interest earned being added back the next day.

Chief Bowen gave his monthly, June 9, 2023, through July 6, 2023, activity report. He reported he had nine (9) calls for service within the town, three (3) traffic stops, with one (1) of those being a citation, and one (1) unlocking of a vehicle. He reported on the Bluegrass Festival, which he felt was a very successful event, with only a couple of minor incidents. The Mayor expressed his gratitude for Chief Bowen’s hard work for this event as he was the only law enforcement official there, due to the short-handedness of the Sheriff’s Department. Councilman W. H. Coleman, also interjected by crediting the town crew on the great job during the event, as well.

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 June 2023, was 998,000 gallons of water purchased from the RRSA and the DMR results were returned as satisfactory.**
- 2. Mr. Park III advised the LVL North site on Ridge Road was going along smoothly with no complications in the past thirty (30) days.**
- 3. He reported that B & B Consultants had agreed to do the survey work and provide us with a plat of the WWTP, as suggested at last month's meeting.**
- 4. He stated the new school's lift station had another failure (VFD) and the problem was being looked into again, to hopefully get this issue resolved and find the cause.**
- 5. Mr. Park III requested a water sample from Councilman W. H. Coleman and advised he'd pick it up in the morning.**

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

- 1. Mr. Roberts reported he and his crew had installed a new water connection on Highway 58, near the Evans property, across from Triangle.**
- 2. He advised a tree had fallen on the trail and they'd gotten that taken care of.**
- 3. He also reported the old fire truck had been sold for \$7,700.00.**

Councilman Cherry questioned Mr. Roberts concerning a power line pole being broken in half down on Washington Street and asked who was responsible for removing it. After a brief discussion, Councilman Cherry asked Mr. Roberts if he'd look at this pole, determine who it belongs to, and call someone to remove it. The Mayor advised it would be taken care of.

Mayor Starke thanked Mr. Roberts and his crew for the assistance they provided at the Bluegrass Festival and how everyone he'd spoken to had commented on how appreciative they were for such a wonderful event. He also thanked Mr. Roberts for being engaged with the "Happy Frog Organic Landscaping" who had adopted the Heritage trail with landscaping assistance to help out the town crew with routine maintenance.

Old Business:

- 1. The Mayor stated Mr. Louie Young had contacted the town once again regarding the Taylor Ferry Road development area off of Jefferson Street and asked what the town could offer him with water/sewer connections. He asked the council if they were interested in entertaining this idea. Councilman W. H. Coleman, as well as, the other councilmen agreed, we should engage in conversation with Mr. Young regarding this endeavor. The Mayor offered to call Mr. Young (with the approval of the council) to advise him of the council's willingness to hear what his thoughts are on development and what he's looking for from the town. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, advised the Mayor and council of the town's prior conversation with Mr. Young, as to the town's willingness to provide garbage collection for this development/sub-division.**

2. **The Mayor brought to the attention of the council, the town's property down at Pump Street being conveyed back to the Garnett's, as the deed stated, in the event the town was no longer using it. After some discussion, Vice Mayor Gill moved to convey this property back to the Garnett's, since the town had no more use for it, and to seek Thom Lipscomb to handle this transaction, if he agreed. Councilman W. H. Coleman seconded the motion with all council members voting in favor. Councilman Ronny C. Worley moved to seek another attorney to handle the town's business. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion with all council members voting unanimously.**

3. **Mayor Starke informed the council that he'd contacted Mr. Hooton of B & B Consultants, Inc. regarding the King property. The Mayor stated he'd sent a "letter of favor" (as requested by Mr. Hooton) for VDOT purposes, at our June council meeting, where the town agreed to a right-of-way to access this new development. As an update on this, he advised the council he'd spoken to Mr. Hooton again today to make sure nothing else was needed from the town. Mr. Hooton informed him the town didn't need to do anything further at this time, since an issue had arisen with an adjacent owner of the King property in order to fulfill the VDOT requirements. He continued by saying, "if and when," this is resolved Mr. Hooton, may come back to the town requesting an "egress" agreement, which is different from a right-of-way.**

New Business:

The Mayor spoke to the council concerning the town's accounting software system and the possible need to consider changing our system, due to the owner expressing, "indirectly" to Shirley, of the possible need for the town to look into this due to many factors. Those were his age, he being the sole proprietor, with no one to take over the business; thus, suggesting the town "may" want to start looking for another software system. He offered his willingness to help us with the conversion and/or the transition process when needed. Mayor Starke advised, this isn't something that needs to be done immediately, but if we choose this route, it would be to our advantage, by doing this within the next twenty-four (24) months, while we still have Shirley here to help with this transition. Vice Mayor Gill voiced his opinion, by saying "Go for it...it's nothing wrong with looking." Councilman Cherry added we should look for the best price and quality (from high to low) while the Mayor agreed and expressed his desire for good customer service being another thing to consider.

Mayor Comments:

Mayor Starke stated he had no comments, other than thanking everyone by covering for him in his absence, their understanding, their patience, and their support. He continued by saying, the Bluegrass Festival wouldn't have been as successful without all those who helped. He also thanked everyone for the work they do every day in carrying out the town's business.

Public Comments:

The Mayor opened the floor for public comments. Mrs. Karen Sciamacco conveyed her appreciation and gratitude, as well, for the success of the Bluegrass Festival and by saying it takes "a village" to get all these things done. Ms. Teresa Goode also spoke on behalf of the Juneteenth Committee by expressing her thanks and appreciation for the success of the Juneteenth Celebration held in town on June 10th. She stated it was a wonderful day with a

larger than last year turnout of people and they plan on having it again next year, where it will hopefully continue to grow each year.

Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, commented that the first Boydton Day meeting for this year was held last night and everything seems to be going very well, so far, with approximately nineteen vendors already signed up. She stated the next meeting would be Monday, August 7.

Vice Mayor Gill asked if the Joint Public Hearing regarding a Conditional Use Permit for a home occupation was still scheduled for tomorrow night. Mayor Starke stated it would be held here in the council chambers at 5:30 P.M. tomorrow night, June 12, 2023, and thanked him for the reminder.

The Mayor advised the public that at this time, the town council would now be entering into a "Closed Session" and dismissed the audience. He advised they could return as soon as the meeting was reconvened, if they would like to stay.

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) (1) for the purpose of a personnel matter regarding the discussion/consideration of "carry over" sick time or "share time" for the town employees.

The executive session being closed, the meeting was 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

Since no motions were made upon reconvening, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council
July 11, 2023

Christopher D. Starke
Mayor