

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on Tuesday, August 8, 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 (Absent)
Rhita M. Burton, Deputy Clerk
Shirley S. Bowen, MMC, Clerk-Treasurer

GUESTS

R. H. Park III, WWTP Chief Operator
John P. Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor

The Mayor, Christopher “Chris” Starke, welcomed the council and employees to the regular monthly meeting and called the meeting to order. No guests, from the public, were present for the meeting. The Mayor led the council and employees with the pledge of allegiance to the flag, followed by an invocation.

Mayor Starke requested a motion to approve two (2) sets of minutes, which were the Joint Public Hearing minutes between the Planning Commission and Town Council on Wednesday, June 12, 2023, to grant a “Conditional Use Permit” to Hannah Park for a hair salon in a Residential District and the regular meeting minutes of Tuesday, July 11th. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to approve the two (2) sets of minutes as submitted, with Councilman Bill Thompson 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 August 2023. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to approve the bills as presented. Councilman Paul “Ray” Cherry seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor.

Due to Chief Bowen’s absence, the Mayor briefed the council on the Chief’s monthly activity report of July 7, 2023, through August 3, 2023, as included in the packet.

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 July 2023, was 1,033,000 gallons of water purchased from the RRSA and the DMR results were returned as satisfactory.
2. Mr. Park III advised they had a bit of a problem with the old 8” sewer line coming from the prison (DOC). He stated they were there to jet and clean out the line to rehabilitate, which was in the contract, but had to stop because they thought there were rifle cartridges in the sewer line, and that was considered hazardous materials. He stated that representatives from the DOC, Wayne Carter, the engineer, the contractor, and he were all on site to determine what action would have to be taken; however, after opening the lines, it turned out to be AA and AAA batteries that had been flushed down the toilets in the line from the prison. He stated that line would be removed from service

for about two (2) months starting the beginning of next month. This will enable them to clean and repair the lines, along with slip lining them and it would also require repairing all the manholes. He noted the new 12-inch line is almost completed, as well. The removal of service from that line will only affect the Meherrin Regional Jail and the old Department of Corrections. The jail will be closed during this time and we will do “bypass pumping” at the DOC during this time, since it is only being used as office space, he said.

3. He also reported that B & B Consultants had started the survey for the WWTP.

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

1. Mr. Roberts reported he didn't really have anything to report, except the crew was trying to keep the grass cut, with the rain and hot weather, plus attempting to keep tires on all the vehicles.
2. Councilman Coleman asked Mr. Roberts, if he'd heard whether they would close Madison Street when they do the bridge. He stated they've been marking things, but it would probably be two (2) years before anything is started.

Old Business:

1. The Mayor stated he had spoken to Mr. Louie Young regarding his sub-division plans. He added Mr. Young was planning on attending the next council meeting and will bring drawings and blueprints of what he intends to do on the Taylor Ferry Road development area off of Jefferson Street. He advised that he, Renny, and Johnny had ridden over to that location to view the area to see what would be needed, as far as Mr. Young's concerns with water/sewer connections. He further stated that Mr. Young was eager to begin and move forward on this project, just as we look forward to meeting with him.
2. The Mayor informed the council that the search for legal and accounting software is still ongoing. With year-end closeout and grant work being done, this issue hasn't been delved into thoroughly, as yet. One person had been spoken to and had shown interest regarding legal representation; however, it's to be noted, “municipal law” isn't in his realm of expertise. Mayor Starke advised these two (2) issues will continue to be looked into.

New Business:

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

Mayor's Comments:

The Mayor stated Mr. Tom Boyd, owner of “Ancient Lore Village” phoned the office on August 3, 2023. In response, he had reached out to Mr. Boyd and was told his family had traced their lineage back to Boydton. His son, Randy Boyd, is the President of the University of Tennessee. They are planning on flying their private jet to a local airport on September 3, 2023, and will be here around 11:00 A.M. to visit, with a “meet and greet” to find out more history of their family and the area. They plan to have lunch here, as well, and leave around

4:00 P.M. Mayor Starke advised he'd spoken to Mrs. Rawles, President of the Boyd Tavern, regarding this, along with Walter Beales as the historian. He also wanted to make the council aware of this and invited them to come meet Mr. Boyd and whoever comes with him.

Mayor Starke advised the town council would now be entering into a "Closed Session" and dismissed the open session.

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 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

Upon reconvening, Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to allow Mayor Starke to compile the suggestions talked about during the closed portion of the meeting and bring it back to the council for possible approval/adoption at that time. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned and recorded at 8:45 P.M.

Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council
August 8, 2023

Christopher D. Starke
Mayor