

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on Tuesday, September 12, 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 P. Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor  
Teresa Downey  
Teresa Goode

The Mayor, Christopher "Chris" Starke, welcomed the council, employees, and guests to the regular monthly meeting and called the meeting to order. The Mayor led the audience with the pledge of allegiance to the flag, followed by an invocation.

Mayor Starke advised that Mr. Louie Young, who was to be here tonight to address the council on plans for his new sub-division, had called and sent his regrets, but something had come up where he couldn't be here. He advised he would be at our next town council meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

The Mayor introduced Mrs. Teresa Downey to present the council with her idea of having an annual Christmas parade in Boydton. She wanted to get the council's thoughts on doing this and possibly combining it with the Town's Grand Illumination, as well. She also stated the Grassy Creek Christmas Parade was a huge success for many years, but no one was doing that anymore and it was on the second Saturday in December. She stated if the council was in agreement, Boydton could take that Saturday, which would be the 9<sup>th</sup> this year. Mayor Starke stated he wouldn't advise trying to do them both on the same day this year, but possibly next year, we could try to combine them. Upon being asked by the Mayor, Mrs. Downey agreed to contact the various schools to see if their bands would be interested in participating and she and the Mayor would stay in contact with each other to see if all this would work out. Mayor Starke thanked Mrs. Downey for her willingness to assist in this new venture.

Mayor Starke requested a motion to approve the monthly meeting minutes of August 8, 2023. Councilman Bill Thompson moved to approve the minutes as submitted, and Councilman Paul "Ray" Cherry seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor.

The Mayor requested a motion to approve the bills to be paid for the month of September 2023. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to approve the bills as presented. Councilman Paul "Ray" Cherry seconded the motion, and all remaining members voted in favor.

Chief Bowen gave his monthly report from August 4<sup>th</sup> thru September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. He stated he had eight (8) traffic stops, three (3) traffic citations, and three (3) calls for service. He also

stated he'd gotten his new radar equipment from the grant he'd received and it's been installed and working well. He stated he'd also been checking prices for a new police car for our future needs. He advised he'd gotten prices from Hardee Ford that wouldn't be available until 2025, since that's how far they are behind with the price being about \$45,000.00 with no police equipment mounted on it and to get it equipped, it would be approximately another \$10 to \$11,000.00. Sheehy Ford in Richmond, VA have the vehicles on their lot and can equip them there at their site. Also, he stated the vehicles are no longer sedans, but SUV's and some are being geared towards electric vehicles. No one had further questions 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. Mr. Park III advised that his co-worker, Mike Grimley, had been in an automobile accident during his vacation week and was admitted to Duke Hospital for his injuries; however, they were not life threatening and it was his hope that he'd be back at work in the very near future, but the WWTP would be shorthanded until he returns.
2. Boydton's Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings Report of water pumped for August 2023, was 1,286,000 gallons of water purchased from the RRSA and the DMR results were returned as satisfactory.
3. Mr. Park III advised the Meherrin River sewer bill was a problem in that it was found that an "unknown person or company" had taken water from a fire hydrant at their facility that is metered. They normally don't use but a minimum, but this time they used over 71,000 gallons of water. Mr. Park III suggested the billing be adjusted to their normal usage and asked that the council instruct Rhita to adjust it to a minimum bill. Councilman Worley objected to this adjustment, since he stated it should have been locked and felt it was their responsibility for the water that ran through the meter causing a sewage bill. Councilman Thompson also agreed with Councilman Worley not to adjust their bill. A vote on this was not taken, however, there was no objection to keep the billing as is.
4. Mr. Park III stated on Ridge Road at the LVL Microsoft site they want to run a small lift pump over in a manhole on their side and plug it in to our building that we pay the electric service bill, which isn't much money and we make about 2-4 thousand dollars a month on. He was asking for permission from the council to allow this. It was decided to allow them to do this, but for Mr. Park III to monitor the cost increase on our electric bill, and if it should be much higher, the council would address it at a later date.
5. Mr. Park III informed the council that Microsoft wants to start work on the sewer user Agreement for the two (2) new sites and the BIN sites and they want to do it all in one. He said, the only problem I have with that is they are wanting to have the gallons per day and the monthly flow and that's something we don't have as yet, since we haven't been issued our new permits. He continued by saying, they want to change some of the wording in our already established agreement, and that concerns me, as well. He also stated he felt an attorney should look over this to cover the town. The Mayor stated the wording they want to change could shift liability to the town, in a "he said," "they said," finger pointing type situation and there's nothing written that would safeguard us from the liability falling on us. He said he advised Renny to bring this up tonight and suggest an attorney look it over. More discussion ensued, with Councilman Thompson moving to refer this to our town attorney. Vice Mayor Gill seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

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

- 1. Mr. Roberts reported he'd been looking into finding the leaks in and around town and he said he'd gotten in touch with Virginia Rural Water who are coming to help find these leaks. He stated they found one leak down near the WWTP on Carter Lane at an old abandoned house near the plant and they are planning on capping that off tomorrow.**
- 2. He reported, the Mayor had him look into replacing the meters around town and he passed two (2) to three (3) out estimates from two (2) different companies.**
- 3. VDOT has repaired the water drain pipe up at Councilman Thompson's and are to repair the sidewalk there, concrete a hole by the drain at Walter Beales driveway, and redo the sidewalk up at the Baptist Church. A new drain pipe was replaced at Vice Mayor Gill's house.**
- 4. He also advised that posts have been replaced on the shelter down at the playground. He informed the council that he had to replace it with treated wood, where they are cedar posts, and he said all of them are rotting down at the bottom.**
- 5. In regards to the trees that need to be cut around or trimmed up around town, a lift costs \$350 a day to rent. Also, to tear down the building behind this Town Hall, Barker Construction gave a bid of \$6,500 and Herbert Ramsey's bid was \$5,000. He continued by saying he'd spoken to Wayne Carter about forgiving the cost to dump the materials at the landfill; however, Mr. Carter stated they didn't do that any longer. Therefore, it will be an additional cost of around \$500.00 to each of these bids.**

**Old Business:**

**The Mayor stated the personnel policy had been sent to VML for their legal opinion on the town's leave policy and he plans to have it ready to present at the next meeting.**

**New Business:**

**Mayor Starke stated they had a call last week at the fire department where they had to assist at the landing zone. He advised our landing zone is in pretty bad shape on Mayfield Drive off of Highway 58. Mr. John Toone contacted the owner of the property who was excited to have her field cut for the landing zone, but she wanted the entire area cut, as well. This was not feasible; therefore, Mr. Toone contacted the emergency management director for the County and he has asked if the Meherrin Regional Jail site could be used as a temporary landing zone for the county until another suitable place can be found.**

**Mayor's Comments:**

**The Mayor thanked the three (3) departments of the town, (Maintenance, Police, and WWTP) for their support and all they have done in doing everything he's asked of them for the town. Mayor Starke, also, reported that he and Vice Mayor Gill went over to the Tavern and met the Boyd's who flew into town on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and their time was enjoyed by all. He hoped this would turn into something good for the town.**

**Public Comments:**

There were no public comments from anyone on council or the audience.

Mayor Starke advised the town council would now be entering into a “Closed Session” and dismissed the public from 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) (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 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	Absent	David M. Crowder	Aye
Paul “Ray” Cherry	Aye	Bill Thompson	Aye	T. G. Gill	Aye

Upon reconvening, no motions were made regarding the subject matter of the closed session.

Councilman Worley inquired who would install the new meters, if the town was to purchase them. The Mayor stated this was all being done as a “futuristic” plan. And he was working on a ten (10)-year plan for the town. Councilman Worley also mentioned if the town was looking towards getting a new police vehicle in the future, we should try to seek out a grant. He proposed that we should go to the County and ask them, if we could be included when they do their next purchase of fleet vehicles.

Since there were no more questions, comments, or concerns the meeting was adjourned and recorded at 9:00 P.M.

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Shirley S. Bowen, MMC  
Clerk of Council  
September 12, 2023

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Christopher D. Starke  
Mayor