

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on Tuesday, October 10, 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 (Absent)
Paul “Ray” Cherry (Absent)
Mr. Ronny Worley
Chief Nathan Bowen
Rhita M. Burton, Deputy Clerk (Absent)
Shirley S. Bowen, MMC, Clerk-Treasurer

GUESTS

R. H. Park III, WWTP Chief Operator
John P. Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor
Ron & Karen Sciamacco

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, hadn’t indicated in any manner that he wouldn’t be at tonight’s meeting; however, he was not here. He said that possibly something may have happened to hamper him from attending; however, he supplied a plat of the sub-division location on Terry Ferry Road for the council to review. The Mayor stated he’d reach out to him, after tonight’s meeting, to see if he still wanted to come at a later date. A brief discussion ensued with no resolution concerning this property without Mr. Young being in attendance.

Mayor Starke requested a motion to approve the monthly meeting minutes of September 12, 2023. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to approve the minutes as submitted, and Councilman Bill Thompson 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 October 2023. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to approve the bills as presented. Vice Mayor T. G. Gill seconded the motion, and all remaining members voted in favor. Councilman Coleman questioned the ball park electric bill as to its high cost. Mrs. Bowen, stated she couldn’t answer his question, since Rhita now does the accounts payable and she wasn’t in attendance tonight. He asked that it be checked on, and Mrs. Bowen was in agreement.

Chief Bowen gave his monthly report from September 8th, 2023 through October 5th. The Chief reported four (4) traffic stops, one (1) traffic citation, three (3) calls for service, and one (1) arrest warrant. The Chief had no other business to discuss and there were no other questions for him.

Mayor Starke requested Mr. R. H. Park's public works monthly report from the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mr. R. H. Park III reported the following:

- 1.) Mr. R. H. Park III reported Boydton's Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings report of water pumped for September 2023, was 1,190,000 gallons of water purchased from the RRSA with the DMR results returning as satisfactory.**
- 2.) Mr. Park III advised that his co-worker, Mike Grimley, had acquired his Water License and was now able to run the WWTP on his own with this license. He noted Mike would now be studying for his next license, which would be his Waste Water License.**
- 3.) Mr. Park III stated he'd met with the town's attorney and she would be reviewing the Sewer User Agreement with Microsoft to determine what changes should be made (if any) and hopefully she will be getting back to us in time for our next monthly meeting in November. He advised that she would be willing to attend the next meeting to answer any questions from the council regarding her suggestions. He informed the council that he asked if she would do the same thing for the new school.**

Councilman Coleman also inquired of Mr. Park III, if he'd found any reason for the water usage being more than what we were billing out. Mr. Park III advised they'd found a water leak down at an old abandoned house near the WWTP and that was likely to be the cause, but they are continuing to monitor the situation. He continued by saying it would need to be monitored for possibly three (3) months to determine, if that is the entire reason.

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

- 1.) Mr. Roberts reported VDOT had almost completed the sidewalk repairs around town. They will have to come back and do some grading up near the Baptist Church.**
- 2.) The "main issue" he had was the backhoe went down last Friday. A bearing broke and the estimated repairs would be approximately \$4,850.00. He reported it would be the end of next week before it would possibly be fixed and back into operation. Councilman Coleman questioned the possible cause of the bearing breakage and if he thought it was just "wear and tear." Mr. Roberts stated it was the wear and tear of the machine, since is a 2006 model. Vice Mayor Gill and Councilman Coleman both agreed that it was necessary for the backhoe to be repaired; therefore, no motion was made regarding this, as they felt it was ordinary maintenance and repairs.**
- 3.) Mr. Roberts reported he found an old tree that was dead and limbs have been falling from it on the bank of the Olde Town Club. He stated this needs to be taken care of to avoid damages to vehicles or power lines. It was suggested by Mayor Starke to Mr. Roberts for him to call VDOT tomorrow.**
- 4.) Mr. Roberts stated he and his crew had also been working on a water line connection at an old house that had been torn down with a new connection being needed for Gene Coleman's daughter's place on Washington Street and they were also putting in a new line and water meter for Darrell Garnett on Phillis Road.**

Old Business:

- 1.) The Mayor informed the council that upon needing an attorney for several town matters, our attorney has become more proactive in the needs of the town and she had been contacted regarding our Sewer User Agreement for legal counsel, as Mr. Park III had noted in his previous comments.
- 2.) Mayor Starke reported the Employee Leave Policy continues to be a work in progress and we have gathered a lot of information from VML regarding the correct policy language. He stated he'd begun to incorporate that information in the revised policy for the town. He stated he'd already spoken to Vice Mayor Gill and once he gets the policy add-ins completed, then they will have something to present to the council for their input and suggestions.
- 3.) The bench donation made to the town, is now stored and we'd have to determine as to where it would be placed. Councilman Coleman stated someone had asked if a couple of benches could be installed down at the Heritage Trail. Mayor Starke stated we'd have to ask if there were any stipulations on doing that and also, it was suggested to place this bench down there.
- 4.) The annual contribution was made to the Rails-to-Trails as budgeted each year with no change in the amount.
- 5.) The Mayor advised the town had a water complaint from a customer. He stated that he and Renny had gone and checked out the complaint and it was reported to the RRSA; however, he'd not heard any response from them as yet.
- 6.) Mayor Starke stated that he'd heard from Tony Lacks, of the Meherrin River Jail Authority, in reference to the bill he'd received from the town and stated it was for water that had been stolen from the jail and he'd requested the bill to be adjusted, since it was wastewater and no water went into the town's sewer line. He was requesting forgiveness of this bill in the amount of \$840.37. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to forgive the bill, due to no evidence of water entering our town's sewer system. Vice Mayor Gill seconded the motion with all members voting in favor.

New Business:

- 1.) The Mayor asked the council if they'd consider purchasing a cell phone for the Mayor. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to purchase a new cell phone for the Mayor with Councilman Bill Thompson seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Starke advised that as of last week, there were seventy-one (71) vendors who were to attend Boynton Day and these were not just free spaces. There was some concern as to having enough space, since there are lots of vendors who will be bringing large trailers that will take up an enormous amount of space. Mayor Starke advised he contacted Mrs. Rawles of the Boyd Tavern and she stated they would be having an art exhibit in their building; therefore, he advised her the town would try not to take up the space in front of the Tavern.

The Mayor reminded the council of Mrs. Teresa Downey requesting at last month's meeting to have an annual Christmas Parade. He stated he'd spoken to her and two (2) bands have been contacted to attend. One asked if we would be willing to pay for transportation of the band from Brunswick County to the event. No comments were made regarding this request. The day of the parade would be Saturday, December 9, 2023 with the time to be determined.

The Mayor advised that Southern Corrosion had contacted the town offering four (4) tickets with a parking pass to the Carolina Hurricanes game in Raleigh, NC on Thursday, January 25th. The consensus of the council was to offer them to the town employees. Councilman Ronny Worley moved that the town pay for more tickets for all the employees, if possible. With that being said, the Mayor advised he'd have to check into it, since he felt it was a sold out game. Mr. Worley withdrew his motion due to not knowing if the game was sold out or not and stated he'd wait to find this out from the Mayor.

Mayor Starke advised the Tavern Board had requested the "LOVE" sign be removed from their property. Some discussion ensued regarding this, with Mr. Johnny Roberts suggesting it be placed over on the side of the Herbert Park across the street adjacent to Madison Street at the corner of Madison and Washington Streets. The Mayor instructed Mr. Roberts to move the "LOVE" sign across the street, as discussed as soon as time would allow.

Public Comments:

Mr. Ron Sciamacco advised that at their HBR, Inc. meeting tonight, it was discussed to build an outdoor bathroom like the Town of Chase City. It was made from a storage container and also, he was told the Town of Chase City received a grant that helped them build it. Mr. Sciamacco stated that HBR, Inc. would be willing to help with the cost. Mr. Johnny Roberts stated that first a decision needed to be made as to who would tear the building down, before making plans to place a bathroom there. He advised he'd been given two (2) quotes of approximately \$6,000.00 from Barker Construction and Ramsey Construction's quote was \$5,000.00. Discussion followed, with Councilman Worley suggesting the Clerk of Council to check with the Town of Chase City on how they obtained a grant to build the bathroom. She stated she would check with Southside Planning and Chase City, as well. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to have Ramsey Construction demolish the building, with Councilman Ronny Worley seconding the motion. All members voted unanimously.

Since there were no more questions, comments, or concerns, Vice Mayor Gill moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman W. H. Coleman seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. The meeting was recorded as being adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council
October 10, 2023

Christopher D. Starke
Mayor