

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on Tuesday, November 14, 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
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
Mr. David Brankley
Teresa Goode (accompanied by two (2) guests)

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

Mayor Starke requested a motion to approve the monthly meeting minutes of October 10, 2023. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to approve the minutes as submitted, and Vice Mayor T. G. Gill 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 November 2023. Councilman W. H. Coleman questioned the Dominion Power bill up at the ballpark, again. Mrs. Rhita Burton, Deputy Clerk, addressed the matter by saying she'd telephoned Dominion regarding this extremely high bill in the past couple of months, with Dominion responding they'd changed their billing system and it possibly got misread then. They advised her it would be looked into, and our bill would be adjusted when the problem gets resolved. Councilman Bill Thompson moved to approve the bills as presented. Councilman Ronny C. Worley seconded the motion, and all remaining members voted in favor.

Chief Bowen gave his monthly report from October 6th, 2023 through November 8th. The Chief reported seven (7) traffic stops, five (5) traffic citations, and four (4) calls for service. He reported the stray, gray dog had been picked up by Animal Control. Mayor Starke advised there had been another leash law issue with a dog down on Washington Street. He continued by saying the Chief had notified the owner by letter and hopefully that will be resolved quickly. Councilman Cherry asked for a copy of our leash law ordinance.

Mayor Starke requested Mr. R. H. Park III'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 October 2023, was 823,000 gallons of water purchased from the RRSA with the DMR results returning as satisfactory.

2. **Mr. Park III stated he'd sent the Sewer User Agreement for Microsoft to our attorney, Tessie Bacon, in order for her to give more "legal" insight on this agreement and to add any necessary language on their three (3) and soon to be, four (4) sites. He further stated he'd met with her concerning this and asked that she be in attendance at our December meeting to answer any questions the council may have.**
3. **Mr. Park III responded to a question of Councilman Worley who asked if we'd accepted anything concerning this agreement and his response was, "No, not yet. We want her legal expertise before the town signs off on any agreements."**
4. **Councilman Coleman asked if anything had been agreed upon regarding the new consolidated school, with Mr. Park III stating, we, nor the school haven't accepted anything. Mayor Starke interjected by saying they'd met with the school superintendent and Mr. Dalton, around two (2) months ago to discuss the situation and they would be getting back in touch with us at a later date.**
5. **Mr. Park III stated there was an inquiry concerning a 350-acre farm on Antler's Road to have it changed to an industrial park and they were asking, if the town had infrastructure there to provide them with sewer and he told them we didn't, as of now. It would require (with the lay of the land) the town having to build another lift station and furnish them with possibly 135,000 – 145,000 gallons of sewage capacity, which would use all of our reserve. Mr. Park III advised we shouldn't allow them this at this time, since we may not have the capacity to do this with Microsoft continuing to build. Councilman Coleman said he wouldn't want to "close the door" on them too quickly. Mr. Park III stated as soon as we digest all that Microsoft is going to require, we would then be in a better position to say whether we could do it or not, and added he wouldn't "close the door" on this new venture, if it comes to fruition.**

Mr. Roberts reported on his activity for the month of October.

1. **Mr. Roberts stated that VDOT had come and removed the dead tree on Park Street.**
2. **He also informed the council that a concrete truck came the other day to deliver some concrete and in doing so, they ran over a valve box and burst a 2-inch waterline on Washington Street that he and his crew had just set up. Mr. Roberts stated he'd talked to someone with the company about paying for the cost of the damages done.**
3. **He advised he and his crew had installed a new waterline and meter for a new house of Darrell Garnett's at 138 Phillis Road.**
4. **He advised the council that the supplier of parts for the backhoe repair had left off some parts, which made it around \$600 more costly than what he had quoted to them; however, some parts were not needed; therefore, he returned those parts, and our account was credited back by approximately \$400.00.**
5. **Mr. Roberts also stated that Boydton Day was a big success this year with beautiful weather, many vendors, lots of nice comments, and there were no problems.**
6. **He reported that Ramsey Construction had come and torn down the building outback and cleared the lot, as some have possibly already seen.**

7. He advised the bench that was donated to the town will be delivered and placed on the porch at the library, if no one had any objections.
8. Mr. Roberts asked if the council would like the town crew to put up the Christmas decorations, before Thanksgiving or after. It was the consensus of the council to put them up, after the Thanksgiving holiday.
9. He advised the council of the deterioration of the decorations on the light poles and asked the council to be thinking about purchasing more or new ones for next year.

The Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs. Bowen, advised of the Grand Illumination that would traditionally be on done on Monday, December 4th, at 5:30 P.M. She stated she'd lined up all the talent and PATHS would be serving refreshments in the corridor of their building, as they'd done so faithfully in the past.

Mayor Comments (along with Old and New Business):

1. Mayor Starke thanked everyone who helped with Boydton Day for their hard work and dedication to make it a successful and wonderful event. He stated there were more vendors than ever and how he'd received lots of positive comments, along with new vendors asking for applications to come back again next year.
2. The Mayor advised the council of changing our uniform service to Unifirst, rather than Cinta's. The employees would like to make this change, which would also save money. Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to change our uniform service provider from Cintas to Unifirst with Vice Mayor Gill seconding the motion. All members voted in favor. A meeting has already been scheduled to meet with Unifirst on this decision.
3. Mayor Starke informed the council, "Mrs. Manning of First Citizens Bank would be meeting here with Shirley and I on November 21st at 4:30 P.M. with no disclosure of what the meeting would pertain to, but once known, I will advise the council."
4. The Mayor stated that Kim (formerly Evans) of 911 asked him if the town would entertain the idea of decorating our streetlight poles during the holiday season, as do some other towns and it could be done as a competition, as well, with judges and a trophy given to the winner. With a positive response from the council, the Mayor stated he would let Kim know that we'll plan on something of this nature for next year.
5. Mayor Starke informed the council of another resident who had approached him about our town ordinances regarding the upkeep of their own property and free of debris, along with possibly sending out a letter in the spring to all residents advising them how they need to keep in compliance with the town ordinances.
6. The Mayor stated he'd done a "rough draft" of revisions on the town's leave policy. And he, Shirley (Clerk of Council), and Tinker (Vice Mayor) would be meeting to go over the newly revised policy and then, it could be sent to VML for their comments or approval. If it is acceptable, the policy will be brought back to the entire council for their review and approval. Vice Mayor Gill stated he wanted all the council members to review it and give their opinions, before it's sent to VML or given final approval.

Public Comments:

Mr. David Brankley introduced himself as the Town of Boydton's new district representative on the Board of Supervisors, as we've been changed from District 2 to District 8, beginning on January 1st. He stated he was looking forward to working with the town and he would appreciate our support. He would also try to come to some of our future council meetings and if we needed him on anything, he would be more than willing to help us in any way he could.

Mr. Worley inquired about where we stood on looking into getting some type of grants to assist us in possibly installing outdoor bathrooms behind the Town Hall, where the old building was torn down. Mrs. Bowen, stated she didn't have time to check on this due to all the involvement with last minute Boydton Day details, while keeping up her other work. Mayor Starke advised he would contact Dusty Forbes, Town Manager in Chase City, and also, Sangi Cooper with SPCD to inquire how they went about acquiring grant funding to help with something like this.

Chief Bowen advised the Clarksville VFW donated a check to our Police Department in the amount of \$1,500.00. Mrs. Bowen, advised that Mr. Pennington was "key" in getting this donation for the town. She informed the council that Dusty Forbes and his wife Shelley, came by and took a picture of Chief Bowen accepting the donation.

Mr. Brankley, made another comment, which was to note the County had hired a group to implement a new comprehensive plan that would indicate how the County would want to look in the next ten (10) years, and expressed how he felt this was very important to our future.

The Mayor also reminded the audience, and council that the 1st Christmas Parade would be held on Saturday, December 9th at 6:30 P.M. at our normal lineup area. Thus far, he said, there are about thirty (30) participants with hopefully more to come. He stated that some of these participants have more than one entry. He also stated that HBR, Inc. talked about having refreshments and a movie after the parade for those who want to attend, as well, but this was yet to be decided. Councilman Ray Cherry asked if the Mecklenburg County band would be in this Christmas parade, as they weren't here for Boydton Day. The Mayor stated they've been contacted and would be here.

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 8:06 P.M.

**Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council
November 14, 2023**

**Christopher D. Starke
Mayor**