

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on Tuesday, December 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  
Bill Thompson  
David M. Crowder  
Paul "Ray" Cherry (Absent)  
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  
Tessie Bacon, Attorney

The Mayor, Christopher "Chris" Starke, welcomed the council, employees, and guest 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 requested a motion to approve the regular monthly meeting minutes of November 14<sup>th</sup> and the "Called Meeting" minutes of November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Councilman Ronny Worley moved to approve both sets of 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 December 2023. Councilman Bill Thompson moved to approve the bills as presented. Councilman David M. Crowder seconded the motion, and all remaining members voted in favor.

Chief Bowen gave his monthly report from November 9<sup>th</sup>, through December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. He reported five (5) traffic stops, two (2) traffic citations, four (4) calls for service, and one (1) warrant obtained. Councilman Ronny Worley requested that Chief Bowen work Jefferson Street around 7:30 A.M., near the Kindley store location, since he'd observed vehicles traveling approximately 70 mph at and around that area. Chief Bowen responded he'd make note of that. Mayor Starke advised that he and Chief Bowen were working on an alternating work schedule for the Chief; however, it's still in the works. He also stated that he and the Chief were working on some things related to our town ordinances regarding fines and fees that are currently being charged, to see if they are in line with other towns. His plans were to go over these things and present them to the council at a later date to get their thoughts on whether they'd like to recommend any changes. Councilman W. H. Coleman inquired about the changes the Mayor was suggesting to make and stated, "Why are we doing that, if we aren't enforcing these things now, what difference does it make about the fees?" Mayor Starke stated we can't enforce our ordinances, if we don't have a "consequence ladder" for an offense after the first time, and possibly our fines need to be revisited and raised since they are most likely outdated. Councilman Coleman went on to ask about what was happening with the dog situation. Chief Bowen reported he'd talked to Doug of animal control today and he's setting a trap today to hopefully catch the dog, since the Chief said he couldn't get his hands on either of the two (2) dogs being discussed.

**Mayor Starke requested Mr. R. H. Park III's public works monthly report from the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mr. 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 November 2023, was 1,291,000 gallons of water purchased from the RRSA with the DMR results were returned as being satisfactory.**
- 2. Mr. Park III updated the council regarding the forced main at the LVL North site on Ridge Road, by stating it had been completed all the way to the lift station. Testing is being done and should be completed within the next month. As far as an update on the WWTP upgrade, they are currently working on the declor building and will start rehabilitating the median sewer line over to the old prison site. He advised he felt everything was moving along pretty well.**

**There were no other questions for Mr. Park III.**

**Mr. Roberts was called upon by the Mayor for his monthly maintenance report for November 2023.**

- 1. Mr. Roberts advised that the town received payment from B & E Transit company for the repairs made to the sewer line valve and meter box when their cement truck ran over and destroyed them both.**
- 2. He reported the two (2) gateway signs should be completed and installed by the end of the month.**
- 3. He also advised that two (2) tires on the backhoe had to be replaced due to both of them continuously going flat.**

**Councilman Bill Thompson praised Mr. Roberts and his crew for the good job of cleaning up the leaves and stated he'd had others tell him this, as well. The Mayor interjected by saying he appreciated all the hard work the guys were doing and wanted them to know if didn't go unnoticed.**

#### **Old Business:**

**Mayor Starke advised that in our last meeting, a motion was made and approved for switching our uniform service from Cintas to Unifirst. Since that time, Cintas had stopped by and offered a new monthly rate, which would be approximately \$35.00 per month, less than Unifirst. The Mayor asked under these circumstances, if the council would like to rescind their motion from last month, and reconsider keeping Cintas. Councilman W. H. Coleman and the remainder of the council all agreed to keep the original motion made in November.**

### New Business:

The Mayor advised he'd been contacted by the Mecklenburg County tourism office, in reference to a mural, which had been mentioned previously in conjunction with the town's "LOVE" sign. He was told of a potential site/location for the mural. However, there is a process with this, where the artist would need to be identified as part of this plan. He noted he was mentioning all this, in order to keep everyone "in the loop." He advised that more information would be forthcoming at a later date.

### Mayors Comments:

1. Mayor Starke thanked everyone for the work that was done for the Christmas Grand Illumination, as well as, the town's first Christmas parade. He stated that both events were very successful and lots of great comments were made regarding them. He also stated that Teresa Downey had asked him to express her thanks to the council for granting her permission to pursue the idea of having a "First Annual Christmas Parade." He continued by saying there were approximately fifty-nine (59) entries with the parade lasting about forty-five (45) minutes. Many positive comments were made concerning it, he said. Mayor Starke stated there's already talk from the participants of wanting to come again next year, along with others who'd like to be in the parade. Ideas have already been voiced on how we can make it even better with some additional things being added. The councilmen, too, made many positive comments of how well both events were prepared and carried through.
2. The Mayor made a comment regarding the Roanoke River Service Authority (RRSA) on how they'd realigned their committees, and how our previous commitment as a town had changed. This change would have our representative to be on their finance committee, as well, as attend the regular scheduled meetings.

### Public Comments:

Councilman Worley stated that he appreciated Johnny and all the crew for the things they do and he hoped everyone would have happy and safe holidays. Councilman Coleman asked, "What is the holiday schedule?" Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, stated we would have a half day off on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, and also have Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas day off.

Since there were no other public comments, the meeting was convened into a closed session.

Council Ronny Worley read the following motion for the closed session. "I move that the town council convene into a closed session to discuss the following, as permitted by the Virginia Code 2.2-3711 (A) (8) for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel employed

or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

The executive session being closed, the meeting was reconvened into open session with the certification motion read by Councilman Ronny Worley. He 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 (Absent)		Bill Thompson	Aye	T. G. Gill	Aye

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

Since there were no more questions, comments, or concerns, Vice Mayor T. G. Gill moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman W.H. Coleman seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned and recorded at 8:40 P.M.

---

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

---

Christopher D. Starke  
Mayor