

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia, held in the Council Chambers located at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia, on Monday, July 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

Mayor: L. Benjamin Green

Council Members: Wesley Gormus, Christopher Page, Carolyn Williams, Nathaniel Miller, Eric Nash, Jake Allman

Town Staff: Philip Vannoorbeeck, Town Manager; Jennifer Daniel, Town Clerk; Brittany Harris, Treasurer; Nicholas Kuzmiak, Police Chief; Sam Murphy, Detective; Devin Foster, Fire Captain

Town Attorney:

Those Absent: Lloyette Wynn

Mayor Green called the July Council Meeting to order.

Pastor Hogg delivered the Invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Nash asked for a Closed Session tonight for Town Council.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Blight Ordinance – 301 N. High Street

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF BLACKSTONE

The Blackstone Town Council shall hold a Public Hearing on July 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Blackstone Town Council Chambers, 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia. The Town Council will consider an ordinance declaring 301 N. High Street, Blackstone, Va. to be blighted and a public nuisance along with a recommended spot blight abatement plan. The content of this ordinance is more fully described by the Town of Blackstone's Spot Blight Abatement Policy and Virginia Code Section 36-49.1:1. Town Council shall receive the Town Manager's recommendation and public comment regarding this ordinance during the Public Hearing. The Town Council may approve this ordinance following this public hearing. Any individual desiring to address the Town Council should attend the public hearing at the above stated date and time.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this request is with heavy heart, he had hoped the property owners would have done the work. He said some of the damage is actually from the ice storm. He said the property owner has communicated with him, and has said she is trying. He said there was some collapse on the north side of the house, and a plan had been provided to the property owner. He said the Plan includes repairs to the front porch, and exterior repairs. He added there are two people living in the house, and we do not take moving someone from their home lightly.

Mayor Green opened the Public Hearing and asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against the Blight Ordinance.

Mayor Green closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Nash asked if there was any money in programs available. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed Community Development Specialist Bryant had talked with the family and there was an appreciable lien on the property. He said we have the Workforce Housing Grant, and are building houses for qualified families.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said Community Development Specialist Bryant talked to the people on S. Main Street, but their issue is they do not have ownership of the house.

Councilman Nash asked about Weatherization Funds. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he would have to look closer at the house to see if it could be applied. He did not know if \$50,000.00 would do what is needed.

Councilman Nash made a motion to adopt the Blight Ordinance as presented for 301 N. High Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Green asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Absent
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye

Councilman Nash made a motion to accept Manager Vannoorbeeck's Abatement Plan for 301 N. High Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gormus.

Councilman Nash said he hoped the Town could work with the property owners. Manager Vannoorbeeck said there will be ample time.

Mayor Green asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Absent
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye

2. Alleyway Abandonment – Tavern – Broad Street

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The public is hereby notified that there will be a public hearing held by the Town Council of the Town of Blackstone at 7:00 p.m., July 17, 2023 in the Town Council chambers located at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Va. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the vacation of the following alley:

All that portion of a certain 20 foot wide alley lying in Block B and described on a certain plat of the lands of the Blackstone Development Company recorded in the Nottoway Circuit Court Clerk's office at Deed Book 77, Page 593. That portion to be vacated lies north of Lot 4 and terminates at the southern right-of-way line of Tavern Street.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said a letter was presented to Council last month for an alleyway to be abandoned. He said the property owner had a plat showing the alley. He said since then, he went to the courthouse and found an Ordinance of Vacation for the alley. He said there is no need for action and Community Development Specialist Bryant had already talked to Ms. Ruby Love.

MINUTES:

Councilman Miller made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented minutes from the Special Called Meeting on May 23, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

Mayor Green asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Absent
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye

VISITORS:

Pastor Hogg – Restoration Ministries – Utility Bill

Pastor Hogg thanked Council for last month’s meeting, and their help with the large water bill. He said the bill they received this month reflected a large amount as well, but was in error, and has been adjusted. He said with the adjusted amount, it is still \$376.59, which is 14,800 gallons. He believed this was a rollover from the previous month. He said he checked with Town Hall today, and the reading is back to normal.

Pastor Hogg asked Council to consider putting it back to a reasonable rate. He said normally their bills run \$76.31 a month, which is the minimum. He said we are not there during the week, and seldom have special events. He said if you were to count the flushes on Sundays, it would be about 10.

Councilman Nash asked if a plumber repaired anything. Pastor Hogg said every week he is there, he listens and looks for water, and it is not running.

Clerk Daniel said she spoke to Ms. Ashley Seamster, the Utility Clerk today, and it appeared to them, when the billed was mailed out the large amount was included, then they read the meters the first of the month, so we believed it was a carryover as well.

Councilman Allman made a motion to decline this request.

Councilman Allman said he spoke to a few Council members and the Mayor, and we may disagree using taxpayer dollars for these types of things, but thought it was a worthy cause. He asked to give himself and a few others on Council time to make a donation and help get this taken care of. Pastor Hogg said that would be very generous, thank you.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Nash.

Councilman Allman said he was going to leave the envelope with the Clerk, if anybody else wanted to donate. Mayor Green pledged \$100.00. Councilman Nash said with that pledge the bill is taken care of.

Councilman Miller suggested we check the issue, and check each month to keep from having this problem.

Mayor Green asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Absent
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye

Pastor Hogg thanked Council for their help last month as well.

Nottoway Recreation Association – Helmet Drive Request

Mrs. Amanda Atkinson said she is the Softball Commissioner for the Nottoway Youth Recreation Association. She said we have a Ponytails team going to the World Series in Louisiana. She asked for permission to hold a Helmet Drive on Saturday to help raise money for the trip.

Councilman Nash asked where they set up last time. Mrs. Atkinson said on Main Street near Heritage Hall, and a police officer sat with the girls and coaches collecting money.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the Helmet Drive on Saturday, July 22, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on S. Main Street near Heritage Hall, with a police officer on site. The motion was seconded by Councilman Page.

Mayor Green asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Absent
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye

Councilman Miller asked if there was a request for \$1,000.00. Mrs. Atkinson replied, yes, she said the Town donated \$1,000.00 last year.

Councilman Miller made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 towards the Rec for the Ponytails World Series trip. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

Councilman Allman asked where this money would come from in the Budget. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he believed the Discretionary Funds were close, and thought there was \$1,000.00 left.

Councilman Allman said as we ask of others, he asked Mrs. Atkinson if she could provide receipts for the \$1,000.00. Mrs. Atkinson said she has a form, and it shows what the donations are going towards. She said last year they pooled all the money together and divided it among the families to help with gas, meals and lodging.

Councilman Nash asked what the typical cost was. Mrs. Atkinson replied, a motel room from start to finish is upwards of \$1,200.00, plus to get into the complex for families is \$8.00 per person, then meals.

Councilman Page asked how much was raised last year, and how much was spent as a group. Mrs. Atkinson said they raised about \$30,000.00 last year, and divided it among the twelve families, so it was roughly \$2,500.00 per family. She said it does cost more, but they were trying to take some of the burden off the families.

Councilwoman Williams said it was a wonderful thing they were doing.

Mayor Green asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Nash	-	Nay
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Absent
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye

Mr. Thomas Taft Taylor, Jr.

Mr. Taylor said he was here to talk about an incident that happened to him on July 3rd. He said he was not suing the Town. He said he got hurt taking care of private business, and when he went to a medical facility he was told since he was not a patient, they could not see him, and directed him to an urgent care or emergency room because they did not take walk-ins. He said he called the rescue squad the next day and was seen at the Farmville Hospital. He suggested the Town pay for the rescue squad bill.

Mr. Taylor said he has been here since 1956, retired and military, and got treated like this, they have no shame.

Mr. William Clarke – 420 Sullivan Street

Mr. Clarke asked about the Committees. Councilman Nash said Clerk Daniel would send him a copy.

Mr. Clarke said about the medical center, he was a patient, but never got seen for two years during the virus, he changed to another doctor.

Councilman Allman said during goal discussions, it was believed the Medical Center had not been doing everything they promised, so this is on our radar.

Councilman Miller said he spoke with Community Development Specialist Bryant, and they are going to try to get somebody here. He added what if someone was seriously injured and not treated, and died, what would happen.

Councilman Page said he received calls about patients on Medicaid that go to Bon Secours, they signed up for the renewal in November and December, and in late January they got a letter saying they no longer take that insurance, which was after the sign up period.

Mayor Green asked if the Town had any autonomy over the Medical Center. Manager Vannoorbeeck believed the Medical Center was paid off in 2019, and we are in the fourth year of the first of two five year renewable periods. He thought now was prime for the negotiations.

Mayor Green referred the Medical Center lease and business practices to the Buildings, Property and Cemetery Committee.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the last time he and Mayor Coleburn met with Bon Secours, they advised they were low on doctors, and that's why they were not taking new patients. Mayor Green said through hearsay, there is a doctor ready to retire, and plans to, once the new doctor is acclimated.

Councilwoman Williams said her Committee would look at the lease, but believed they should also meet with Bon Secours and advise on our citizens concerns.

Treasurer Harris said in the meantime, Shantel Latta has her facility, County Med. She said she takes new patients and insurance.

Mr. Taylor thanked his friend from Petersburg that took him to the Farmville Hospital.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Captain Foster said the RFP for the radio system closed on May 31st, and is currently undergoing technical review by CTA. He said there was no update on the Countywide Fire Code from the Emergency Services Coordinator. He said there was no update on hydrant painting or rental inspections.

Captain Foster said Tower 9 was expected to be completed in November 2023, and the most recent drawing was included in the packet.

Captain Foster said a Stop the Bleed Training Kit Grant was submitted, and the class was being held tonight. He said the Fire Department was awarded the 50/50 Virginia Department of Forestry Grant for foam and hose adapters. He said they were denied the OEMS Utility Task Vehicle Grant.

Captain Foster said Chief Tomer was attending the Virginia Chief Officer's Academy at the University of Richmond this week. He added Firefighter Timothy Immakis is attending the Virginia Fire Officer Academy, at the University of Richmond.

Captain Foster said the Recruitment and Retention Committee would be having a membership pot luck meal on July 29th.

Captain Foster said they went live July 1st with their new Record Management System.

Captain Foster said there was a low turnout for the recent Blood Drive, but 19 units of blood was collected and can save 57 lives. He added the next Blood Drive would be September 19th.

Captain Foster said the annual fire hose testing took place this month, with over 17,500' of hose being tested, and only 75' failed.

Captain Foster announced the anniversary years of service.

Captain Foster said the Cow Pie Bingo fundraiser would be Saturday, August 5, 2023 at Wigglesworth Sports Complex. He thanked Council for allowing them to use the facility for this event. He said they had been approved for the ABC License, and the agent said there was no particular limit on alcohol sales, unless implemented by the Organization. He said they decided to limit one drink per identified person, per transaction. He said there would also be a notice at the beverage area, stating individuals showing excessive intoxication or belligerent behavior, would be asked to leave. He added all entering the complex over 21 will be given a green wrist band, whether they are consuming or not, and those under 21 will receive a black X on their hand.

Captain Foster said contact had been made with Chief Kuzmiak for additional officers at the event. He said they would have the Nottoway Rescue Squad and their First Responder Unit there.

Captain Foster said entertainment was being donated by Bright Lights Entertainment. He said they would have food and craft vendors. He said as advertised previously, it will not be a cow, but instead a water buffalo, and is extremely domesticated, and being donated by Latham Toth.

Captain Foster said they will clean everything up afterwards, but did plan on painting the field.

Councilman Nash asked if the new Records Management takes place at image trend. Captain Foster replied yes sir. Councilman Nash believed the new software was being covered by the County. Captain Foster said that was his understanding as well.

Councilman Gormus asked if this fundraiser would be an ongoing event. Captain Foster said that is the goal. He added they were projecting 3,000 community members, and will be held rain or shine.

Mayor Green asked if children would be on the water buffalo. Captain Foster replied no sir, not at this event. He said the buffalo would be enclosed in an area and released around 4:30 p.m., and concluded by 6:00 p.m., whether a pie had been produced or not.

Captain Foster said they would have Harris Street as one way, they had enough manpower to direct traffic. He said the field they would be using is once entering the Complex, the field to the right.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Mayor Green stated the bills that have already been paid are in the amount of \$893,008.51.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve the bills that have already been paid in the amount of \$893,008.51. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Mayor Green asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Absent
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye

Mayor Green stated the bills not yet approved, and to be paid, are in the amount of \$134,654.06.

Councilman Nash made a motion to approve as presented, the bills not yet paid in the amount of \$134,654.06. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Williams.

Councilman Nash asked about the Richmond Times Dispatch advertising for the Armory. He said we received no bids for the Armory, even after advertising in the Richmond paper. Manager Vannoorbeeck said correct.

Mayor Green asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Absent
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye

APPROPRIATIONS:

There were no appropriations this month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no Committee Meetings to report on.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Business License Penalties

Mayor Green said there was a memorandum from Attorney Bacon included in the packet, but he preferred to discuss with her. He said he may have a few more Ordinances for Council's consideration on public speakers, and asked to continue this meeting to August 16th at 7:00 p.m. Several members of Council said they would not be here, so Mayor Green said he would call a Special Meeting at a later date.

2. Award Bid – Airport Lighting

Councilman Allman said they met with the low bidder on the airport lighting. He said the Town applied to the Department of Aviation for a lighting grant using the Town's engineer, Talbert & Bright.

Councilman Nash pointed out the difference in bids received, Pyramid Electric's bid was \$92,000.00, and Rifenburg Construction came in at \$237,395.50. Councilman Allman added this grant was 80/20.

Manager Vannoorbeeck clarified, the Town had applied and been approved for the grant for the engineering portion of this project. He believed in September the Department of Aviation would meet to consider the Town's Grant Application. He said we actually apply for the grant after receiving bids.

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve the low bid from Pyramid Electric in the amount of \$92,000.00 for taxiway and apron lighting at the Airport, contingent on Grant Approval. The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Councilman Gormus asked why the Town has an airport. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Department of Army and the Town in 1984 negotiated a deal and the Town transferred several hundred acres of land to the Department of Army, and in exchange the Department of Army agreed to build a runway, \$99,000.00 in cash, and a piece of property that has the new National Guard Armory sitting on it. He said we have a joint use facility, and the Department of Army clearly defined the Town's 31 acres, which we have sold several sections to Textron.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Town has a fuel concession at the Airport, for Jet Fuel and 100LL, and includes a military contract. He said we sell jet fuel to most of the aircraft that fly around Blackstone.

Councilman Gormus asked how the Airport adds value to the Town. Councilman Allman said most small communities have an airport. He added it mostly self-sufficient. Manager Vannoorbeeck said the fuel sales pay for the matches for the grants.

Councilman Allman said it is good for industry, and at the high point there were 130 jobs coming from there, and at the low point 60 jobs.

Councilman Gormus asked if Ft. Barfoot had an airstrip. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied no, he said the military post owns the runways, the Town owns taxiways, a fueling apron, the administration building and some hangars.

Mayor Green believed the airport was on the cusp of being developed, and one of the best investments the Town has.

Councilman Page asked Manager Vannoorbeeck if he met with Pyramid Electric after the bid was opened, because it is a huge difference in price. Manager Vannoorbeeck replied no, they have discussed directly with the engineers, and according to the engineer letter, they had met the requirements. He said this bid was below the engineer's estimate.

Mayor Green asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Absent
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye

3. VA 250 Committee Grant

Mayor Green said this item was added today.

Ms. Emma Wright asked Councilman Allman to inform Council.

Councilman Allman said the VA 250 Committee was pursuing a \$10,000.00 matching grant to promote tourism through historical signage in conjunction with the two other towns and the County. He said the Town's matching portion would be \$2,500.00.

Mayor Green asked where the \$2,500.00 would be coming from. Councilman Allman said this was a last minute addition, and since the other towns were pursuing this, he thought it was worth bringing to Council. He added it is not in the Budget, but didn't want to be the odd man out.

Councilman Miller asked about the signage. Councilman Allman replied it would be metal signs stating this happened here and the date. Councilman Miller asked how many signs this would include. Ms. Wright said there would be six signs throughout Nottoway County. She said she did not know how much each sign would cost or what they would say.

Ms. Wright said she was called last week about this, and DBi is supposed to send a support letter. She said DBi was already made the DMO (designated marketing officer), before her starting with DBi. Councilman Allman said being the DMO allows them to pursue more grant money. He added this grant requires a DMO.

Ms. Wright said anyone in Nottoway County that applies for a Virginia Tourism Grant has to go through DBi, as the DMO.

Councilwoman Williams asked if this signage would replace what was already in place, such as at the Post Office. Councilman Nash said it would be replacing those signs.

Councilman Page asked if this was for the Revolutionary War. Councilman Allman said he was not sure if all the signs were for the Revolutionary War, but were specific to Nottoway's history.

Councilman Page made a motion to support the VA 250 Grant and contribute the Town's portion of \$2,500.00.

Ms. Wright said DBi would write the support letter.

Councilman Miller asked where these funds would come from. Councilman Nash believed this could come from Lodging Tax because it was tourist related.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Allman.

Councilwoman Williams asked to be provided more information, since it was just presented tonight to Council.

Mayor Green asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Absent
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye

ON-GOING PROJECTS:

1. Dilapidated Buildings

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the 806 Falls Street structure has now been demolished. He said there is nothing scheduled to be rebuilt. He said the Town had to receive a judge's Order to remove the structure. He believed it was during the ice storm that a tree fell through the house.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said the Jesters properties had been cleaned up, at three locations.

2. Meals Tax / Lodging Tax

Councilman Nash said he would like an update on the current legal action for Meals Tax in Closed Session tonight.

3. Street Improvement Projects

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there was only 100' of pavement left to do on Epes Street.

Councilman Miller said Hurt and Dillard Streets are the only ones without curb and gutter. He asked to put Hurt Street in the Budget for next year. Manager Vannoorbeeck said we can talk about it.

Councilman Page said he received a message recently about Harris Street flooding, where the curb and gutter stops at Irvin Street. Councilman Miller said where the rocks were installed, it is not draining.

4. Wrigglesworth Sports Complex

There was nothing to report.

5. East End Neighborhood Project

Manager Vannoorbeeck said there was a little bit of paving left, and to finish the one house on Harris Street.

Councilman Nash said he had seen some pavement markings in other areas. Manager Vannoorbeeck said there are ten areas that will get patching, to include Tenth Street, College Avenue, Amelia Avenue and on Main Street.

6. Taylor Bottom Block Grant

Manager Vannoorbeeck said a Planning Grant was previously submitted, and will be resubmitted by July 15, 2023. He said now DHCD wants to redo some interviews of property owners because they are over six months old. He added Community Development Specialist Bryant would be doing this. He said we also have to redo the community profile, which includes how many houses are in need of work, and incomes.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we applied previously but they ran out of funds, so we are going to reapply.

Councilman Nash made a motion to authorize reapplying for a DHCD Planning Grant in the amount of \$60,000.00, with no match. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Green asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Absent
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye

7. Armory

Manager Vannoorbeeck said this project was put out for bid, and we received no bids. He said we have a \$3.8 Million Budget, not including soft costs. He said he had spoken with two contractors, and their number was going to be appreciably more than \$5 Million. He said we may need to reduce the scope of work.

Manager Vannoorbeeck said we have asked the Tobacco Commission to provide additional monies for technology in the Armory.

Councilman Nash suggested looking at the project by each line item, and see where costs can be cut. Manager Vannoorbeeck said he was already looking at options, such as the elevator being outside the building, and maybe double pane windows.

Mayor Green referred cost reductions for the Armory project to the Buildings, Property and Cemetery Committee.

8. Weatherization

There was nothing to report.

Mayor Green said he was referring the Town's drainage issues to the Street and Light Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Police Chief's Resignation

Mayor Green said Chief Kuzmiak had tendered his letter of resignation, and Council received by email.

Councilman Nash made a motion with regret, to accept Police Chief Kuzmiak's resignation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Green asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

Councilman Nash	-	Aye
Councilman Allman	-	Aye
Councilman Gormus	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Absent
Councilman Page	-	Aye
Councilwoman Williams	-	Aye
Councilman Miller	-	Aye

Mayor Green asked Council for authorization to work with Clerk Daniel on a Resolution and a plaque for Chief Kuzmiak's exemplary service to the Town. Council agreed. Chief Kuzmiak said he had 20 ½ years in Blackstone and 20 in New York.

Mayor Green thanked Chief Kuzmiak for surrounding himself with the best possible officers, with the resources he had, and for modernizing the Police Department. He said on behalf of the Town, he thanked Chief Kuzmiak for his service. Chief Kuzmiak said it had been an honor and a privilege, and was bitter sweet for him.

Mayor Green referred Chief Kuzmiak's replacement process to the Employment and Police Committee.

COMMITTEE REFERRALS:

There were no additional referrals.

MAYORS MINUTE:

1. School Properties

Mayor Green said he recently spoke with Mr. Ted Costin, the County Administrator, about the school properties. He said his office and staff would be recommending two motions this Thursday, one would be to receive the property in question from the School Board, and the second motion would be to hold a Public Hearing to surplus the property.

2. Noise Pollution

Mayor Green said he, Manager Vannoorbeeck, Detective Murphy and Chief Kuzmiak met with Mr. Koptchak this morning about noise pollution in the southern part of Town. He said Detective Murphy and Chief Kuzmiak made a commitment to Mr. Koptchak that it would be handled.

3. Special Called Meeting

Mayor Green asked to have a Special Meeting to discuss Attorney Bacon's contract.

4. DBi – Car Show

Mayor Green said DBi will be conducting a Car Show at Schwartz Tavern during the Arts and Crafts weekend.

Mayor Green asked if the museums had been turned over to DBi through the Memorandum of Understanding. Councilman Allman agreed. Councilman Nash added the scheduling of the properties. Councilman Nash did not think any approval was needed, except for street closures.

Mayor Green said by Common Consent the Car Show would be held at Schwartz Tavern.

Mayor Green said Ms. Wright had recruited lots of well qualified people. He said Ms. Wright was riding the ship at a wonderful pace.

5. County Dog Tags

Mayor Green said he would be contacting the County Treasurer this week to make an appointment to discuss the dog tags.

POLICE REPORT:

Councilman Allman asked about the count for number of calls. Councilman Nash added if someone calls about the Noise Ordinance and there are ten calls, and five people call about the same incident. Chief Kuzmiak said it would be considered separate incidences; several callers would be considered one.

Councilwoman Williams said there were 139 traffic stops and asked if it was one particular area. Chief Kuzmiak said it was throughout Town. Councilman Nash added only 35 of those had charges.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Councilman Nash said under informational there is an invoice for the CPA, and it included lodging at the Hilton in Richmond for \$175.00. He asked if there were no local lodging that could be provided. Clerk Daniel said Bookkeeper Brown asked to include this invoice, and the lodging was because Ms. Shawver was on her way to somewhere else.

Councilman Page questioned why the Town was paying for the room.

Councilman Nash believed Manager Vannoorbeeck could handle this, but thought if lodging was involved, he would rather it be local.

Councilman Page believed Ms. Shawver’s mileage needed to be reviewed. Mayor Green said Manager Vannoorbeeck would look into this and report back.

CLOSED SESSION:

Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711

- 1/ Personnel – Town Council
- 7/ Legal Matters – Probable Litigation

Councilman Nash made a motion to go into Closed Session for Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body and Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gormus.

Mayor Green asked all in favor or opposed:

VOTE:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------|
| Councilman Nash | - | Aye |
| Councilman Allman | - | Aye |
| Councilman Gormus | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Wynn | - | Absent |
| Councilman Page | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Williams | - | Aye |
| Councilman Miller | - | Aye |


Councilman Nash made a motion to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened, were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Mayor Green asked for a Roll Call Vote:

VOTE:

- Councilman Nash - Certify
- Councilman Allman - Certify
- Councilman Gormus - Certify
- Councilwoman Wynn - Absent
- Councilman Page - Certify
- Councilwoman Williams - Certify
- Councilman Miller - Certify

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Green adjourned this meeting 9:43 p.m.



 MAYOR
 OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

August 21, 2023
 _____ APPROVED AND ADOPTED


 _____ TOWN CLERK
 OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA