

MINUTES-TOWN OF POUND, VA
JULY 15, 2025 @ 6:30 P.M.
8422 North River Road, Pound, Virginia 24279

REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

Mayor Cauthorne opened the regular session meeting with the pledge of allegiance and Pastor Randy Carter opened in prayer.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL:

Cauthorne - Here
Hall - Here
Kennedy - Here
Mullins - Here
Powers - Here

Consent Calendar - Mayor Cauthorne asks if there's any discussion on these items.
Councilwoman Kennedy would like to add the Town Hall building and make it 8a on the agenda.
Councilman Cauthorne says to make it 8b.
Councilwoman Kennedy makes a motion to approve the consent calendar with the additions.
Mayor Cauthorne asks if there is a second?
Councilman Cauthorne seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - Yes
Hall - Yes
Kennedy -Yes
Mullins - Yes
Powers - Yes

Mayor Cauthorne states consent calendar is approved.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Greg Whittaker: Curtis Hill Rd. He states he caught that property about 56 years ago and was in the corp limits then but he states when he asked for help with water he was not granted it because they said he was outside of corp limits. He states he checked with the man he bought it from and he told him the property was outside corp limits. The guy stated the inside town corp limits was where Linda Hubbard lives. Greg states that should put everybody outside corp limits on Curtis Hill Rd. He states he was shown a map that he believes was a bogus map. He states around the turn of the century a man was hired for the town and because the town didn't have

any money, Greg states he went around trying to find people that could be in the town. Greg states that instead of finding people, he created people, changing the way the mountain was surveyed. He states there was another map created to go another way on or across the mountain to gain more people on the map that would be in town limits. Greg states why don't you just expand to Dickenson County line and to the Kentucky state line that way you'll have enough people in town limits and you can keep giving yourselves raises. He states you are beating a dead horse and this town has been broke since the Jackson's. They made their money and left but wouldn't let any business come in town. He states we don't need a town, we need a community. He states, he thinks all the property that the town has, let them sell it to people who want to have a business here with no tax and work something out with the county so that they only pay 50% tax the first year and rebuild the town from the ground up and in about 6 or 8 years from now, come back to Pound, bigger and better. And he states there's so much waste, states he came to town hall the other day and the cop car was running.

The Mayor states to Greg that his time is up and tells him that they'll be more time at the end. Councilman Cauthorne speaks up and states we will be dealing with the issue of the police car running under #15 on the agenda and that there is another public comment near the end of the meeting.

Linda Hubbard: She states she does live in the corp town limits. She states she wasn't at the last meeting but she understands that the council shot down the idea of accepting the grant for the campsite upon the old railroad trail, is that correct?

It was not voted, it was not passed?

Councilman Cauthorne states that until the disputes with the landowners can be worked out, we decided not to develop the campsite at the present time. Linda states that's one way of putting it. She asks them if they sent the grant money back. Councilwoman Leabern states no it hasn't been sent back yet. Linda states ok, so there's hope. She states Debbi Hale has worked extremely hard with no thanks from most of the town and she has no hidden agenda, she just wants to see good things happen to Pound. She states the council should be so grateful to her and trying to get her input on how you can help her, not kick her away. She states that in her opinion to turn that grant money, that can benefit people who want to recreate on Pine Mtn. Pine Mtn is a treasure she states that's full of history.

Mayor Cauthorne states her time has expired.

REPORTS

POLICE REPORT

Chief Wilcox states that the visits to the stop shops, there's only one that he hasn't had the opportunity to visit, which is the one in the middle of town. Everything is in compliance. He has communicated with that owner by email and he states that he does have two machines that are not in compliance but they are unplugged and he hasn't been able to go by there and verify that

yet but he will as soon as he gets an opportunity. Councilwoman Kennedy asks Chief Wilcox if he's talking about the Skill Games and he states, Yes.

Chief Wilcox tells the gentleman, Greg Whitaker, that he appreciates the comment on the police car and that he doesn't know how long it was running but he will look into it. He states he doesn't have a problem with it running a few minutes while they come in or out but if it's beyond that, that may be a problem. Greg Whitaker states, it was over an hour. Chief Wilcox states that will be addressed.

Chief Wilcox states next that this was not anything he had planned on because of our budget. He states that our fleet is aging per car. It's been a bad month for our police cars, we spent before the new budget cycle came in, we spent about \$1600.00 on the explorer which is the highest mileage vehicle we have. It's a 2017 and it has 73,000 miles on it, but it is the best vehicle we have. We've got the Ford truck that in my opinion should have never been bought. It's got 42,000 or 43,000 miles on it and we had to have some wheel bearings replaced and we started to go get the speedometer calibrated and the rear end locked up on him on US23. We are purchasing a new rear end and it's going to be installed in that vehicle. Chief Wilcox states that something happened to it and he really can't say what at the moment but he states he would be happy to speak on the side about it. He states the shop has agreed to help with the repair. Councilman Cauthorne asks Chief Wilcox if it has anything to do with anyone inside the dept or outside the dept as to why the rear end locked up. Chief states we had some repairs on it and they may have been some faulty repair work. The truck has the twin turbo engine and the explorer has the same, he states he has talked to multiple mechanics who advise against purchasing those for police use and that they say that typically there's going to be problems around 100,000 miles is when you'll have problems with the turbos. We will approach that with the explorer within the next year. He states the dodge charger is the newest one we have, it's a 2020 model and the check engine light came on it today and we had to take it to the dodge dealership today, they ran a diagnostic on it and it indicated that it could just be a simple transmission service that it needs but based upon their experience when that starts happening to the units, the next thing that happens is the transmission goes out. He states he asked for an estimate before he came into the meeting but he hadn't gotten one back yet. Chief Wilcox states based on the research he has done, dodge no longer makes those vehicles any longer. He states if it winds up being a transmission issue, the transmission cost is roughly between 7,000-8,000 dollars and that's no warranty. He states we are getting ready to receive approximately 45,000 per car, in equipment. He states they have to have that money spent by the end of September. Councilman Cauthorne asks if that's grant money, Chief says yes, it's grant money. Chief states that will include digiticket, in car camera system and then the sheriff's office got a grant for state radios and that's a 30,000 dollar piece of equipment. He states if we install all that stuff into a failing unit, we will have to buy mounting equipment and will have to buy 3, one for each vehicle we have. So, having said all that, Chief Wilcox proposes to the council and asks for the council's blessing that since we have a balance in the amount of 73,946.35, that's more than enough to purchase one unit and have it fully equipped. Chief Wilcox would also like to propose on the other two, if the council would consider selling the truck now instead of waiting and also sell the dodge car. He states he would hate to outfit these vehicles we have and then be put in the position where we have to go try to jerk everything out and try to make them functional. Chief Wilcox states that his proposal is to ask for the blessing

to get one new Ford Explorer based on the money we have in the account and then work to trade or do something with the other two units. He states he understands the hesitancy to do that because you have to weigh your options. Councilman Cauthorne asks the price, Chief Wilcox states they weren't able to get into the EVA system. Chief Wilcox states that he thinks, but don't quote him, that before the bars and all the things that they would do in Richmond, would be around 44,000. The county will be letting us know any day where to go to get the install for the radios. He states the last time he outfitted one of these units it was about 8,000. So, he says, 51,000-52,000, possibly but that's been a while. Councilwoman Kennedy asks, so right now the wish list is one vehicle. Councilwoman Kennedy asks the Chief, beyond being practical, what's the wish list. The Chief states 3, if we could get 3 brand new Explorers and have everything installed in them at one time, that would eliminate any future issues and you'd have a consistent fleet and if you did do that, he would consider keeping one spare unit, which would be the Explorer. Councilwoman Kennedy asks Chief if Cindy has looked to see if there's any grant with getting new vehicles? Chief asks Cindy and she states she has looked and something may open up in a few months but she is still looking. Councilwoman Kennedy asks Cindy to reach out to her because they may be another source. Chief Wilcox states that Ford does something for smaller agencies, like a line of credit. He states they can make the truck work, it's just not practical and it would be very sad to put all this equipment in it and wind up having to take it out due to a failing vehicle. And he says at least with new units, they would be covered under warranty. Councilman Cauthorne states, maybe low interest loan. Chief states he thinks that was USDA. Councilwoman Kennedy states, yes. Councilwoman Kennedy states that they may be other options where some funding may be found and the USDA is something we can look into as well. Councilman Cauthorne asks where the money usually comes from, Chief Wilcox states, it comes from the state and it's allocated to each locality. Cindy Mullins speaks up and states that we were given priority over other depts because at the time we were of the mindset that we could outfit those cars quickly. We were given priority money and received a considerable amount more than a lot of depts because there was a stipulation that the money would be spent by the end of July and that's something we need to consider. Chief Wilcox goes over the vehicles that could be used for police. Chief Wilcox also states that we need to consider what dealerships are close by for service. Councilwoman explains what EVA is. This is where you can find things cheaper, she states. Councilman Cauthorne states to the Chief that for him to gather the best deal, grants and loans by next meeting and bring us a package of that so we can see if we can operate with that. Chief Wilcox states we will get you what you need. The town attorney, Mr. Kevin Dotson asks that this is not something that he's asking the council to amend the budget for and this is money that's already budgeted for the year. Chief Wilcox states all he can tell him is that, it's what's in the account right now. The Chief states that we did not budget 52,000 for a new car. Mr. Dotson states, you obviously have money in the budget you'd be using, it's just that it's a matter if that depletes, then obviously, you'll need more. Chief states, that's exactly right. Councilman Cauthorne asks if that comes from writing tickets or free money. Councilwoman Kennedy states, it's free money. Chief Wilcox states he will bring more info into next month's meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Noone is available to speak on this.

TOWN MANAGER

Brittany Carter states we provided a letter of intent for LENOWISECO for the application for the hazard mitigation plan. The idea is that all the cities and towns within the county or within the LENOWISECO footprint will use that plan upon completion. She states she also received the local programs workshops grant. She will be attending that in September. The county didn't have a regular July meeting so they moved our presentation to August. She states our computers did arrive and were installed and that has made life so much easier as far as getting anything done. Our servers did arrive as well. She says she sent out an email about the server racks to everyone. She reviewed the budget and we did have it in the admin budget to spend so that we could have that and she did spend that on the server racks. That is a battery backup and will allow the system a few minutes to be able to shut down so that we don't lose what we are doing and we can close out our program so that information isn't lost. These racks will house both servers for the admin office and the police dept.

Councilman Cauthorne asks her if she's still looking for grants for the sidewalks. She states, yes and that she is also looking for other grants. Councilman Cauthorne states that it looks like the joint public meeting with the Board of Supervisors might be in September. Mrs. Carter states that's the MOU. Councilwoman Kennedy states that we still have a MOU in place for another year and a half but they want to extend that MOU. She states Mike Hatfield said he had a property that he had been working on for 5 years for a deal and still didn't have it worked out, so if they're willing to give us 10 years to get it under contract that would make her happy and that's better than they've offered before and the offer is that if we get it under contract, they give us the property. Now their intention is to give the property to whoever they were to put it under contract with and she states she wouldn't have a problem doing the same thing and that's what they discussed. If it brings jobs and something that develops economically here, then it's a win win. She states she doesn't want to give it away and they sell it.

Councilman Cauthorne states he was talking about the boundary adjustment. He states the board didn't meet this month so we will have to request a joint hearing in August. Mr. Kevin Dotson states we were going to address that in the agenda and he states we do not need to proceed with a joint hearing but it's something you can do to save money for both localities. He states he doesn't think the county has any interest in that, so we can go ahead with our hearing as long as we have 2 weeks of advertisement.

EDA

Councilwoman Mullins states we have the water heater installed, have gotten some cleaning supplies so we can start cleaning. We do have someone interested in it and a couple more so that hopefully we can get someone in all 3 rooms. We have 681.00 and money is going out faster than we are getting it in. She states she wrote a check out the other day for cleaning supplies and it was 159.85. There are very few of us to help and do the job, so it takes time. We need to get a couple more bedroom suits. Help and donations are welcome.

Councilman Cauthorne asks where will people park when they stay there. Councilwoman Mullins states on the sidewalk. Councilwoman Kennedy states there's not much room there.

Councilman Cauthorne states that it was looked at before by coming in from the same road that Councilman Lyndon Powers uses to go to his house. Councilwoman Kennedy states that Gail Savage owns the property adjacent to it. She states they had talked to her at one point about the possibility of cutting some of those trees and making a driveway down there. She states the lady wasn't even aware she owned the property. Councilman Cauthorne asks Councilman Powers if he knew her and if it would be a possibility that could happen. Councilman Powers states he knew her and that would be more of a straight shot but a really long grade and lots of gravel. Councilman Powers states we have a construction company sitting here, that would be Councilman Hall. Councilwoman Mullins says he could volunteer the work.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Randy Carter states they didn't get to meet.

OLD BUSINESS

AUDIT UPDATES

Mrs. Carter states that she has been talking to David Cox and he has been tied up with other accounts that he already has going on. He assured her that after his vacation next week that when he gets back he'll be on the town's preaudit. She states she also sent him some paperwork from some auditors for him to look at to see if they are on the up and up and if they are a fair contract. Councilman Cauthorne asks if the people from Texas are still looking positive. Mrs. Carter states that David Cox says that everything he's looked at seems positive but he wants to dive further into it. Councilman Cauthorne states that we haven't made any progress but we are moving towards progress. Councilwoman Kennedy states we are in a hurry up and wait on everybody else's position alot.

Mr. Kevin Dotson asks Brittany Carter if there's any kind of contract with David Cox regarding the audit. She states that he has not sent her a contract. Mr. Dotson asks Brittany to send him the contract if David Cox sends her one. Councilman Cauthorne asks what are the consequences for not having the audits done? Mrs. Carter states the AMLER grant depends on it, so we have to have that done in order to complete the product of that grant.

8. GRANT UPDATE

Councilwoman Kennedy states regarding the BRIC and EJCPs she was in DC last week speaking with our legislators as well as multiple committees regarding those grants. At Voices does have a lawsuit about the EJCPs grant. We talked to them about that, about the BRIC grant which is technical assistance. We also talked about the fact that we can't get VDEM completed because FEMA is holding up the plans. She states the aid in Griffiths office said he felt confident they could set up a meeting with FEMA for us because our attempts to do so have been met with, "they don't meet with the public". We are waiting for something to come from that. She states our monuments grant is moving forward, what they can do offsite they are doing. We

have the DEQ grants, one is for 125,000 which is a reimbursement, the other is 50,000 which we've already gotten. We have paid out 100,000 for what Emily Green has done so far on the demolition and we're going to have them come back and give us an estimate on what it will take to complete that along with taking the alleyway out for the Ratliff building. We are also going to have to get a survey of the Ratliff building so that when it is deeded, it is deeded correctly to remove that alleyway portion. Councilman Cauthorne asked if the 100,000 will be reimbursed and Councilwoman Kennedy states not the 100,000. Councilwoman Kennedy states 50,000 will be reimbursed and we have another 75,000 that we can spend that DEQ will reimburse. She states what we have as a total from DEQ is 175,000. So that leaves us with 75,000 which would be reimbursed. She states 125,000 total is what we can be reimbursed.

Councilwoman Kennedy passes out the copy of the asbestos study for the alleyway section. And she states, we did not pay for the asbestos study, DEQ did that. She states that there is asbestos in that portion of the building. She states that it is possible that if we go over the 75,000 that we have left allotted, it is possible that there may be more money from DEQ. So we may go back and say, can you give us more money if we need it but we are waiting on that estimate from Eluke Greene for the remaining portion of the demolition before we go back to DEQ. If we don't need more money, there's no point in asking for it. We plan on applying for more grants. We still have the 40,000 from the county for the pickleball courts. She states that Lyndon has graciously helped us get the high school property ready, mowed and try to get the tennis courts in a better position to try and get the pickleball courts in and we are hoping that the TMobile grant might be something we can use for the discock to install an 18 hole course. Lyndon knew someone that has come over and looked and would love to volunteer his time here but volunteers his time in Jenkins. He states he can do it but would need a little money out of it. The equipment was alot more than expected. We have not registered yet with Harvest Host, we are looking at the possibility of water and sewer because some of these RVs will go other locations because they have the options to offload their sewage and fill their water. We are looking at what that will cost to set up so that makes it more appealing for people to be there. She states we sent the letters of intent to AMLER to DOE for some other options, the airport project is one of those, that one will probably be mega dollars, to try to get in a good roadway to make that into viable housing option. This is on and above Bold Camp Rd.

8A. TOWN HALL BUILDING

Councilwoman Kennedy states we have been aware there has been a problem with Town Hall building stability for a while now due to lack of repairs. We have had contractors come in and look at it, one requested that we get a structural engineer. When he was here and looking at the bank building, he did come to look at town hall building. He indicated we needed a more in depth look at the building because it's more than just the floor joist needing sistered. He said he didn't think the girders needed to be replaced but the water is draining from town hall directly under the building and we need a full assessment to determine what needs to be done. Some of it is gutter water. He also said we may need french draining system to help with that problem. There is also the fact that you can't get under town hall to get in those things to sister the joist without going through one of these vent locations. We had talked with the contractor about the possibility about putting in a full size opening. She states this is his estimate with regard to doing

the evaluation. Councilwoman Kennedy states she would make the motion to approve and proceed with this, finding a structural engineer has been like pulling teeth and this guy is out of West Va and he's been here. Mayor Cauthorne asks if we have all the equipment such as ladders and lifts that's provided by town as required. Councilwoman Kennedy states we have a ladder, we may have to rent a lift and we can do that through Southwest. Councilwoman Mullins seconds. Mayor Cauthorne asks if there's any more discussion. Councilman Cauthorne asks if this would just be just to find out what the problem is? Councilwoman Kennedy states he will list everything that needs to be done to correct the building issues. Then he said we can pick and choose how we want to prioritize those. The contractor did tell us to move things away from the walls, he said when they went down there and touched one of the joists, it started crumbling. She states we know that is a priority and those joist are going to have to be sistered. They even talked about putting in knee walls to help support down there. Councilman Cauthorne states in his mindset, he's not certain the people of Pound want to keep pouring money into this building, if they may not want a corporation in Pound, in the future, so he states he's not in favor of these major repairs to this building to keep it up, if there's a possibility of one day giving it away to the county. Mr. Kevin Dotson states he would like an opportunity to consult with council in executive session under the legal council exemption from public meetings, just so we can talk about the legal situation. Mr. Dotson also asks council if they went through multiple engineers to try to find one? Councilwoman Kennedy states we tried to find someone in the area or close to the area. Mr. Dotson asks her if we received any other quotes and she states no. Councilman Powers asks if the town owns the entire building. Councilwoman Kennedy states we own this half. Councilman Powers asks who owns the other half. Councilwoman Kennedy states it was owned by David Kilgore, him and his siblings. Kennedy states she thinks his son, Vince, deals with things on the other end of this building. Councilwoman Kennedy states what we do on this side doesn't have anything to do with the other side, but if we let this side fall, it could affect their side. Councilman Cauthorne says vice versa, he states he doesn't know about investing until we get something worked out with the other owner. Councilwoman Kennedy states we don't have to work anything out with the other owner. Councilman Cauthorne states if their side falls off, Councilwoman Kennedy states if it does damage to our side of the building, I hope their insurance covers it. Intern if we do damage to their building by negligence on our part. She then asks Mr. Dotson if he has input there, he states, he would do that client consults in confidentiality. Kennedy asks if we need to suspend the rules to have that closed session. Mr. Dotson says he thinks it would be suitable for the next meeting, if council wants to. Councilman Powers states that the french drain was mentioned, he states he would imagine that would be the perimeter of the building with a french drain, he asks Councilman Hall. Councilman Hall states yes, to get the water away from the building. Councilman Cauthorne asked if we've tried to contact the other owner of the end of the building to see if we can work together on these repairs instead of going solo? Mrs. Carter states she has not but she can reach out. Councilwoman Mullins asks Councilman Cauthorne if he means he just wants to wait until the building falls down, is that what you're saying, is to wait until we find out if we are going to have a town or not? Councilwoman Kennedy states regardless something has to happen with the building. Councilman Cauthorne states before we make major repairs and they cost up to 50,000-100,000-150,000-200,000, yeah that's what I'm saying. The mayor asks if there's a

motion. Councilwoman Kennedy states she made a motion to approve and proceed and Councilwoman Mullins had seconded it.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - No

Hall - No

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - No

The motion does not pass.

8B. PICKING IN THE POUND VIDEO/SOUND EQUIPMENT (ALL)

Councilman Cauthorne states there was an email on this matter. Mrs. Carter states that the Pickin group just asked that as far as adjusting volumes or messing with the sound equipment that town officials, ie council members, mayor or workers deal with the equipment. Councilman Cauthorne states that if it's set up like it is tonight, there's no problem. He says he doesn't know who did it but it was fine. Mrs. Carter states she did it. Councilwoman Kennedy states the general public should not be coming in here and saying let me move your equipment for you. She states she agrees with their stance on their equipment. Councilman Cauthorne we aren't responsible if something happens to their equipment. He asks Kevin if he's correct. Mr. Dotson states it depends on the degree of culpability. Councilman Cauthorne states that he has no problem with people who are more adult, handle it. Councilwoman Kennedy makes a motion as a council, say that we will be the ones to move it, to avoid any liability in the situation. Councilman Cauthorne makes a substitute motion to say to make it specific and say the town manager will make sure it's set up to avoid any liability. Councilwoman Kennedy says, no, we as in council, employees of the town, not the outside general public. She states to Councilman Cauthorne, if you can amend your substitute motion in that manner, then yes. Councilman Cauthorne states we need to have one person who is the point person. He states the town manager or her appointee will set it up which means nobody else will touch it. Councilwoman Kennedy states she's good with that. The mayor asks if we have a second to the amendment motion. Councilwoman Mullins asks what it ended up being. Mayor Cauthorne states it's the manager or her appointee will make sure it's properly taken care of and no outside sources. Councilman Powers seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

The motion passes.

POCKET PARK & SLIDE

Councilwoman Kennedy states we covered that in the grant update. Councilman Cauthorne asks what the timeline is now for getting the slide permanently fixed. Councilwoman Kennedy states she can't tell him that and it replies on FEMA and FEMA approving the design. She states that was part of the discussion in DC. Councilman Cauthorne states, so there's no end in sight. Councilwoman Kennedy states we have no definitive date until FEMA approves the design. She states, we have passed the TSB (technical service branch) and it is now in EHP review stage. She doesn't know what EHP specifically is, they didn't specify that, she states. Councilman Cauthorne states there has been talk of dedicating the park in the Spring of 2026. Councilwoman Kennedy states, it will take a short period of time once we get the ok from FEMA. It's not even the money. Councilman Cauthorne asks if it was a wise decision to go ahead and take the building down, Kennedy states, absolutely. The building had to come down before anything else could happen. Councilman Hall states, would have been cheaper to just let it fall down. Councilwoman Kennedy states, no it wouldn't have, we still have the asbestos issues that still had to be dealt with and it's not our money anyway, DEQ's funding that.

NOISE ORDINANCE

Councilman Cauthorne asks if we found out what it was. Mrs. Carter states that we located it and it was adopted in 1999 and it's not specific on a decibel level and it's also not signed. Mr. Dotson says, in other words, you have no idea what that means in terms of sound level. He also states that's the same problem the supreme court is having. Councilwoman Kennedy found in the minutes where it was approved but there's no signed copy. Mr. Dotson states based on his research and understanding of the recent case law coming out about noise ordinance is that they get struck for vagueness which is a constitutional thing where basically if you don't have, from reading the ordinance know, what's prohibited and what's not prohibited, then you can't have that be a constitutional law. He states if we have a noise ordinance, it needs to be like other municipalities with a certain decibel level and when it comes to enforcement, like the Chief was saying you need like decibel meters to satisfy the violation of it. He states alot of times in having the ordinance and having the police come and say, hey we have this ordinance, turn it down or we will prosecute you. That would help debate issues.

NEWLY ACQUIRED BUILDING

Councilman Cauthorne asks if we've sold it yet, Councilwoman Kennedy states that it can't be sold until we get the asbestos report and we've got to have a survey done. Mr. Dotson asks if we have the surveyor lined up yet, and Kennedy states, not yet. SHe states it's been hard to get in touch with someone to survey it. Mr. Dotson says, alot of them around here are nearing retirement age. Councilman Cauthorne says Larry Woods from Wise did some survey work for him and to give him a call. Councilwoman Kennedy states she will.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Councilman Cauthorne asks if we need to have a public hearing. Mr. Dotson states if the council approves it all we'll need to do is put an ad in the paper but it will need to be two consecutive weeks before the meeting and the only concern he would have is that we would be adopting a specific agreement with specific plat map, that if the county rejects it, we'll have to go back and do it again. Mr. Dotson states, we don't have a firm approval from the county but he's sure that the ones that have been working on it, have some idea that it's going to be approved in the current form. Councilwoman Kennedy, states that's her understanding. She states that's what they had before. Councilwoman Kennedy asks if Mr. Dotson had talked to Karen any. Mr. Dotson states they were looking at it the last he heard. He states that we would need an ad up by, calendar wise, August 1, 2025 and the week after. Councilman Cauthorne makes a motion to advertise the public hearing boundary adjustment before the August meeting and the clarification would be the rest of the high school property and the rest of the elementary school property. Councilwoman Kennedy seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

Mr. Dotson states that before we move forward he wants to make double sure because there's requirements in the code for this, No property owner is going to be affected? Councilwoman Kennedy states there's no residential property that will be affected, the county owns the property that's affected. She states, no there would be no taxes.

STREET LIGHTS

Councilwoman Kennedy is wanting to see if Mr. Hall has street light numbers for her. Councilman Hall states no he's been busy. Councilwoman Kennedy states, so someone is doing without a street light? Hall states he will get them. Councilwoman Kennedy tables it until next month. Councilman Cauthorne seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

NEW BUSINESS

NEW EQUIPMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL/MOU

Councilwoman Kennedy states we are going to need something that will mow. She states that her and Councilman Powers have been discussing a multiuse piece of equipment that has attachments to do multiple jobs, such as front loader, scoop bucket, mow, etc. Councilwoman Kennedy asks Councilman Powers if he will help get some pricing and estimates. He states he has done a little bit already as far as looking and trying to pick a brand. He states he will come up with something by the next meeting. Councilwoman Kennedy makes a motion to table that. Councilwoman Mullins seconds.

Mayor Cauthorne states the motion passes.

TAX STATUS CHANGE FOR PROPERTIES

Councilman Cauthorne states that Mr. Whitaker came to him and said he was approached with the idea that he needed to start paying taxes and he was wondering if that was true or if it was a misunderstanding on his part. In the past he's been told he's part of the town and then told he wasn't part of the town and now they are saying he is. Councilman Cauthorne states he guesses the manager needs to comment on this.

Mr. Carter states, we did look at maps and talk with Debbie Mullins on this and by the maps that we have and by GIS, it does show that the property is in town. Mr. Whitaker speaks up and states, he can tell us about those maps. Councilwoman Kennedy states that he also voted in this last election. Mr. Whitaker speaks out and says he did not vote. He states he voted for over in Wise but not the Town of Pound things. He states again that the map we are using is bogus. Councilwoman Kennedy states that's something he will have to resolve between LENOWISECO and the registrar's office. Councilwoman Kennedy states that Doug Mullins said we could bill Mr. Whitaker for the current years and 3 years prior. Mr. Whitaker states we are using an illegal map. Councilman Cauthorne asks if we can see the map.

Mayor Cauthorne states we are going to take a 5 minute recess.

Mr. Whitaker states he's going home and he's seen enough. Councilman Cauthorne states they are getting the maps.

They came back from recess and looked at the map and after some discussion the Mayor thanks Mr. Whitaker for coming. Councilman Cauthorne asks how do we verify because GIS maps are notoriously off. Mr. Dotson and Councilwoman states that this map is from LENOWISECO. Mr. Dotson states probably need a title search and a survey but LENOWISECO prepared it and you would think they relied on good information to do it. Linda Hubbard states she has a boundary map that goes back to the 90's. Councilwoman Kennedy tells Linda she would love to see it. Councilman Cauthorne makes a motion that they get a process whenever people's property is brought into the taxes because he doesn't think the bureaucrats at the town hall ought to be making decisions on who is added to the tax rolls rather than the council and if they want to add someone to the tax rolls, we would, #1 send them a letter of notification that the property will be brought up at the council meeting after next, #2 council will approve or disapprove the inclusion of the property on the tax rolls, #3 taxes would begin, if approved, the

next year for that particular property owner. Councilman Hall seconds. Councilwoman Kennedy states that the bureaucrats at town hall didn't decide anything. She states to Councilman Cauthorne she takes great offense to that comment he made. She states, we didn't add anything, the county added that due to the discussion, that 1. Mr. Whitaker did advise and you can ask our town manager, because she was here at the time, that he voted in the election, not that he got a ballot and didn't vote but that he did vote. So, if he wants to come back in here, she states she will gladly tell him, that he's telling a fib, because what he told me, was that he voted. She states she called Doug Mullins and had a discussion with him and she told him that based on the map, that LENOWISECO provided, it shows his property in town limits but Mr. Whitaker was fussing that he got a ballot and he wasn't in town limits and he tried to get water and wasn't in town limits. She states she can't speak on what you all done before she got here but this map is what LENOWISECO provided. She states when Doug Mullins called her back, he said absolutely by LENOWISECO map, he is in town limits and will be included in the list of properties for the town. She states that nothing was decided here. She states the county provides us the information and we build the tax tickets off of that. Councilwoman Mullins states we sit here late at night going through each of them that we have questions about, voluntarily. She states we go through each person and try to verify their address, we don't just send them all out before verifying. Councilman Cauthorne asks, who is we? Councilwoman Mullins states, herself, Leabern, Brittany. Councilwoman Kennedy states we don't have a water system not due to our fault, to fall back on, for it to help us determine whose in town and whose not. Councilman Cauthorne states he thinks the we, should be all the current council members, so that when these people are taxed, they'll know who to blame for receiving a tax ticket and who to thank for not sending them a tax ticket. Councilwoman Kennedy states we have a boundary that determines who is in town limits and who is not and that's what determines who gets taxed and who doesn't. She states Mr. Whitaker is clearly within the boundary on this map and if he wants to dispute that, then he needs to contact LENOWISECO, the county Commissioner of Revenue and registrars office. Councilwoman Kennedy states the boundary is what decides who gets taxed and nobody here. Councilman Powers says he ought to be thankful for not having to pay taxes for all those years. Councilwoman Kennedy states, absolutely and that was discussed. She states the question was, how far back do we have the ability to go back and tax him and do we go back. She states that her and Brittany talked about it and she stated that she didn't feel it was right if they were telling him that he wasn't in town limits to tax him back the 3 years, this is new, we start here and move forward.

Linda Hubbard states for her entire life, she's been paying for about 30 acres that's on the fourlane, way out of town limits. But that was where the county picked us up and the town was filing for taxes to be paid on what the county sent and that's outside the town limits. She states to Councilwoman Kennedy that it's across from JWA Combined School. Councilwoman Kennedy states we don't tax that, Mr. Hubbard states, yes you do. Linda states it's been picked up as acreage and billed and we've paid it for years and years and she just considered it a donation to the town. Councilwoman Kennedy states she wasn't aware of that and tells Linda to come and see her. Linda states she's told the girls a couple of times but she also told them not to worry about it. Councilwoman Kennedy asks Linda which girls, Linda states it was long before. Councilwoman Kennedy states we've fixed a lot. Councilwoman Kennedy states if somebody doesn't come in and say to us that they have a problem, we don't know what you've

told the ones before us. Linda Hubbard just wanted to bring it up to let them know, they're errors. Councilwoman Kennedy states that we know they're errors and we have found and fixed a whole lot. She states this, is not our error. Councilman Cauthorne states there are errors with the voting lists, he states he has worked the voters lists. He states one in ten people on that list do not live in town. They're either dead, they've moved or wrongly put down as living in the town. Councilman Cauthorne states it's not outlandish for Mr. Whitaker to say he's on the voter roll and not be a citizen of the Pound. Councilwoman Kennedy states, but the map says he is. Councilman Cauthorne states, that map says he does. Councilwoman Kennedy states it's the only map we've had since she's been here. She states it's from a 1997 zoning ordinance but the map was prepared in 2002. She states she has reached out to LENOWISECO to check the validity of the information. Councilman Powers asks if they said it was the most current one, Councilwoman Kennedy states Yes. Councilman Cauthorne states that he thinks that council instead of the folks at town hall should be making the decision whenever we add a property to be taxed by the town. Councilwoman Kennedy states the folks at town hall are not making that decision. Cauthorne says they are, Kennedy says we're not. They continue to discuss Mr. Whitaker. Councilwoman Kennedy calls for the question. Mayor Cauthorne verifies we have a motion and we had a second. Mayor states we are voting on whether or not to vote on the motion and the question has been called. Mayor wants a Roll Call.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

Clerk reads the motion.

Mayor wants Roll Call vote on that motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - No

Mullins - No

Powers - No

Motion does not pass.

SMR

Councilwoman Kennedy states that just to make everybody aware that this is Small Modular Reactors is back on the list to be in this area. She states we may need to do a resolution that we don't want it in this area. She states it would be different if they were looking at something that was tried, true and tested but they are talking about nuclear reactors that do not exist anywhere in the world and have not been tested. She states she personally don't want to be

their guinea pig and she states she doesn't think other people do either. Councilman Cauthorne asks if our supervisor would like to come up and share with us the latest on that topic, he states that they told us to forget about it, that it was all past and all of a sudden it's brought up again. Mr. Carter states that he doesn't think much will happen with it but the data centers are coming but we don't know when. He states that hopefully this year it will be announced. He states he's heard about the nuclear but we did some sort of resolution and he states they will talk about it again in August. Councilwoman Kennedy asks Mr. Carter to enlighten people or do you know what kind of power we're looking at. Mr. Carter states he has some papers on that but he didn't bring them. He states Ms. Fisher attended our last meeting and he asks council if they're familiar with her. Councilwoman Kennedy states our grid is not equipped for that. Mr. Carter states no that he really doesn't think we have to worry about that part. Councilwoman Kennedy asks how many jobs would it bring in, Mr. Carter states not many but it will generate revenue for this county. Councilwoman Kennedy asks that if they bring the data centers, our power grid is going to have to be able to handle that, how will it handle that without the nuclear power? Mr. Carter states he can't discuss that. He states he knows what she's saying but as far as the harm and what everyone is fearing, he states he doesn't think we need to get excited about that right now. Councilman Powers asks Mr. Carter if there's a proposed site for the modular reactors ? Mr. Carter says there has been. Councilman Cauthorne states he agrees with Councilwoman Kennedy on this and that is what they do is they have this big, don't nuke SWVA and then they tell everybody there's no opportunity and it's never going to happen there anyway, then all of a sudden, they just pop up and at that point we can't do anything about it. Councilman Cauthorne states he's in agreement with typing up a resolution opposing the SMR. He states you can't have data centers without a modular nuclear reactor. Councilwoman Kennedy states she's not against nuclear, she states she is against something that has not been tested and the proposal for these reactors is something that does not exist anywhere in the world. She states you have to consider the waste from these reactors will remain on site forever. She asks what's going to come into our water systems. Councilman Cauthorne it's something that will affect our kids. Councilman Cauthorne states right it up, Councilwoman Kennedy asks for a 5 minute recess. Mayor calls for a 5 minute recess.

Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to approve the resolution in opposition of the SMR. Councilman Cauthorne seconds but removing, under now there for be it resolved, #2 because that could be conceived as not supporting coal or natural gas. So 1, 3 and 4 will be 1, 2 and 3. So that means #2 will be totally taken off, unless you wanted to add coal and gas onto that list. Councilwoman Kennedy states she can and will add coal and gas. Councilwoman Kennedy states, it will read, clean renewable and community owned energy solutions as well as gas and coal over nuclear power.

Mayor Cauthorne reads aloud the resolution that opposes the SMR.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

Motion passes.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Hubbard just wants to ask if the town knows what the use of the old Dollar General store is going to be. Councilwoman Kennedy states we don't have any information on it at this time but my understanding of what was occurring there is Skip would not allow them out of their lease unless they paid it off and she thinks their lease is getting ready to expire. She states she has not been down to talk to skip but it's on the list of things to do.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Kennedy makes a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Hall seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Cauthorne", is written over a horizontal line.

JOHN CAUTHORNE, MAYOR

ATTEST:



COURTNEY MEADE, CLERK