

MINUTES-TOWN OF POUND, VA
April 21, 2026 @ 6:30 P.M.
8422 North River Road, Pound, Virginia 24279

Mayor Cauthorne states the session is in order. Mayor Cauthorne leads the Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor Randy Carter opens up in prayer.

Mayor Cauthorne moves to the roll call of council for the regular session of council.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Cauthorne - Here

Hall - Here

Kennedy - Here

Mullins - Here

Powers - Here

Mayor Cauthorne asks for a motion to approve the consent calendar. Mr. Dotson states that that the previous motion for the public hearing was for "next month" and technically speaking there would need to be an amendment to that motion to have the public hearing tonight with a simple majority vote. Councilwoman Kennedy makes that motion. Councilman Powers seconds the motion. Mr. Dotson explains that the motion is to amend the motion passed in February to have the public hearing "next month" to say the April meeting. Councilman Cauthorne states that in February there was motion made to have a public hearing the next month which would have been the March meeting. He states there was bad weather and the meeting was cancelled. Councilman Cauthorne states his position is that since they voted to have the meeting in March then we need to vote again to have the meeting. He states he does not think it is proper to go back in to the Feb. meeting to amend a motion in order to have the public hearing tonight

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - No

Hall - No

Kennedy -Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - No

Mayor Cauthorne states the motion does not pass.

Mayor Cauthorne asks if there is any more discussion on the consent calendar. Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion that she would like to remove #9 because it is part of the grant update. Councilwoman Mullins seconds

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to approve the consent calendar. Councilwoman Mullins seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Angela Meade Meade Fork Rd; Commented on how please she was with the unveiling ceremony for the monument. She also states how nice it all looks at the intersection and for our town.

Tony Powers out of town; He asks Councilman Cauthorne how many more times he is going to put off the campsite property. He states the meeting was posted and doesn't understand why the public hearing cannot happen tonight. Councilman Hall interjects to say people can change their mind. Councilman Cauthorne states that council did not vote for the meeting to be tonight and he apologizes that there was a meeting posted that council did not approve. Councilman Cauthorne states that in his opinion council should have voted on the change of date of the public hearing rather than it going to the next month's meeting. Mr. Powers expresses his disappointment in there not being a public hearing tonight.

Travis Sturgill out of town; He states he was here for the last meeting and was here for the property public hearing. He asks if everyone is aware of where this property is actually at. He explains why a garden would not be the best use of the property. He states that he doesn't even understand why it is being done the way it is.

Rob Williams Bristol Tn; He states if this property is given away then tax payer money is being given away. He states that a non profit will not pay taxes and it needs to be someone to buy the property that will pay taxes. He states that he does not have an access issue with this property. Mr. Williams states that a community garden was be good for the community and that it would cut grocery bills down.

Bobby Powers Scott County; She explains that it would be a fiscally irresponsible thing to give this property away. She states that a hunting track through a private property is not a good use

of the property. She states the land should be absorbed by the surrounding land owners. She states it is time to start making smart choices.

Debbi Hale out of town; She states that she was on the tourism board representing the town. She states she no longer lives in Pound but grew up here and taught here for many years. She states she raised the money to purchase this property. She states that she felt this would be good for the rails to trails for outdoor recreation. She states she raised the money to buy the property and got the grant to develop campsites. She states the town was allowed to keep \$27000 of the grant and this land has to remain public property. Councilman Cauthorne asks about the public access. Ms Hale states no vehicle access. Mrs. Kennedy explains that there is no hunting on that property

James Short out of town; He states that he doesn't understand the community garden. He asks who would be tending the garden. He states there is not good access for that. He states he walks there a lot and there is no stray bullets.

Adam Wells out of town; He states he is with Appalachian Voices. He talks briefly about a community association meeting for the Town of Pound, and how beneficial these can be for small towns

Dakota Noble out of town; He states that he is here on behalf of the community garden, and he would be the one maintaining it. He states he does not need a motorized vehicle. He states he would like to purchase this property from the town. He states they are a certified non profit. And the information should be included in the council packets. He states they want to encompass the beauty of the land, and why not use the trail and have a garden. He states why not let everyone benefit from it. He states their use is a much better use of the property.

Lynda Hubbard In town limits; She states this is the land that these same people were coming through not wanting people coming through there. She states she does not know why this has come up, and this council and this town needs to worry about what is good for the community. She states noone loves the forest as much as her, and she loves our community. She doesn't understand why we didn't want people camping up there, but we can have people coming in and out to grow food. Mrs Hubbard states she doesn't know if we are all weighing what's right and what's wrong. She also thanks Councilwoman Kennedy for all her work at the unveiling.

Sierra Noble out of town; She states that she knows they had been against the garden before but she feels that this is a better use of the land rather than the hunt club.

REPORTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Wilcox states that the projects they have been working on are finally finishing up. He states that they are just making sure their softwares are merging together properly. He states these programs will help not only citizens be accountable, but them as well. He states they are

staying busy. He explains situations where the town police would need to be out of town limits to help the sheriffs office. He states the issue with the supreme court of Va was a coding issue with the new software.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

No one present

TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Carter states the Great American Cleanup is this Saturday and anyone who wants to help should meet at town hall at 9am and all supplies needed are at town hall. She states that the commonwealth transportation board has a public meeting in May. She states she has had two meetings with Ready Set Go through VDOT which would help us with deliverables for a TAP grant. She states this is something that she applied for some time back for sidewalks, and it is VDOT administered.

EDA

.Councilwoman Mullins states there have been a few renters stay, and she is very thankful for Lyndon Mowing and helping with the outside of the house. She states the EDA is looking for donations, and everyone is working really hard,

PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Carter states they met and talked about Heritage Days and the Comprehensive plan.

OLD BUSINESS

AUDIT UPDATES

Mrs. Carter states the first pre-audit has been completed and sent to the auditor. She states once this audit is completed the next pre-audit can begin, and so on. She states she will reach out to the auditor to see about a clear date they estimate the first audit to be done.

GRANT UPDATE

Councilwoman Kennedy gives an update on each grant, and the unveiling. She states the town has been approved to begin the retaining wall, and that the town got reimbursement on the first portion of the VDEM grant and the DEQ grant. Councilman Cauthorne asks if we have used the line of credit yet, and Councilwoman Kennedy states no.

SPEED LIMIT

Mrs. Carter states she has reached back out to VDOT and she has not been given a determination yet.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION VACANCIES

Councilwoman Mullins makes the motion that she would like to nominate Brittany Carter and Karen Taylor to the EDA. Councilman Cauthorne seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy -Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

Councilman Powers makes the motion to add Ronnie Brock to the planning commission. Councilman Hall seconds. Councilwoman Kennedy makes an amendment to also add David Cantrell to the planning commission. Councilwoman Mullins seconds. Councilman Powers asks about vacancies. Mrs. Carter states she does not believe so. Mr Dotson asks about terms, and states it would be best to get the terms and expirations, but that could be done at the next meeting. Mrs. Carter states Karen is already on the EDA. Mr. Dotson states there should be an ordinance.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy -Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Carter states that they have met about Heritage Days, and Renee Bell has been helping a lot with fundraising. She lists some of the vendors and events going on through Heritage Days, and also asks for any volunteers to set up for kids night or help in general.

NEW BUSINESS

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECT SPENDING

Councilwoman Kennedy states that we have applied for 2 requests to senator Tim Kaine and Mark Warner. She states they were for new police vehicles and street vehicles. She states we did not get to submit one for the building because we will have to do a planning grant on that first.

CONVEYANCE OF OPEN SPACE LAND

Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to have the public hearing and table any vote on that until the May meeting. Councilwoman Mullins seconds. Councilman Cauthorne states there are two different subjects for the public hearing, Mr. Dotson states the public hearing is not specific to any particular transaction. He states it would have the same wording as the last advertisement. Mr. Dotson states he recommends a lease because of the open space land requirements.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

BUDGET

Mrs. Carter states the tax rate for real estate would be lowered to 40cents and the personal property would be staying the same if the budget is passed. She states the total budget is \$575,560.00. Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion to have a public hearing for the next council meeting. Mr. Dotson states there needs to be a public hearing for budget, tax rates and 46.2 readoption. Mayor Cauthorne asks if that can be done all together. Councilwoman Kennedy asks if the 46.2 can be done next month also. He also talks about the advertisements for those. Councilman Cauthorne puts this budget and for the readoption of 46.2 forward for public hearing at the May meeting. Councilwoman Kennedy seconds. Councilman Cauthorne states the Town of Pound has been able to do something the county has not by lowering the tax rate.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lynda Hubbard in town; She speaks about the Master Naturalist spring rally. She states that it really brings in a lot of people into town. She hopes that council is supportive of the things all these organizations do and is appreciated by council.

Tony Powers out of town; He gives information about the beagle hunt that they were able to do, and talked about all the people that were brought in. He states he did not want to bring this up but he brings up the possibility of a law suit by using one land owners property.

Rob Williams Bristol Tn; He states that those things should not be brought up and that people are acting entitled. He gives information about new requirements coming from Richmond for hunters.

Debbi Hale out of town; She states she feels it would be most beneficial to the hunt club and that she trusted the town. She states that she will continue to work on the public trail, and that is all in the works. She states she can work with the hunt club and they can continue working on this trail. She states she is speaking about the old rail road trail.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to adjourn. Councilman Cauthorne seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy -Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

The Mayor states the meeting is adjourned.

APPROVED ON THIS THE 19 DAY OF May, 2026.



JOHN CAUTHORNE, MAYOR

ATTEST:



COURTNEY MEADE, CLERK

