



SOUTH HILL TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Hill Town Council was held on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the temporary Council Chambers of the South Hill Town Hall located at 111 E. Danville Street, South Hill, Virginia 23970.

I. OPENING

Honorable Mayor Mike Moody called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Moody called upon Interim Clerk of Council Kristine Martin to call the roll, which was as follows:

A. Council Members

Lillie Feggins-Boone
Gavin Honeycutt
Michael Smith

Jenifer Freeman-Hite
Delores Luster

Ashley Hardee
Carl L. Sasser, Jr.

B. Staff in Attendance

Keli Reekes, Town Manager
Kristine Martin, HR Manager/Interim Clerk
Brent Morris, Business Dev. Manager

Greg Geist, Police Chief
C.J. Dean, Dir. of Municipal Services

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilor Honeycutt, second by Councilor Hardee, to approve the agenda for January 13, 2025, including the addition of a special recognition by the South Hill Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

III. APPOINTMENT OF VICE MAYOR

Mayor Moody opened the floor for nominations for Vice Mayor. Councilor Smith nominated Councilor Lillie Feggins-Boone and Councilor Hardee nominated Councilor Gavin Honeycutt. Mayor Moody closed the floor for nominations.

A roll-call vote was requested and voiced with Council members voting for only one candidate as follows:

Councilor Feggins-Boone - Lillie Feggins-Boone
Councilor Hardee - Gavin Honeycutt
Councilor Luster - Lillie Feggins-Boone
Councilor Smith - Lillie Feggins-Boone

Councilor Freeman-Hite - Gavin Honeycutt
Councilor Honeycutt - Gavin Honeycutt
Councilor Sasser - Gavin Honeycutt

Mayor Moody congratulated Councilor Honeycutt on his appointment as Vice Mayor.

IV. CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

At this point in the meeting, the following citizen addressed Council:

- **Wade Crowder-** Expressed concern over mold in Town Hall, Forest Lane water line, dog park location and the need for a homeless shelter.

V. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Police Chief Greg Geist presented Town Council with the National Association of Town Watch's 2024 National Award for Outstanding Participation in 'America's Night Out Against Crime,' recognizing South Hill's National Night Out event held in August 2024. Chief Geist shared that South Hill was ranked #8 in the nation among towns with populations under 5,000.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes

a. December 9, 2024 Regular Meeting

b. January 3, 2025 Special Meeting

2. Monthly Financial Report

Dahlis Morrow submitted the financial report as follows:

General Fund	- \$ 9,494,327.18	Total Investment Accounts	- \$27,971,905.19
Water and Sewer Fund	- 173,744.93	Total Police Dept. Savings	- \$ 48,286.14
Cemetery Fund	- 19,771.45	Del. Taxes Due Thru 12/31/24	- \$ 319,474.83
Total in Checking	- \$ 9,687,843.56	(Real Estate and Personal Property)	

A motion was made by Councilor Freeman-Hite, second by Councilor Luster, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Items for Approval

1. Town Manager Report

a. Town Hall Update

Town Manager Keli Reekes provided an update on the mold remediation efforts at Town Hall, reporting that asbestos abatement has been completed. Mold remediation and cleaning are now underway and are expected to continue through the end of March, with clearance testing scheduled for early April. Restoration work will begin once testing is complete.

b. Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Reekes introduced Leanne Patrick as the new Administrative Assistant, starting on February 10, 2025. Her appointment as Clerk of Council will be considered at Council's regular February meeting.

C. Reports to Accept as Presented

For efficiency, the following reports for December 2024 were presented as a group to accept as presented.

1. Town Manager Report

a. Facilities Reservation Calendar

Mrs. Reekes submitted a calendar of activities and reservations at Centennial Park, Parker Park, the South Hill Exchange, and other Town facilities. The calendar is up to date at the time the Council packets are distributed, but it changes frequently as new reservations are made.

2. Police Report

Chief Geist submitted the monthly police report. He reported there were 347 activity incidents, 42 reportable criminal offenses, 865 calls for service, and \$144,328 in property recovered. Other miscellaneous items included 96 training hours and 56 warrants issued. Administrative news was shared, as well as the annual police report.

3. Municipal Services Report

C.J. Dean submitted the municipal services report on the following:

- Lead and Copper Inventory
- Waterline Replacement
- FEMA/VDEM Generator Grant

4. Code Compliance Report

a. Report of Activity

David Hash submitted the report of activity as follows:

Inspections Completed	-	66
Permits Issued	-	27
Fees Collected	- \$	1,387.58
UEZ Exemption	- \$	0
Rehab Exemption	- \$	0
General Exemption	- \$	0
Work Value	- \$	249,098.00

b. Dilapidated Properties

Along with the list of completed dilapidated properties, a report on the status of approximately 45 dilapidated properties was also presented.

5. Business Development Report

Brent Morris submitted the business development report on the following:

- New Industrial Park Development
- Approval of Amendments to the Virginia Enterprise Zone
- Town Hall Façade Improvements
- Continued efforts in commercial and industrial development

6. Human Resources Report

Kristine Martin submitted the human resources report on the following:

a. Employment News

- Julio Alarcon, Police Officer, began on December 16, 2024. Julio will begin the police academy on January 2, 2025.

A motion was made by Councilor Luster, second by Councilor Feggins-Boone, to approve the reports as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. APPOINTMENTS

A. Board of Building Code Appeals

A motion was made by Councilor Honeycutt, second by Councilor Hardee, to reappoint Christopher “Bitty” Freeman to the Board of Building Code Appeals for a five-year term beginning January 14, 2025 and ending January 13, 2030. The motion carried unanimously.

B. South Hill Planning Commission

A motion was made by Councilor Feggins-Boone, second by Councilor Freeman-Hite, to appoint Ashley Hardee to the South Hill Planning Commission to serve as the Town Council representative. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Moody announced his term on Town Council concluded on January 1, 2025 when he assumed the role as Mayor. As a result, Town Council is now seeking a candidate to fill the Ward 2 vacancy through December 31, 2025. The Town Manager will issue a public notice with details as to how to apply for the vacancy.

Additionally, Councilor Honeycutt requested a meeting to gather input on the priorities, to include current and ongoing projects, of external agencies and departments for the upcoming budget year. After further discussion, Council members agreed to invite agency representatives and department heads to a budget work session to present their budget plans.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business matters before the South Hill Town Council, Mayor Moody adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

VALIDATION

Minutes approved this 10th day of February, 2025.



Kristine Martin, Interim Clerk of Council



W.M. Moody, Mayor