

**MINUTES-TOWN OF POUND, VA
MARCH 18, 2025 @ 6:30 P.M.
8422 North River Road, Pound, Virginia 24279
PUBLIC HEARING
&
REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL**

Mayor Cauthorne opened the regular session meeting with the pledge of allegiance and Pastor Danny Mullins opened in prayer

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Cauthorne - here

Hall - here

Kennedy - here

Mullins - here

Powers - here

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Cauthorne opens the public hearing for the ordinance regarding elected officials as paid employees. Mr. Dotson states that this is a pretty straight forward ordinance, and what it would do is prohibit anyone on council and mayor from simultaneously serving as a paid employee of the town. He then explains that a paid employee is defined as anyone who is directly employed by the Town Of Pound and is receiving compensation in any amount for their services. Mayor Cauthorne asks for public comment on the subject.

AUDIENCE COMMENT(PUBLIC HEARING)

Angela Barnette 11529 Meade Fork Rd. She states she is in favor of the ordinance, and it should have already been in place.

Stacy Carson states this is a good idea, considering prior council voted on it for the mayor and other council members not to be in paid positions. She also states that the FOIA officer should not be a member of council; especially when the council member is being FOIA'ed themselves.

Mr. Dotson clarifies that this ordinance would not prevent a council member from serving as FOIA officer because it is not a paid position.

Mayor Cauthorne closes the public hearing for the city ordinance.

Mayor Cauthorne asks for a motion to approve the consent calendar. Councilman Cauthorne asks for the minutes from the last meeting. Mrs. Carter states that there is a copy of the minutes in the council packet. Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion, and Councilman Hall seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - yes

Hall - yes

Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes

Powers - yes

Councilwoman Kennedy states that there does not need to be a second audience comment on the agenda. Councilman Cauthorne states that someone must have removed the second audience comment, and the Mayor had it on his agenda. Mayor Cauthorne states that he did send out an agenda with two public comments on there and it was removed. Mrs. Carter states that the clerk has been out sick, and that she removed the second closed session, and that the second audience comment must have been removed in error. She apologizes to the council, and states that it was an accidental error. Councilman Cauthorne asks the attorney if the agenda that was sent to council was the agenda that was approved by the vote. He states the agenda posted on the door is the agenda that we should go by. Mrs. Carter makes copies of the agenda posted on the door. Mr. Dotson states that he believes that the agenda on the door is the one we should go by because it is the one the public had ahead of time. Councilwoman Kennedy states that it is councils agenda, and that in the future the Mayor should put a note just like everyone else because when it is altered it messes it up in the system for the front office. Councilman Cauthorne states all that has to be done is print it and put it on the door. Mr. Dotson states that moving forward we need to have agenda discussion on the agenda, otherwise we need to move forward. Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to discuss the agenda by unanimous vote. Councilman Cauthorne objects.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Angela Barnette states that she was the one that wanted the second comment section, that way a person can address what's on their mind at the beginning, and if something comes up throughout the meeting you would have another opportunity to

do so. She also states she does not think council members or council member and mayor should be related or council member and town manager or council members and employees should not be related because it is a conflict of interest. She also states that she thinks Chris has done a wonderful job as police chief, and she appreciates him and Cindy very much. She states that she hears and reads a lot about him living farther away, and what benefit is he, and she states the previous chief lived here locally and to look at what kind of mess things were left in. She asks about the bank demolition, and what the status of that is. She also asks why the reports for the SLFRF funding were not done.

Daphney Williams states she lives out of town but is a land owner in Pound at 11520 Stacy Branch Rd. She states she has a packet for council. She states that she is here in regards to the campground. She states that there are seven land owners united about their feelings on this project. She states that the campground and the trail are all one project, and that Debbi Hale has acknowledged on the 27th of February that there are supposed to be fences and gates to protect the private landowners. She states that she and the other landowners are requesting that fences and gates are on both sides of that railroad. Mrs. Williams states that it is 1 ½ miles down and 1 ½ miles back. She states they had it appraised for fencing and the estimated cost for that would be \$326,540. She states that they are requesting it be done before the campground opens. She states this estimate does not include Gerry Bentley's property because he is going to get his own estimate. She states that would be a separate amount. Mrs. Williams states that a fence must be maintained, and that will need to be in the budget. Mrs. Williams also states they would like a land survey to be done also, because it needs to be protected and no more than a 12ft right of way that is allowed through there. She states any further questions can be directed to their lawyer Matt Dotson.

Laura Sturgill states she also agrees that she agrees about relatives on the council. She also states that she has given council an informational print out due to some things she overheard at the last meeting. She states that there is an area in the packet for stimulating economic growth. She states that Pound has been pretty much dead, and she heard council talking last week about not liking the THC shops. Ms. Sturgill states that she understands that, but with the way the world is changing she would caution council about not allowing businesses such as that or alcoholic businesses into town. She states this town was raised on liquor sales. She states it

would be detrimental to rule out any type of business without having really engaged with those businesses. She states that everyone remembers the stories of taco bell, hardees, etc. wanting to come into town and they were not allowed. She states those were decisions that were uninformed and uneducated, not stupid just uneducated on the businesses wanting to come in. Ms. Sturgill states there are ways to grow your economy and ways to kill it. She is all for limiting the number of shops but doesn't discourage businesses from coming in.

Michelle Branham outside of corporation. She states that she disagrees about the police, and states if council votes to keep Chris and Cindy that they should resign. She states that Chris thinks he doesn't have to answer questions, and the council puts up with it. She states that Chris has gone to facebook about Sherry; and Cindy has gone on facebook about her mental health. She states it doesn't make sense to her why the council would keep them. Mrs. Branham asks why Cindy cannot show a receipt for her training. She would also like to know if Chris and Cindy went into Leabern's family business and threaten to shut them down like she says they did to others. Councilwoman Kennedy states that she will respond after Mrs. Branham's 3 minutes. Mrs. Mullins states there is a good candidate for police chief with experience and doesn't have to drive to get her. She also states that the fiasco in the hallway where Cindy came and attacked Stacy and Sherry and two grown men jumped in to help, and no one jumped in to help stop that. She said no one had to take sides, just stop it. She states in her opinion the whole thing was planned. She then asked Councilwoman Kennedy if she would like to address her. Councilwoman Kennedy states that for people who are not interested in her personal business she sees a lot of comments about her chickens, garden, about her windows, her husband's truck, her handicap tag, and her stance on marijuana. She states that no she does not have a family business. Mrs. Branham asks why her address is associated with the business. Councilwoman Kennedy asks Mr. Tomo (the business owner) if he would like to address that comment.

Mr. Tomo (owner of Tomo's smoke shop) states he lives in Apt.#4 Laurel St. He states that he saw potential for business in Pound due to traffic, and wanted to start investing. He states that Councilwoman Kennedy allowed him to use her address until he got his own and a Virginia ID. Mr. Adam Kennedy states that it was a brief time that they used councilwoman Kennedy's address until they got their own. Mr. Kennedy states they are renovating 3 buildings. Councilman Cauthorne states that

people question whether or not there is marijuana sold at their shop due to the sign looking as though there is a marijuana leaf. Mr. Kennedy states they do not condone the trade of marijuana, and there have been some changes to their policies and that they are taking down the leaf from the sign. Councilman Cauthorne states he appreciates them changing the sign. Mr. Kennedy addresses a question from the audience with regard to their address and lists all the residential addresses they have.

Adam Kennedy 11349 laurel ave apt #1 he states they originally looked at Pound to develop housing. He states they have also looked into a Chinese restaurant and a bakery deli with ice cream. He states all of that is still coming to fruition. He states they have had to make a lot of modifications to the buildings to get them up to code, which is why it has taken so long to get them all going.

Connor Gent out of town. He states at last month's meeting his mother (Stacy Carson) received her FOIA request and on that footage it shows him taking a picture of the flag outside. He states the time stamps on his phone vs the video by 10 minutes. He states that it concerns him because the video does not show what they were looking for, and it could be a result of that 10 minute difference. He states that they asked for 9:00pm which according to the town of Pound video the meeting ended shortly before, and his mother had some conversations with people after the meeting and then the altercation happened. He states the outdoor video shows them leaving at just around 9:00pm which he states does not line up. He states that it could be a small inconvenience however once he heard it had been sent to VSP it made him question it.

Stacy Carson out of town. She states first she would like to say that she asked for a place on the agenda, but she was told the agenda was already set. She states this is very important information since she has been trying to get FOIA questions answered along with a video that does not show anything of an altercation that happened in the hallway of the town hall. She states as her son (Connor Gent) stated there is a 10 minute difference in the videos. She asks what the state police got. She also states when you have nothing to hide you hide nothing. Ms. Carson states that Chief Wilcox sent video to the state police the day after the altercation to have them review and investigate what took place. She requests that the council take action to get the video from the state police to see if it was altered in any way, because she

feels her copy has been altered. She states on top of this the FOIA officer is most likely involved as well. She also states there was no sound on the video she received. Ms. Carson states Cindy Mullins instigated an altercation in the hallway of town hall after the meeting along with other citizens in the room. She states it could have become more and gotten physical, and that some citizens were egging it on. She requests more time. Mayor Cauthorne advises that there is another audience comment section later in the agenda. Councilman Cuathorne makes the motion to give her five more minutes. Councilman Hall seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - yes

Hall - yes

Kennedy - no

Mullins - no

Powers - no

Mitchell Fleming in town. He states they will need to do something to accommodate the hearing impaired. He also states he doesn't agree with the current police department, and doesn't know why we need them. Councilman Hall states that we need the right people. Mr. Fleming states the council doesn't seem to want the right people. He states he came in to pay taxes and Mrs. Kennedy called him a liar, and he called her a liar.

Dr. Walter Krauss 6855 Hurricane Rd Wise Va. He states his wife owns rental properties in town limits of the Town of Pound. He states that he and his wife feel Pound needs to disincorporate, due to property owners that live out of town limits not being able to vote on town issues in elections. He states the town needs parking badly. He states he doesn't know if it is part of the bank building project or not, but that there needs to be a retaining wall put back where the bank building came down to prevent further sliding, and it affecting his wife's building. He states the dilapidated buildings in town need to be torn down. He also states that all the monuments torn down in Richmond should be moved to Pound, and make Pound the monument capital of Virginia. He also states the town should talk to Fred Lunsford about turning policing over to the county like they do in Appalachia.

Sherry Large in town limits. She states that she votes that we get a new chief of police since she feels she has been threatened by the current chief, and also by a person who states he is the father of the crime prevention officer's daughter. She also states she filed a complaint that was put in the chiefs file.

Jimmie Vanover outside town limits, but born and raised in Pound, and still owns property in Pound. She states she feels almost none of the council knows the history of Pound, and that it needs to study the history of Pound. She states she grew up in corporation limits. She states if council doesn't know what Pound is all about then what are they doing on the council? She states she has a problem with council members whispering in each others ears. She also states that the Mayor should be his own person and not be led by someone else.

Sierra Noble outside of town limits, lives near the primitive campsite. She states that she and her husband live within walking distance to the campsite, and the trail goes directly below their homestead. She states that she has heard of issues with squatters, and that the town might require permits. She asks why the town would want to provide an area for these issues to only get worse. She states the town could better use their resources, and feels that the campsite does nothing to benefit the town or the economy of the town.

Dakota Noble outside of town limits. He states he has sent out a FOIA request for all documentation for plans for the site, and the response was that they did not exist.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Councilman Cauthorne asked about parking on mainstreet with beds of trucks sticking out in the road. Chief Wilcox states a request has been sent to VDOT about that issue as well as other parking issues on the main street. Councilman Cauthorne also states he appreciates Chief Wilcox for checking in on the pot shops. Mayor Cauthorne reads aloud as suggested per the attorney. It states 2/21/25 members of the department visited businesses as pointed out by Councilman Cauthorne as potentially selling marijuana. No violations on that day. They were visited again in March with, again, no violations. The commonwealth attorney's office was contacted and was advised that there are more resources going into looking into the sale of marijuana. It states visits will continue until otherwise instructed.

FIRE DEPT.

None present. Councilman Cauthorne asks about the fire department separating from the town. Mrs. Carter advises that nothing has gone through yet to her knowledge.

TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Carter states she has not received an email from Kilgores office yet about the sidewalk grant, however there is another grant that she is working to gather documents for and pre-applications for that open up April 1st. She did check on street lights, however they have other emergent issues that precede our less emergent issue. She states that they did advise that they would get a quote for us soon about changing over all the street lights. She states she did find the video equipment however she was advised by ITKENEX that it was not suitable for what the town is wanting. It was more for a video conference and less for streaming.

EDA

Councilwoman Mullins states no change for EDA

PLANNING COMMISSION

Councilwoman Kennedy states they were unable to meet last month due to illness and the chair not able to attend the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilwoman Kennedy make the motion to go in to closed session for Va. code 2.2-3711(1) for discussion and consideration and interview for chief of police, for 2.2-3711(8) for legal matters requiring legal advice, and 2.2-3711(6) for possible acquisition of real estate. Councilman Powers seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - yes

Hall - no

Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes

Powers - yes

Old Business

Mayor Cauthorne wants to know if there's any discussion on DEQ/APPALACHIAN VOICES/BAD BUILDINGS.

Councilwoman Kennedy states we have Emma here from Appalachian Voices. DEQ and BAD BUILDINGS will be moved to April.

Emma Kelly, the program coordinator introduced herself to the new council members and she's worked with Pound for 2 years now. She has mostly provided technical support and grant administration for projects that focused on economic development. She provided council with a packet that goes into more detail about each grant and did a brief overview about each grant.

We will have a meeting April 1st to discuss more about the plans.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AS PAID EMPLOYEES

Mayor Cauthorne asks do we have a discussion about public hearing or a motion.

Councilman Cauthorne makes a motion to pass the ordinance.

Councilman Hall seconds.

Kennedy asks if the ordinance indicates a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

Kevin asks Councilman Cauthorne if that was his motion. Cauthorne states that yes that was his motion. Kevin states that it needs to be written to add that language in there. Cauthorne says that was in the original motion. Kevin says right. Mayor Cauthorne asks for any advice on that. Kevin says his only concern is that we posted this notice to the front door so that the public would be able to review it. This is a minor change to what was posted and I think the public has had an opportunity to be heard and the comments have been heard.

Councilwoman Kennedy ask if we need to readvertise and Kevin says I don't think we need to.

Councilwoman Kennedy makes motion to table it. Councilman Cauthorne seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - yes

Hall - yes

Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes

Powers - yes

LIVE BROADCASTING OF MEETINGS

Brittany Carter does say she found the audio equipment but was told that wasn't exactly what we needed and that it is more set up for video conferences. They said it

could possibly be reconfigured to work for what we're wanting. Councilman Cauthorne asks if the tablets we have are any help. Brittany states we tried them but they would not power up. Councilman Cauthorne says we'll table it until next month. Councilwoman Kennedy seconds motion. Motion passed.

AUDITS

Councilman Cauthorne asks if there are any updates on audits. Mrs. Carter states that David Cox stated we would be looking at sometime after the April 15th tax deadline for the pre-audit, and the audit would follow after that. Councilman Cauthorne asks if the money for that is coming from Appalachian Voices. Mrs. Carter states it is through a grant. Councilwoman Kennedy states that grant is still pending at this point, but that we do have the money to pay for audits either way. Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion to table it until next month. Councilman Powers seconds. Mayor Cauthorne asks if anyone is opposed. Hearing none the motion passes.

DEPT. OF TREASURY NOTICE

Councilman Cauthorne asks if this has been taken care of. Mrs. Carter states that we have submitted all the required paperwork, and advised them that our pre-auditor will be here sometime after April 15. Councilwoman Kennedy states that there should be a paper in the council packet indicating the submission was done. She also states that the problem there was that we were not getting the notices, what we did get didn't indicate any amount. Also the person we had to rely on finding anything out was sick. Councilwoman Kennedy states this was money that was applied for by Drew Mullins, and the first report should have been done after he left; and that Mayor Carson should have been getting notices on that. She states that until we got ahold of Drew we weren't seeing anything. Councilwoman Kennedy states that we did submit a letter for reconsideration to be covered, and a lot of supporting documentation was submitted along with that. Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion to table until next month. Councilwoman Mullins seconds. Mayor Cauthorne asks if there is any objection. Hearing none the motion passes.

TOWN WEBSITE

Mrs. Carter states that ITKINEX has gained control of the town website, and they have someone to talk with us Friday to see what all we want on there and how we want it set up, and teach us how to do that. Councilman Cauthorne asks if the

information can be updated within the next week. Mrs. Carter states she hopes so. Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion to table it until next month. Mr. Dotson asks at this moment does Mrs. Carter if she has access to adjust anything on the website at this time. She stated no, and Councilman Cauthorne asks who can. Mrs. Carter states she believes the ITKINEX can but that she isn't sure if they want to have everything in place before they begin. Councilwoman Kennedy asks if he told Mrs. Carter that he had access. Mrs. Carter states he said he had gained control. Councilwoman Kennedy seconds the motion to table it to next month. Mayor Cauthorne states without objection the motion passes.

RUMBLE STRIPS/VDOT

Councilman Cauthorne asks Councilman Hall if he had asked VDOT about rumble strips. Councilman Hall states there will be no rumble strips coming off the 4-lane and the speed limit stays the same in town, and that they also stated they would be getting to more of the potholes soon. Councilman Cauthorne asks what the process would be to get those rumble strips. Councilman Hall again states there will be no rumble strips coming off the 4-lane. Councilman Powers asks about the rumble strips further in town. Councilman Hall states it's further from the 4-lane, and he can call VDOT and find out for himself.

MARIJUANA IN TOWN LIMITS

Councilman Cauthorne states the police chief is checking on those places, and one of them is removing the marijuana symbol, and says they are opposed to distributing it.

POLICE CHIEF SELECTION

Councilman Cauthorne states that the attorney has some questions about the qualifications of one of the men. Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion that we reappoint Chris Wilcox through April 30th as the attorney check in to those issues. Councilman Powers seconds the motion. Councilwoman Kennedy makes a substitute motion. She states that in the January organizational meeting it was states if we don't find someone else qualified or as qualified we would appoint Chris Wilcox back permanently. Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to appoint Chris Wilcox back with no end date. Councilman Cauthorne states we have a motion on the tablet to appoint him until April 30th and have the attorney check on the qualifications of a candidate. Councilwoman Kennedy states she is making a substitute motion.

Councilwoman Mullins seconds Mrs. Kennedy's substitute motion. Mayor Cauthorne asks for discussion. Councilman Cauthorne states he thinks having a police chief that lives right outside town limits is important to our community, and we have someone who fits that bill, and it was brought up that he may be disqualified because of his age and somehow he does not think that is the case. That we should get the attorney to look in to this and decide next month on what to do. Councilwoman Kennedy states that 70 is the required retirement age, and that she can back that up with an email from VML. Councilman Cauthorne states that is her interpretation of that code, and and at the top of that code it says state police, and there may be a grey area for appointed office. Councilwoman Kennedy states she calls for the vote. Mayor Cauthorne asks for a roll call vote for calling the question.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - yes

Hall - yes

Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes

Powers - yes

Councilman Mayor asks for a roll call vote on the substitute motion. Councilman Cauthorne asks for the substitute motion to be repeated. Mrs. Carter states the substitute motion is that Chris Wilcox be reappointed permanently. Councilman Cauthorne questions "permanently?". Mrs. Carter states that's what she understood her to say. Councilwoman Kennedy states with no end date. Councilman Cauthorne asks if that is what she said. Councilwoman Kennedy states that was Councilman Cauthorne's words in January. Councilman Cauthorne states he doesn't think he used that word. Mayor Cauthorne ends the discussion and asks for a roll call vote on the substitute motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - no

Hall - no

Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes

Powers - yes

Mayor Cauthorne states the motion passes and asks for any more discussion on the Police Chief selection. Councilman Cauthorne states he wants to say that he has

been appointed and he will respect him as police chief until council decides otherwise.

BUDGET

Councilman Cauthorne states usually by April 1st they have a draft budget or a tentative budget and asks Mrs. Carter if that is in the works. Mrs. Carter states she is still learning how to do the budget but yes. Mr. Dotson asks if we have a date set for the budget workshop. Councilwoman Kennedy states we don't but we can do that at the next meeting. Councilman Cauthorne states the main thing would be to have Mrs. Carter to get a draft budget in. Mayor Cauthorne asks for any discussion.

BANK BUILDING DEMOLITION

Councilwoman Kennedy states the situation with the bank building demolition is that we are waiting for the wall stabilization. She states the structural engineer says he can not guarantee the integrity of our wall with the deterioration of the adjacent building. So it is a situation of that wall will have to be taken down piece by piece then reconstructed which would cost \$50,000 to \$75,000 unless we can find another option. Councilman Cauthorne states but we are not doing anything tonight. Councilman Cauthorne asks if that is just to demolish our wall. Councilwoman Kennedy states that would be the cost for taking it down, and putting one back up. Councilman Powers asks for elaboration. Councilwoman Kennedy states once the wall is down it will have to have either a temporary stabilization or we move forward with something else. Once that occurs then the back wall can come down. Mayor Cauthorne asks if there is anymore discussion

CAMPSITE UPDATE

Councilwoman Kennedy states the current status of the campsite is that the county did approve the special use permit, and that Debbi Hale is still waiting for the plan from CDAC. Councilman Cauthorne asks if the campsite is outside the town limits, what would the town be responsible for. Councilwoman Kennedy states we would have to maintain the campsite, and what we had talked about is Bo going out to check the trash once a week or so, and Debbie has volunteers as well as the hunt club who also volunteered to help. She states we also talked about the possibility of permitting. She states when she talked to Big Stone she was told they charge \$10 for tent camping at Big Cherry, and they have to tell when they are going and how long they are staying. Councilman Cauthorne asks for the history of the town's

acquisition of this property. Councilwoman Kennedy states the money for that was provided by the IDA. Councilman Cauthorne states the allegation has been made that the trail to this campsite goes across private property. Councilwoman Kennedy states the trail is part of the railroad bed that we have an easement for which is owned by Jamie Cox. Councilman Cauthorne states the presentation was made for fencing, and is that something we have to do. Mr. Dotson states he plans to talk with their lawyer learn more about that petition. He states he believes Matt Dotson feels it is necessary, but he would like to have that discussion with him about it. Councilman Cauthorne states he does remember years ago getting the right away for this property, but he didn't want the town to be liable for that cost of fencing. Councilman Cauthorne asks the attorney to find out what to do if the council chose to cut ties with this property. Councilwoman Kennedy states she doesn't have any objection to looking in to it, but she does not support doing that at this time but it never hurts to ask questions. Councilman Cauthorne asks the attorney to look in to that, and Councilwoman Kennedy asks if it is just the trail he is wanting to cut ties with or the campsite. Councilman Cauthorne states the project as a whole. Councilwoman Kennedy states the town owns the property. That the campsite sits on town property, and the trail sits on an easement. Mr. Dotson asks if the trail and the campsite are mutually exclusive. Councilwoman Kennedy states the trail does go through our property as well. Mr. Dotson clarifies that for example if the town chose to cut ties with the trail that can be accomplished while still reserving the campsite. Councilman Cauthorne states that the idea is that people inside town limits should not be on the book for a property outside of town limits. Councilwoman Kennedy states we own the property. Mr. Dotson states he understands that the council wants to be adequately informed should they choose to sever ties. Councilwoman Kennedy states she doesn't have an objection to asking questions. Councilman Cauthorne asks the property owners if it is ok to check in to that. Mayor Cauthorne asks if there is any more discussion.

ADMIN COMPUTERS

Mrs. Carter states when ITKINEX was here they discussed with us the condition of the computers in the admin office. She states that it is a struggle sometimes to get things done because there is one computer that works fairly well and the others are kind of hit and miss. She states she did ask for a quote on replacing those computers because one of the computers has roughly 300 viruses on it. She states that she will be getting that quote. She states it is a need because it is hard to take turns on the

computer that works. Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to get the quotes and get what is needed. She states in addition to that they are talking about updating the server. Councilwoman Mullins seconds. Councilman Cauthorne asks if it is in the budget. Mrs. Carter states she would rather get the quotes before she states for sure but she does feel it is within the budget to do this. Councilman Cauthorne states to let the minutes reflect a decision will be made next month.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - yes

Hall - no

Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes

Powers - yes

ARCHITECTURAL THESIS/PROGRAM

Councilwoman Kennedy states there is a handout in the packet about the architectural program through VTech. She states we were chosen for 2026 for the students to come in here with their instructor. She states DEQ does provide funding for this program. Councilwoman Kennedy states the students will come in and provide mock ups and work. In addition to that we had Hannah Gross here today, and she is using the town for her architectural thesis. She has been assessing buildings and providing mock ups, and giving options that may be available to us.

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP

Councilwoman Kennedy states the Great American Cleanup is scheduled April 26th from 9am to 2pm. She states we are not just graded on in town properties, but some out of town as well. Councilwoman Kennedy asks who on council would be willing to participate. Council members Powers, Mullins and Hall say yes. She states supplies will be provided.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Cauthorne clarifies that what the mayor sends out is final say on the agenda. Mr. Dotson states it starts with council sending items to the clerk, then she sends to the mayor then he sends it to the rest of council. Councilwoman Kennedy states it would be easier if he sent notes instead of altering the document. Mayor Cauthorne states on the first there were two closed sessions, and he thought it might have been added for a purpose, and that he respects the clerks agenda. He

states he did add some items. Councilwoman Kennedy states when it is altered it makes it harder to save and make a digital copy. Councilman Cauthorne states all she has to do is print it and put it on the door. Councilwoman Kennedy states it would be more uniform if he would send the notes to adjust the agenda and let it be added from the clerks end of things. Mr. Dotson states we can probably address this amongst ourselves since it is a format issue.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Missy Fleming: 11455 Church Street, she states the bank balance report is never given in the minutes. Mr. Dotson states it is in the council packet. Mrs. Fleming states it should be provided to the public. Mr. Dotson states there is a copy of the agenda packet available to the public. She also states that she heard others say family should not be on council. She states it's not council who picks who is elected. She says council cannot tell others they cannot be on council just because they are related. She states she lives on church street. She wants to know why it isn't done and is it still stable. Councilwoman Kennedy states the bank building had to come down to stabilize the slide, and that the VDEM money is still there. Councilwoman Kennedy states it is not complete because of the stabilization of that last wall. Mrs. Fleming asks why that wasn't addressed when the engineers were here. Councilwoman Kennedy states the money is there but FEMA has to approve the plan.

Stacy Carson: States that first she would like to state that all the talk of family members sitting on this board she would like to talk about family members who are employed. She states she is publicly requesting another FOIA of the video footage with sound from January 21st between the hours of 6:00pm to 6:45pm from the video cameras that are in the front at the town hall doors both outside and inside the town hall. She states this footage is showing a man supposedly related to Cindy Mullins threatening Sherry Large, a citizen of Pound. She also requests from the same evening video footage and sound of the Town of Pound Hall cameras from 9:00pm to 9:45pm out in the hallway where it will show Cindy Mullins instigating an altercation with herself and Sherry Large. She states Cindy Mullins incited others to create more hostility to where the altercation almost became physical. She states she is also asking for another FOIA that she feels can easily be answered that also happened during the January 21st meeting during the hours of 6:30pm to 9:30 pm to have the Vice Mayor show any and all text messages on her cell phone that can be

seen on January 21st that can be seen on the video between herself and intended recipient. Ms. Carson states this will show just cause of who have instigated the violent behaviour of Cindy Mullins, and for her to think she would be allowed to get away with it with actions instead of consequences. She states that she is again asking for council to get involved, and request from the state police exactly what the Chief, Chris Wilcox, provided to them. She states that on top of this she is also recommending to council that there will be a lawsuit coming forward if they choose to keep Chris Wilcox and Cindy Mullins and Leabern Kennedy. She states there will be petitions in the town for people to sign who want all three of them removed; due to the way they have handled things for the past three years, and for them not to be worried about the Town of Pound but more about themselves and how much money they collect. She asks that the videos be given to her right away, and for council to direct the Chief of Police to give that to her before she leaves, as well as Leabern Kennedy's text messages from that January 21st meeting.

Jimmie Vanover: Out of town; states she was born and raised here, and owns property here. She states someone on this council needs to be bold enough to tell Ms. Carson she is no longer the mayor; she resigned. States that doesn't mean she can just come in and stir up trouble and that, is what she is doing.

Conner Gent: Out of town; He states that his mom originally requested from 9pm to 915pm. He states what she probably meant to say is to start at 8:30pm. She states he was born here and from here.

Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion to adjourn, and **councilman Powers** seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - no

Hall - no

Kennedy - yes

Mullins - yes

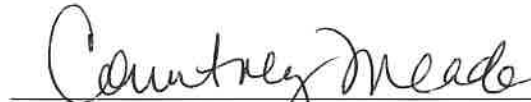
Powers - yes

Mayor Cauthorne adjourns the meeting.

APPROVED ON THIS THE 15 DAY OF April, 2024.


JOHN CAUTHORNE, MAYOR

ATTEST:


COURTNEY MEADE, CLERK