

MINUTES-TOWN OF POUND, VA
November 18 , 2025 @ 6:30 P.M.
8422 North River Road, Pound, Virginia 24279

Mayor Cauthorne states the session is in order and all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
Pastor Reagan is asked to lead 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 if there is a motion to approve the consent calendar.

Councilwoman Kennedy states the need to make some changes. She would like to move the Cumberland Airport Commission to number five, the closed session to number six and states the reason for this is we do have a structural engineer that has made himself available to answer questions and to go over the report with us and then that would put the audience comments at number seven. Councilman Cauthorne would like to put audience comments before the closed session. Councilwoman Kennedy states the only problem she has with that is she has the structural engineer down for 6:45. She also states there is another addition to the closed session 2.2-3711 A5 and A8. Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion to move closed session for the reasons suggested to 5.5 after audience comment. He states it's not the audience's fault and the people in town are just as important, if not more than the engineer. So he states his motion stands. Councilwoman Kennedy states hers does as well. Councilman Cauthorne states, he doesn't think she made one. Mayor Cauthorne states she made one to amend it. Mayor Cauthorne asks if there's a second to Councilwoman Kennedy's motion. Councilwoman Mullins seconds. The mayor asks if there's any discussion. Councilman Cauthorne makes an amendment to motion, to keep audience comments before closed session, so audience comment would be 4.5, closed session would be number 5. Mayor Cauthorne asks if there's a second to that amendment. There's no second.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - No

Hall - No

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

The mayor states the motion passes and asks if there's a motion to adopt it as amended. Councilwoman makes the motion to adopt as amended. Councilwoman Mullins seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - No

Hall - No

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

Mayor Cauthorne states the consent calendar is approved.

AIRPORT COMMISSION

George Dean states he's been with the commission since 2007 and says he was asked to come speak and answer any questions. He states that the previous council was doing 500.00 and that was put on their budget this year, assuming that Pound would continue to provide that same 500.00 for this year. Councilman Powers states they were just curious what the commission does and how it benefits Pound. Mr. Dean explains how the commission makes sure that the airport is an asset to the county. It helps businesses, brings people into the area that want to put business here and there's a lot of upkeep to the runways that have to be made. He states there are projects always going on there. The FAA provides dollars as well as grants.

He says that Brittany has placed papers in the council folders that help explain as well.

Councilman Cauthorne asks what the other towns are giving such as Appalachia. Mayor Cauthorne says they don't give anything, Coeburn gives 200.00, St. Paul gives 1000.00, Big Stone Gap gives 1500.00, Norton gives 2645.00 and Wise gives 3000.00. Councilman Cauthorne states that Coeburn is a little bigger than we are and Appalachia is probably smaller. Councilwoman Mullins makes a motion to give the same amount as last year 500.00.

Councilman Powers seconds. Councilman Cauthorne amends it stating that Appalachia has about 1400 people and Coeburn has about 1550 and we probably have less than 1000 so he amends it to 200.00 dollars. Councilman Cauthorne states that Appalachia doesn't support the airport commission and they have 1400 people, Coeburn gives 200.00. He says to ask the average person on the street in Pound, they probably wouldn't know what it is or how it helps the people of Pound. Mr. Dean states to Councilman Cauthorne, you are not helping the airport commission, you're supporting the asset of the airport. The commissioners do not get paid. It's for airport expenses.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - No

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

The mayor states the motion passes.

The mayor states the next thing on the agenda is the purposes of consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Closed session pursuant to 2.2-3711 A5 & A8 of the Virginia code. Mr. Kevin Dotson verifies this.

Councilwoman Kennedy makes a motion to go into closed session. Councilman Powers seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

The mayor states recess is now until we resume.

The mayor states we are back in open session.

Councilwoman Kennedy makes a motion to come back into session. Councilman Powers seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

Councilwoman Kennedy makes a motion to certify that to the best of each council members knowledge only public business matters lofty exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the public body.

Mr. Dotson states for clarification that was under 2.2-3711 A5 & A8, the provision of legal counsel regarding specific legal matters and discussion concerning prospective business or industry where no announcements have been previously made about that business or industry. Councilman Cauthorne seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

The mayor states the motion passes and we are back into open session.

Councilwoman Kennedy makes a motion to cease Pickin in the Pound beginning Dec. 1, 2025 due to the need for repairs here at the town hall and until we can get that done. Councilman Powers seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - Abstain

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

The mayor states the motion passes.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Randy Regan lives out of town but has a ministry here. He states his church has each member on their prayer list by name and would like to let them know if he can ever be of any spiritual assistance to any of them to let him know. He reads scripture to them.

REPORTS

POLICE REPORT

Chief Wilcox states it has been business as usual for the police department. He states the 2 projects, the in car cameras and body cams.

Councilman Cauthorne asks Chief Wilcox again about the police cruiser running out front and that he's noticed it the last 3 meetings and wants to know why it's left running. Chief Wilcox states he's talked to others and some places it's customary to leave the car running, depending upon the weather or whatever. He explains those cars need to be ready to roll in moments notice and sometimes the way they run, the fuel pumps and the fuel pump switch can have issues and cut off and the car won't start. Chief Wilcox states, we don't need that in an emergency but if the council wants to take some sort of action on that and not want them to run when they aren't in operation then he says he'll pass that instruction along.

Councilman Cauthorne makes a motion that when they aren't in operation, they will be cut off. Councilman Hall seconds.

Councilman Cauthorne states that if it were a big city like NYC, he could see letting them run but being in Pound, he doesn't feel like it's a big burden.

Councilwoman Mullins states in her opinion she wants someone quickly if she needs immediate help, such as passed out or near death, she feels it's not a big deal to leave cruiser running at all times, so it will be ready to go in one moment. Chief Wilcox states what Councilman Mullins

just said, is exactly why his stance is the same and to allow them to run due to also not having 24 hr coverage and due to not always having someone there and usually it's only one person, so it's very important that that vehicle be ready to go.

Councilman Cauthorne states to Chief Wilcox, if you're in Bristol and another officer is in Coeburn, he says he assumes the car isn't running at those moments. Chief Wilcox states, if I'm in Bristol and another officer is in Coeburn and one's in Pound, the only one we're concerned about is the one in Pound and he's the one that needs to be ready to get in his car and go. He states he can't get in a car and respond from Bristol, the Coeburn can't respond from Coeburn but the one in Pound can and if his automobile fails him or fails to start, like the instance of the bad crash in Pound the other day, minutes could make the difference and that person could live or die, so that's the reason. Councilman Kennedy states if no officer is on duty, it's not running. Councilman Cauthorne feels it's overkill leaving police cars running while not in use and it also wears the car.

Clerk repeats the motion for the mayor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - No

Mullins - No

Powers - No

The motion does not pass.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

No one present

TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Carter states that the boundary adjustment went before the Board of Supervisors and was tabled until next month. The demolition at the old bank building site is complete and the paperwork is being worked on to be reimbursed for that demolition. There is a possibility we may be in the position to where we need to apply for a loan to pay for at least a portion of the stabilization and the retaining wall until we get reimbursed by VDEM, that way don't completely drain the bank account. She states she is also looking at other options and will get back to them. Mrs. Carter states that DMV stops are getting ready to go in to affect and that does not pertain to people who have an active payment arrangement. She states if you have an active account and you are making your payments, this does not apply to you and anyone can come in and set that up as well as a preventative but the DMV stops the license and being able to get a sticker from the DMV.

We did get approved for the 2000.00 from VRSA and we are looking at cherry picker lifts but in the mean time Appalachia is letting us borrow their truck to help us get our Christmas lights up. We also purchased our tractor and it is here and he's excited to have that and be able to utilize that to make it a little easier for him. We are also going to be donated a large Christmas tree from Joe and Jannett Reynolds. She says we have also talked with the historical society and

made sure we can put tree out there so everyone can see it as they drive by in town. We would love to have a Christmas tree lighting the weekend before the parade and that would be the weekend of the 6th, if that would please council. Also, if any of you are out in Wise please visit the library and check out the Charles W. Harris Gallery, they have a display of the work of women art show and Miracle has several pieces out there. Also, the VDOT resolution is on your packets that we discussed last month.

Mr. Kevin Dotson asks if anyone has talked to VDOT about doing a traffic study? Mrs. Carter states she talked to them when we first mentioned it but she states they never got back to her. Mr. Dotson states he thinks they have someone that does them. He states as far as speed limit within town limits, provided we have some traffic we can adjust that by ordinance. And then as far as anything outside town limits would require the state to adjust that internally.

Councilman Cauthorne asks Mrs. Carter if personal property taxes have gone out? Mrs. Carter states the conversion date is December 19th, so they should be out by the 22nd and not be due until Jan. 31, 2026.

EDA

Councilwoman Mullins states she got in touch with the lady on Sunday and met with her about donating a washer and dryer but doesn't know if they work. She's also donating a refrigerator that works. We will pick it up and take it to the Lloyd house. We've got our bills paid but the bank account is depleting quickly. We have a little over 100.00 dollars in the account.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Randy Carter states they didn't get to meet and will meet next week.

Councilman Cauthorne asks if they are still discussing the trailers on main street?

Councilwoman Kennedy states not trailers so much but mobile housing, RV's, tiny homes, etc. something that could be moved in the event of a flood but no we're not discussing it at this point because we were waiting on Mr. Dotson to check on the ordinance and the way it stands now they can do anything they want, we don't have anything that's enforceable.

OLD BUSINESS

AUDIT UPDATES

Mrs. Carter states that she has been in contact with David Cox throughout the month and he has finally given us some set dates that he says they will not change. He says the 2023 pre-audit will be completed no later than Dec 5th, the 2024 pre-audit will be completed by Christmas and 2025 will be completed by mid January.

GRANT UPDATE

Councilwoman Kennedy states Brittany already said we got the 2000.00 approved from VERSA. The VDEM grant we are still waiting on FEMA but with the government shutdown that put us behind, it is with EHP which is the historic portion and they said there would be no problem with getting them to sign off on that. The DEQ grants for the demolition, the demo is complete and we are in the process of filing for reimbursement on those. The ARC grant did approve to pay Miracle in Abby's absence. We have applied for the first portion for the reimbursement on that and has not come back yet. Chief Wilcox talked about his grant so we are just waiting on the reimbursement on that. The monument grant, we have not had a lot of luck finding a contractor for that, we did reach out to two today to try to get a contractor to build the amphitheater and the artists are looking at a kit that we just put together. Councilman Powers asks if there's a kit available that large enough. Councilwoman Kennedy states, they are. She states we have gotten the money for the Ratliff building. The AMLER is dependent on the audits. Councilwoman Kennedy states she hopes Cecil Roberts comes to the unveiling and Shawn Brock.

SPEED LIMIT

Mr. Dotson states he doesn't think we need a resolution but it may be helpful. He just thinks we need to get in touch with VDOT and do traffic study. We need that done and then a public hearing and ordinance for anything inside town limits but from his understanding there was a portion outside town limits that we were asking to be adjusted, is that correct? Councilwoman Kennedy states no. Mr. Dotson says ok that if it's all in town limits then we just need a traffic study of the area that we are adjusting.

Councilwoman Kennedy makes a motion to request the traffic study from VDOT.

Mr. Dotson states then we just do the public notice and ordinance just like any other.

Councilman Cauthorne seconds adding that we are going to pass a resolution as well.

Councilwoman Kennedy states if we don't need it she doesn't see the point in a resolution.

Councilman Cauthorne states it's extra support and he likes the way it's worded. Mr. Dotson states it don't hurt.

Councilman Cauthorne asks the mayor to read the resolution. The mayor reads it.

Councilwoman Kennedy wants to make a friendly amendment to that resolution, and let's provide a number to our resolution and make it, 2025 1118-1.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

ZONING UPDATE

Mr. Dotson states he talked with Mr. Baker and Susan Wood, the Clintwood town attorney who recently updated their zoning ordinance for them. Mr. Dotson said they both told him it's a nightmare. Susan told Kevin she spent roughly a year routinely meeting with the planning

commission which required a substantial amount of work on her part as well as the planning commission, he states and given Clintwood's size larger than Pound. She gave him a rough estimate amount of 3000.00 to 6000.00. He states you have to first adopt a zoning ordinance which requires extensive work. Mr. Dotson states we would have to redo and ordinance because the latest one he's seen other than the 2005 change regarding flood plain is 1985, so we would have to do a whole new one. So, in addition to grafting and creating a new ordinance, we would have to install a new zoning board of appeals. Mr. Dotson states part of the reason he was cautioned against advising to do this is this creates the potential for citizens being mad the government is telling them what they can and cannot do with their property. So, repealing and amending the ordinance and getting zoning board of appeals installed which would be the easiest part of that and having a public hearing to adopt the ordinance. Mr. Dotson states the question that is most pertinent whether the town wants to do this or not, is, what kind of ordinance do they want in place and how does that serve the interest of Pound and the citizens and is it worth the cost to do so and continue routinely updating that board making sure there's appointments on it, essentially what's the purpose, what's the governmental purpose.

Councilwoman Kennedy asks what's the drawback if we don't have one. Mr. Dotson states legally there's nothing to enforce, somebody could open up something commercial in a residential area.

Councilwoman Kennedy makes a motion to table the zoning update and do more research. Councilman Cauthorne seconds.

Motion passes

CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Mayor states that it's come to his attention that there's a Grand Marshal and asks if there's a nomination. Councilman Hall nominates Bo McArthur. Councilwoman Kennedy states he has been the Grand Marshal before. Councilman Hall asks if Bo McArthur can again. Councilwoman Kennedy states she thinks there's other people that would be just as deserving. Councilwoman Kennedy states she would nominate Lucas Shortt. Councilman Cauthorne seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - No

Mullins - No

Powers - Yes

Councilman Cauthorne asks the town manager if she's paid salary or hourly. Mr. Carter states salary. Councilman Cauthorne makes a motion to compensate or manager at 20.00 per hour for the time she puts in towards the Christmas parade. Councilman Hall seconds. Councilwoman Kennedy states she doesn't know if it will do her any good to say anything but this is a function that should have been taken care of by the Mayor and Brittany agreed to take it on when John indicated he wouldn't be able to do it. Councilman Cauthorne and now we are compensating the manager to do it. Councilwoman Kennedy states she gets that but if the mayor took that

responsibility on, that's part of his duty and we wouldn't have to compensate a manager. Councilwoman Kennedy states she doesn't know how Brittany would distinguish the time working on the parade versus anything else she's doing because everything co-mingles. It's not clear cut time that she works on specifics. Councilman Cauthorne states he thinks we've had a mingling of the roles of mayor and manager, that's unfortunate in the past and the mayor of the council in an unpaid advisory position and the manager and town employees are a paid, get it done position. Councilwoman Kennedy states to him that he's certainly entitled to his opinion, he states, thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - No

Mullins - No

Powers - Yes

The motion passes.

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES

The mayor asks if there's any more discussion on this matter.

Councilman Cauthorne having more than 30 days to pay, that's good.

OTHER BUSINESS

The mayor asks if we have any other business and states that we have a resolution we haven't talked about. Councilwoman Kennedy states she has loads. She states the first is the resolution for the VDOC correction officers and it's in the packets. Councilwoman Kennedy makes a motion to pass that resolution. She states this is a resolution in support of the correction officers. She goes on to say that the inmate at River North attacked a corrections officer just yesterday and that corrections officer is dead. She states we also had, in May, officers at Wallens Ridge attacked and it's a resolution to stand in support of those correction officers.

The mayor reads the resolution.

Councilman Cauthorne seconds.

Councilwoman Kennedy states that she thinks many times the general public does not realize that the DOC holds open corrections officers positions and the facilities are generally understaffed. She thinks also the general public don't realize that the police out in the public deal with criminals for a short period of time with protection, such as a gun. She goes on to say the corrections officers go into the facilities unarmed with only pepper spray and the hope that another officer in a tower will have their eyes open, should something happen.

The mayor asks if they want to number the solution.

Councilwoman Kennedy states yes, 2025 1118-2.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy -Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

The mayor states the motion passed.

The mayor asks if there's any more other business.

Councilwoman Kennedy states, lots.

Councilwoman Kennedy states since we have use of the high school property and we have a chain up that prevents the general public from driving back into the back portion, she wants to make a motion to provide a key to the rescue squad to be able to access the portion of that property in the event it's needed for medflight. The rescue team was at Maggards Sales and Service on the Nov. 11th situation, only because she rode by and saw it. She feels the high school property is a much better option for medflight to access.

Councilman Cauthorne seconds. He asks if the fire dept has that key. She states they do not and she doesn't have a problem providing it to them either. Councilman Cauthorne wants to add the fire dept to that for them to have key as well. Councilwoman Kennedy states the town police have a key and Bo that works for town has one as well.

No one opposed. The motion passes.

The mayor asks if anything else.

Councilwoman Kennedy states, yes. She states some information that we gained through the Dept of Housing and Community Development call that we had is that there is an enterprise zone. She states, for example, the building that Mr. Tomo has bought, if we were in the enterprise zone, there are incentives through the county to help the property owner getting to pay a lower rate in taxes for so many years. She states that would be an incentive to lure people into this town. She states we are not in the enterprise zone. She states it's been brought up to the county to help get us into the enterprise zone. Councilman Powers asked if Wise has it and Councilwoman Kennedy states she doesn't think they do. Councilman Powers asks if there's one in the county. She states yes. She states there's one at Red Onion, why do we need one at Red Onion? She states Appalachia has one and she feels like that's well deserved. She states they can only have so many acres in that enterprise zone and they can only have 3, so they would have to follow a track to get us into an enterprise zone and if it goes over a certain amount of acres, then you're not in it. Councilwoman Kennedy states she knows it doesn't make a lot of sense but the conversations have started and she's hoping to get something accomplished there. Councilman Cauthorne states one of the former mayors said one time that each time Rachels Haven buys a property, that's one less tax ticket for town due to being non profit. Councilman Cauthorne asks how that would affect Mr. Tomo paying taxes to the town, Councilwoman states, it doesn't. She states the county would probably still access it at 10,000 dollars but we've got a business, we would get money from it otherwise, whereas we have buildings that no one is going into. Councilman Cauthorne asks her if what she's saying means, the property tax would be held at the value it was before it was fixed up but the business tax would not be affected? Councilwoman Kennedy says, right. He says then after like a 15 year

period, property tax would be reassessed? She states she believes it's 10 years. He says it would be then what it's worth? Councilwoman Kennedy says, right.

The mayor asks if we have a motion?

Councilwoman Kennedy states she doesn't know if that's necessary, that it was something she wanted to bring to everyone's attention. Councilman Powers asks who you would approach for an enterprise? Councilwoman Kennedy states the county decides.

Councilwoman Kennedy states the last thing on her list is employee Christmas bonuses. She states and asks Brittany if last year was 500.00 and 200.00 for part time? Brittany states that it was 500.00 for regular employees and 200.00 for intern. Councilwoman Kennedy states we don't really have an intern anymore. Councilwoman Kennedy makes a motion to provide a 500.00 Christmas bonus to our employees. Councilwoman Mullins seconds. Councilman Cauthorne asks if we have any part time employees. Brittany states Miracle was considered part time. Councilwoman Kennedy states everybody is part time. Brittany states that everyone here is considered part time except Bo. Councilman Cauthorne asks to prorate the hours they actually work at the town hall. Councilwoman Kennedy and Mullins say no. Councilwoman Kennedy states that even the part time people are working more than part time hours.

Councilman Cauthorne states again that if he were to go on the street and ask the people, should we give bonuses to the workers at town hall, the person on the street would respond, my costs are up, I don't want to give my money towards that and so he thinks by him representing the people in Pound, I don't think they would want that. Councilman Cauthorne states they used to give a 100.00 gift certificate to IGA and that meant the money stayed in the town.

The motion passes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - No

Hall - Yes

Kennedy - Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

None opposed, Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED ON THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2025.

John Cauthorne
JOHN CAUTHORNE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Courtney Meade
COURTNEY MEADE, CLERK