



SOUTH HILL TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Hill Town Council was held on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the South Hill Town Hall located at 211 South Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, Virginia 23970.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Honorable Mayor Dean Marion called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. INVOCATION

Mayor Marion rendered the invocation.

3. ROLL CALL

Mayor Marion called upon Anna Cratch to call the roll, which was as follows:

A. Council Members

Glenn C. Allen
Lisa V. Jordan
G. Ben Taylor

M. B. "Millie" Bracey
Delores B. Luster

Lillie Feggins-Boone
C. Leroy Sasser

Councilman W.M. "Mike" Moody was not present at the meeting.

B. Staff in Attendance

Stuart Bowen, Police Chief
Anna Cratch, Town Clerk
Carol Hutchinson, HR Manager

Kim Callis, Town Manager
Sheila Cutrell, Dir. of Finance and Admin.
Brent Morris, Business Devt. Manager

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 10, 2020

A motion was made by Councilman Allen, second by Councilwoman Jordan, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 10, 2020 as submitted by Anna Cratch. Motion carried unanimously.

5. SERVICE AWARDS

Robert Thompson, Fleet Maintenance was recognized for 5 years of service, effective March 9.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Sheila Cutrell – Proposed Ordinance Authorizing Participation in the VACO/VML Investment Pool

Sheila Cutrell informed Council a Public Hearing has been called for comments regarding a proposed ordinance to allow participation in the VACO/VML Investment Pool for the purpose of investing in accordance with Section 2.2-4501 et seq. and 15.2-1300 of the Virginia Code.

Ms. Cutrell opened the Public Hearing. In answer to a question from Gavin Honeycutt who stated he was not able to make it to last month’s meeting, Ms. Cutrell commented the Town is initially looking at investing \$15,000,000. Mr. Honeycutt stated he thinks it is an opportunity now to invest that money back in our community. He went on to say that money has been acquired by taxpayer dollars. Our infrastructure is poor, our roads are poor in our Town, and we need to invest in our businesses. Small town business is steadily dying in America. He asked why we are going to invest this money when we have ample opportunity to reinvest it in our community. He mentioned Chaptico Road among a list of roads that are poor and need to be fixed. He mentioned it is time to use the word eminent domain on some of the dilapidated buildings around Town. They could be fixed up and offered with an incentive to small businesses that want to come back to this community. He also said the children in South Hill have nothing to do. Some of that money could be invested back in our community for our children who are our future. He commented the Town has been good stewards of our money, but he is totally opposed to this as a citizen.

Shep Moss congratulated Council on being good stewards and commented we are probably one of the richest towns in Virginia. Mr. Moss stated he is not opposed to making an investment but he would like Council to consider doing a split investment between the VACO/VML program and back in our community. He mentioned we could invest in business incentives and our façade program and reinvest in our infrastructure and downtown properties. He commented he agrees with the statement made by Councilman Taylor last month that this could be a gain of a couple hundred thousand for our community; however, if we reinvest back in our community, Mr. Moss stated the gains would outweigh the financial gains alone.

Ms. Cutrell closed the Public Hearing. **A motion was made by Councilman Taylor, second by Councilman Sasser,** to adopt the proposed Ordinance to Authorize Participation by the Town of South Hill in the VACO/VML Virginia Investment Pool for the purpose of investing in accordance with Section 2.2-4501 et seq. and 15.2-1300 of the Virginia Code. A **roll-call vote** was requested and voiced as follows:

Councilman Allen-Aye	Councilwoman Bracey-Aye
Councilwoman Feggins-Boone-No	Councilwoman Jordan-Aye
Councilwoman Luster-No	Councilman Moody-Absent
Councilman Sasser-Aye	Councilman Taylor-Aye.

The ayes had it with a vote of five to two with one absence; motion carried.

7. CODE COMPLIANCE REPORT

A. Monthly Report

Kim Callis presented the report of activity for February 2020 as follows:

Inspections Completed	-	41
Permits Issued	-	19

Fees Collected	-	\$	3,363.37
UEZ Exemption	-	\$	0
Rehab Exemption	-	\$	0
General Exemption	-	\$	0
Work Value	-	\$	657,636.00

New businesses for February include:

- 313 Franklin Street, LLC, 313 Franklin Street (restaurant)
- Busy Bee Southern Deli, 1320 W. Danville Street (restaurant)
- Southside Pawn, 1391 W. Danville Street (pawnbroker)
- H2O Pro Pressure Washing, 983 Parkview Drive (pressure washing)
- Knot Therapy, LLC, 113 N. Brunswick Avenue (massage therapy)
- B&B Carrier, 921 Pace Drive (non-emergency transportation)
- Berry's Barber Shop, 112 N. Mecklenburg Avenue (barbershop)

A motion was made by Councilman Allen, second by Councilwoman Luster, to approve the report of the Code Compliance Official for February 2020 as submitted by David Hash. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Dilapidated Properties

David Hash submitted and Kim Callis presented the report on the status of the following 24 dilapidated properties:

1. 211 East Atlantic Street – Paul Duffer is painting windows and scraping paint; was to be completed by December 30, 2019; summons obtained for March 2; court set deadline of August 2 to complete
2. 400 Goodes Ferry Road – received plan of action to start January; court set deadline of August 2 to show significant progress
3. 402 Goodes Ferry Road – received plan of action to start April 1
4. 210 Park Lane – Jon Taylor is scraping and painting; rot being repaired and painting on front porch; termite treatment done, roof patched, front porch floor under repair and back porch structure repaired; to be completed by August 31; rot replacement and paintwork progressing as of February 4
5. 923 West Atlantic Street – new roof completed October 16, 2019; siding being installed; work continuing as of February 25
6. 110 Third Street – grass in front of house cut October 29, 2019; Mr. Allen working on occupied properties first; lot to be cleaned and then proceed with work at 706 Brooke Avenue and 109 E. Third Street; work is progressing as of February 25
7. 315 West Danville Street – negotiations ongoing for sale of property with closing date of March 8; prospective new owner corresponded with Code Office for insight on what needs to be done
8. 906 Plank Road – second notice of violation sent September 17, 2019; owner trying to sell to Joyner; 40% clean; to clean up by November 30, 2019; letter sent December 3, 2019 stating if property not clean by December 18, 2019, Town will clean at owner's cost; 50% clean as of January 2; notice of correction sent to Joyner on January 28; no response as of February 25
9. 132 Bedford Street – removed as of January 21; viable garage left on property as requested of property owner; first notice of correction on garage sent January 15; April 18 deadline to complete work

10. 212 North Mecklenburg Avenue – first correction notice sent October 2, 2019; Ms. Marron seeking buyer and talking with contractors; negotiations ongoing for sale of property as of February 25; also receiving quotes from salvage companies
11. 128 South Mecklenburg Avenue – work complete as of February 25
12. 109 East Third Street – carport and roof repair to start after lot clean up at 110 E. Third Street
13. 201 East Atlantic Street – correction notice sent October 22, 2019 for paint, trim, and overgrown bushes; bushes trimmed; spring completion on painting
14. 507 Moseley Lane – notice sent November 20, 2019 for yard cleanup; no response as of January 30; second notice sent February 26
15. 117 Clay Street – notice sent November 26, 2019 for yard cleanup; no response as of January 30; second notice sent February 5
16. 706 Brooke Avenue – carport and front porch need repair; Mr. Allen has work scheduled after lot clean up at 110 E. Third Street
17. 122 Clay Street – correction notice sent December 17, 2019; second notice to be sent February 5
18. 112 Center Lane – correction notice sent January 21; projected completion date August 31
19. 930 W. Danville Street – correction notice sent January 28; 30 days to respond; owner corresponding with attorney regarding ownership issues and options; auction by VA United Country Realty scheduled for mid-March
20. 932 W. Danville Street – correction notice sent January 28; 30 days to respond; owner’s daughter is checking options with realtor
21. 211 Bryan Street – first letter unclaimed; second letter sent February 26
22. 118 South Lunenburg Avenue – as of February 25, owner working with business development to obtain renter and prorate rent for repairs
23. 1179 Country Lane – property to be listed for sale; Sherwood Baskerville Realty to handle sale and cleanup; house to be vacated March 2020
24. 208 Pennington Street – repair porch and replace rotted fascia boards and rot on back porch; project completion date of April 19

This agenda item was for informational purposes only; therefore, no Council action was taken.

C. Code Inspector Activity Report

Jamie Velvin submitted the Code Inspector Activity Report for February 2020 as follows:

- Hand-delivered inoperative vehicle letter to 214 Maynard Lane
- Checked car complaint at 607 Franklin Street
- Checked trash complaint on lots behind Burger King and Wendy’s
- Met with Mr. Allen in reference to a possible grant for his properties on Third Street and Brooke Avenue
- Read and studied FOG and grease trap materials from Wayne Hudson
- Checked car and trash complaint at 308 West High Street
- Met with Barry Connell in reference to complaint
- Met with Sam Allen in reference to cleaning the lot around 110 East Third Street
- Performed field inspections of all properties on Item B Agenda list; three properties removed from list with four additions
- Met with Mr. Richey in reference to his property at 208 Pennington Street (paint and repair house)

- Met with Jimmy Martin in reference to the completed work at 128 South Mecklenburg Avenue; property to be removed from the dilapidated property list
- Contacted Mrs. Avent in reference to her property at 118 South Lunenburg Avenue (repair and paint building)
- Contacted Sherwood Baskerville in reference to the property at 1179 Country Lane (clean up lot and repair or remove house)
- Contacted Mrs. Jefferson in reference to her property at 932 West Danville Street (clean up lot and repair or remove house)
- Contacted Mrs. Taylor in reference to her property at 930 West Danville Street (clean up lot and remove or repair house)
- Conducted pickups of temporary off-premise advertisement signs
- Investigated trash complaint on East Ferrell Street
- Twelve inoperative vehicle letters sent out

This agenda item was for informational purposes only; therefore, no Council action was taken.

8. POLICE REPORT

A. Monthly Report

Chief Bowen presented the police report for February. Chief Bowen informed Council there were 214 activity incidents, 17 reportable criminal offenses, 701 calls for service, and \$425 property recovered in February. Other miscellaneous included 2 court overtime hours, 24 training hours, 4 warrants issued, and 1 inoperative vehicle tagged.

He presented the following administrative news:

- Lieutenant Scott Zincone, Sergeant Mike Peebles, and Officers Andrew Towery and Ryan Mills attended four hours each “Arrest, Search and Seizure: Legal Issues Impacting Every Law Enforcement Officer” in Danville.
- Sergeant Mike Watters instructed Firearms for Basic LE #95 at the training academy.
- Corporals Tony Solomon and Ethan Atkinson instructed Taser at the Halifax Sheriff’s Office.
- Captain Shane Johnson attended an eight-hour VALEAC quarterly meeting in Virginia Beach.
- David Nichols and Michael Ritchie were sworn in as Auxiliary Officers.
- All Precious Metals Dealers operating in the Town of South Hill have completed an updated application and fingerprints.
- Our new records management system (RMS) went live February 18, 2020. All department employees are complying and learning to operate the new system. In answer to a question from Councilwoman Luster, Chief Bowen commented the new system allows our officers to run driver’s licenses and tags and create their reports using their computers in their vehicles instead of having to return to the station.

A motion was made by Councilman Sasser, second by Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, to approve the report of the Police Department for February 2020 as submitted by Donna Burch. Motion carried unanimously.

B. EMT-B Class Update for Southside Rescue Squad (SSRS)

Another student has successfully passed all practical testing and the written registry exam. She is now a Nationally Registered EMT-B.

Students are continuing to test and retest as needed with monitoring of each continuing.

The student who declined to continue with the retesting process as stated in last month's report has reimbursed the Town for the full amount of \$585.00 as stated in her contract.

This agenda item was for informational purposes only; therefore, no Council action was taken.

9. FINANCE REPORT

A. Monthly Financial Report

Sheila Cutrell presented the financial report for month ended February 29, 2020 as follows:

General Fund	-	\$18,649,853.37	Total CD Investment Accounts	-	\$2,251,772.57
Water and Sewer Fund	-	3,598,908.05	Total Police Dept. Savings	-	\$ 27,597.35
Cemetery Fund	-	9,963.01	Total Taxes Due Thru 02/29/20	-	\$ 772,095.36
Food Hub	-	(14,169.82)	(Real Estate and Personal Property, all years)		
Total in Checking	-	\$22,244,554.61			

A motion was made by Councilman Taylor, second by Councilwoman Luster, to approve the financial report for month ended February 29, 2020 as submitted by Sheila Cutrell. Motion carried unanimously.

10. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPORT

A. Monthly Update

Brent Morris presented the business development report for February 2020 as follows:

- Mailed 29 information packets to potential industries
- Attended Go Virginia meeting in South Boston
- Working with Community Cleanup Committee on the upcoming Cleanup Day on April 18
- Attended a local Go Virginia Region 3 meeting to discuss a remote workspace
- Attended a Go Work meeting at Lake County Advanced Knowledge Center to discuss how a remote workspace can collaborate with Southside Virginia Community College
- Met with Mecklenburg County Tourism and Economic Development Directors to begin a marketing campaign that would recruit back office jobs
- Mr. Morris reported he began working with Park View High School's Innovation Team as they are kicking off a program that would give students the opportunity to participate in some form of work-based learning while in high school. These opportunities would include job shadowing, internships, externships, mentorships, service learning, and potential apprenticeships. This is a great way for students to learn more about various careers as well as opportunities to develop real-world skills.

- The South Hill Chamber of Commerce Board approved a partnership with EverWondr, a marketing firm that will be promoting our events throughout North Carolina and Virginia. In addition, a trip planner will be built so that people not from the area can plan day or weekend trips. This will feature our restaurants, shops, attractions, and events.

This agenda item was for informational purposes only; therefore, no Council action was taken.

11. CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

A. Floyd Edmonds, Southside Rescue Squad, Inc. (SSRS)

1) 2019 Annual Rescue Squad Report

On behalf of the Southside Rescue Squad, Inc., Floyd Edmonds presented Council with the SSRS's 2019 Annual Report. Mr. Edmonds reported they answered 2,730 calls, transported 2,002 patients, and 64 people were treated and released. Of the 2,002, 1,411 were BLS, 494 were ALS, and 33 were ALS2. Compared to 2016, the number of calls has increased over 650 in three years. The SSRS has 30 volunteers, 10 junior members, and 7 career staff employees. An employee fills in at nights to help get two trucks out. The building renovation is complete. They are in the process of spec'ing a new ambulance (up to \$255,000). They are also in the process of applying for a grant to get a Polaris side-by-side UTV that will seat four for standby at events and off-road rescue. An EMS skid will be placed in the back of it to allow transport of a patient on a backboard or stretcher. The SSRS will probably hold an Open House and cookout in July in acknowledgement of 60 years.

In answer to a couple of questions from Mayor Marion, Floyd Edmonds commented the junior program is doing well. The automatic stretcher lifts on the trucks are also working well. Mr. Edmonds expressed the SSRS's gratitude for the support of the Town and community.

2) Annual Bucket Drive on May 23 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Edmonds requested permission to hold their Annual Bucket Drive on May 23 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, second by Councilwoman Luster, to authorize the Southside Rescue Squad to hold their Annual Bucket Drive on May 23 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in coordination with the Police Department. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Shep Moss – Centennial Park Reservations

Shep Moss informed Council that about ten days ago, a board member of the Shops of South Hill contacted him regarding a phone call from Microsoft about holding a family event at our parks. The Shops were approached about preparing and serving food to around 350 people. Before Mr. Moss contacted his board, he said he received another phone call that Microsoft was told that they were not allowed to rent the park for that type of event, which they then moved to Clarksville. Mr. Moss asked Council how did this happen, who is held accountable, and what is being done to prevent a similar happening moving forward. He commented this is a world of a missed opportunity for our community and local businesses to be able to go up and shake the hand of Microsoft. As the Town Manager was on

vacation, Mr. Moss reached out to the Business Development Manager and the Mayor, both of whom were unaware.

Kim Callis reported that when he returned from vacation, Brent Morris was in his office first thing and mentioned it to him. As part of the Town's policy for the amphitheater, the lower park, and the Centennial Park upper field, the reservation form states "no vehicles are allowed" primarily for safety; there was a strict interpretation of that. Microsoft was asked if the decision could wait a couple of days until the return of Mr. Callis and the answer was no; the decision had to be made to go forward so they did. Mr. Callis called the lady who made the request and apologized for the misunderstanding. Vehicles are allowed in the park with Town approval if someone is going to bring a food truck, fire truck, or for temporary loading/unloading purposes. We don't want several vehicles coming in and out of there endangering children. The lady said she understood, commented South Hill has been good to her and her husband (kettle corn business), and assured Mr. Callis they would be back in touch at the next opportunity. Mr. Callis stated if something like this comes up again, staff knows what to do.

In answer to a question from Mr. Moss about the Cruise-In/Car Show in August, Mr. Callis stated the Town is affiliated with that event just like last year. The car show is closely monitored and people are not coming and going at random. Heavy rain would be the only issue with holding that event at the park.

C. Gavin Honeycutt – Concerns

Gavin Honeycutt commented that as a school board member, he praises and thanks any Microsoft employee he sees. Mr. Honeycutt shared that Microsoft handed the school board a check for \$165,000,000, and the citizens of our community should be grateful.

Mr. Honeycutt presented his concerns to Council as attached (submitted by him and included at his request).

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

13. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Kim Callis submitted the following report for February 2020:

A. Facilities Reservation Calendar

Kim Callis presented Council with a calendar of activities and reservations at Centennial Park, Parker Park, the South Hill Exchange, and other Town facilities. He noted the calendar changes frequently as new reservations are made.

Restrooms at the parks will be reopened in mid-March.

The next major community event will be the Mecklenburg County Cancer Association fundraiser with several bands performing at the South Hill Exchange on March 14.

This agenda item was for informational purposes only; therefore, no Council action was taken.

B. Municipal Services Projects

Mr. Callis reported all water service customers along Highway 47 have been connected to the new water line. The old water line has been taken out of service.

We are working with Mecklenburg County, the Roanoke River Service Authority (RRSA), and Microsoft contractors to provide temporary water service to the Microsoft construction site on Prison Road on the south side of Highway 58. The RRSA will provide permanent water and tank farm service when construction is completed. The RRSA already serves the Microsoft location on the north side of Highway 58.

Youth softball and baseball activities are underway at Parker Park. Around 100 girls and 150 boys are currently registered to participate. Crews are working hard to get all the fields ready for practice and play. The Park View Middle School baseball team will open its season at Parker Park on March 18. We will need to adjust the fields for them because they play 50' mounds and 80' bases versus 60/90.

In helping them meet the conditions of their grant, we are working with the Rotary Club to install new benches on concrete pads at the Centennial Park Upper Field playground.

With the recent heavy rains, the South Hill Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant set a record by treating over 4.2 million gallons from La Crosse and Brodnax during February.

During the February 20 snow event, crews worked clearing streets until midnight and used over 30 tons of salt.

A Highway 58 Arterial Study Meeting was held several months ago. The project to improve everything from Country Lane to the Town limits was anywhere from \$17,000,000 to \$35,000,000. We have to apply to Smart Scale funding for assistance. VDOT is recommending we look at and submit an application for Country Lane and the east end entrance to Town. Those projects are about \$11,200,000 and probably won't be funded for three to four years. There is no impact on the upcoming budget.

Adams Paving should have their asphalt plants back up and running soon, and we hope to get them here sometime in April or May to do the asphalt overlay (\$441,000). We also sent out a second RFP to try to include some additional streets. Those bids will be opened March 12.

This agenda item was for informational purposes only; therefore, no Council action was taken.

C. Cleanup Efforts

The South Hill Revitalization Committee is again seeking volunteers to participate in a town wide cleanup effort on Saturday, April 18. Volunteers will meet at Centennial Park to be assigned specific areas to pick up trash and debris. More details will be coming soon. Last year's cleanup days were tremendously successful and fun.

While nothing is definite at this point, Jamie Velvin is having conversations with Meherrin Regional Jail personnel on the possibility of using inmates from time to time to pick up trash along roadsides at no cost to the Town. Our police department is involved so that public safety matters are addressed.

This agenda item was for informational purposes only; therefore, no Council action was taken.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

A. Monthly Personnel Report

Carol Hutchinson presented the following administrative news for February 2020:

- The updated Employee Handbook Session was held at the Town Hall on February 27, 2020 for those that were unable to attend the January sessions. Missy York, a partner with the Harman, Claytor, Corrigan and Wellman law firm, facilitated the meeting.
- Eric Hudson received his Virginia WaterWorks operation Class E License authorized by Virginia DEQ.
- Carl (CJ) Dean has been hired as the Director of Municipal Services and will begin April 6, 2020.

This agenda item was for informational purposes only; therefore, no Council action was taken.

15. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

16. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business matters before the South Hill Town Council, Mayor Marion adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Anna B. Cratch.

Signed:

Dean Marion, Mayor

Attest:

Anna B. Cratch, Town Clerk

Good Evening Mayor Marion, Council and Town Administration. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to come and speak with you this evening. For the record my name is Gavin Lee Honeycutt, I am the owner and operator of Gavin's House of Flowers and Gifts and have done so for the past 22 years. Gavin's House of Flowers is a unique floral and gift shop that has served South Hill, Southside Virginia and Northern NC and beyond. I currently serve on the Mecklenburg County School board as chairman and in November of 2019 I was appointed by the Virginia School Boards Association to serve as Chairman of the Southern Region of Virginia which consists of 13 school divisions. I reside at 601 Raleigh Avenue South Hill Va. and take great pride in the town that I live in and also run a business. For the last couple of years attending the council meetings when having the opportunity I have watched as many of you sit idle and complacent about real situations that have plagued our town employees and our town. I will tell you it is wrong to take everything at face value and that one person is the tell all end all. Listening to one side of the story is also harmful to any situation that may arise. There, in my opinion are 3 sides to every story, yours, mine and the truth. I have watched in the past year 2 key employees with tenure here in the town be brushed to the side like yesterdays newspaper. These persons played vital roles in our town administration and did so with the utmost respect of the community of which they served. After this took place then came "GAG ORDERS" to our council and town employees, then a failed attempt by Councilman Taylor to censure our Mayor, which in my opinion was scripted and not very well thought out. It was more obvious when he did not receive the votes to make it happen. Serving in my capacity as Chairman of the VSBA southern region I have had an opportunity to speak with local

localities. I have spoken with 5 different mayors in surrounding towns and they assure me that they are very much in touch with their communities and also employees that are employed by their towns. This about an open line of communication and trust that they have built with their employees they tell me, not trying to shut them down. They tell me that this shows the employees respect, to listen to their concerns when they have them, bring them back to council and discuss issues at hand. To say that the Mayor of a town cannot talk or have discussions with the employees that work for the town is ludicrous. Again, I ask myself what does the community of which I own a business and live trying to be so secretive? Why are some of the town council members sitting so idle and not asking hard questions? I can assure you that I take my elected role on the school board very seriously and also tell you that I do not take things at face value. If I did so I would not be doing my do diligence in serving district 5 in my capacity as a school board member. For this, and with the support of my partner, family, friends and community and 105 signatures, pages full I would like to announce that I am running for a seat on the town council of South Hill. I had an opportunity to speak with lots of different individuals and I can assure each one of you sitting on this council tonight that they have been watching, listening and very much ready for change in this community. No more secrets, behind closed door meetings, no more gag orders but the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Getting in front of the public and asking our town administration some very hard and candid questions. Doing more than just coming to a meeting once a month, voting and going home. Again, If I had done this type of job on the school board I don't thing that I would hold the position of chairman after 4 short years on the school board. It's about

respect, listening to people, going out to the local business owners to see how they are doing, what do you need, what can I do as a council member to help you and the small business community succeed in South Hill. What can the council do as a whole to help better prepare prospective business owners to want to come to our community. It's not taking 15 million dollars and investing it, it's about our overall appearance as a town, our infrastructure, it's about investing in our children of the community of which this council serves. I have heard for the last 2 years now 24 million in the bank, 24 million in the bank. I think this is great we have been good stewards of holding tight to our money. Now is the time to invest not into a bank but back in the town of which this money came from, the tax payers of South Hill. It's no longer about talking to people about abandoned store fronts falling down buildings and homes but it's about walking the talk. Inanimate domain on these properties, for too long we have been talking about this now is the time for firm action. Now is the time to clean up this town, get these buildings fixed up and offered to persons wanting to come in an open a business for a cheaper rent for the first couple of years, an incentive to want to do business here. We have an extra 15 million to invest I say invest it back in our town. I want to see this town cleaned up and vibrant again. In the past month I know of 3 businesses that have closed in downtown and another on the way out. What kind of incentives have we as a town gone to them to see what we can do to help out in this critical time. I would have to say nothing. Small business America is slowing dying out, I have seen changes in my business over the past 22 years and have had to adjust to the change. Not everyone has the same opportunity, I as a councilman would love help and try and change that. Yes, I know I cannot do this alone that it

does take a majority but working together with real change we can make this happen. I have seen some of the same empty store fronts and dilapidated buildings for 22 years, driving through our community. I along with I know of 105 different persons are tired of seeing this. They are ready for our town to come alive and look whole again. Yes we have made improvements in our lighting and sidewalks but its much more than that. It's also about clean up, painting buildings making them presentable again. I know that this is not going to happen over night and we have an election coming up on May 5. I pray that I am given an opportunity to prove my good works and accomplishments on the school board come into action as a councilman on the town council of South Hill. This community has been a blessing to my family and I for the majority of my life, has it always been a bed of roses no, have I had to turn the cheek, yes maybe a couple of times you might say, but I am not willing to let a small majority of individuals ruin what this community has always meant to me that's why at its critical that there are changes on this council. ↓ Honeycutt address concluded. Before I finish, I would also like to say that I very much support H. Shep Moss that is also running for council. I have seen him in action in many different rolls within the town of South Hill. I know him to be compassionate about everything that he is involved in and also very truthful and upfront about every situation that he encounters. You know where you stand with him at all times as this I respect in an individual, you don't ever have to guess what he is thinking he is upfront and honest. His work in helping create the Shops of South Hill with over 50 plus members is a true testament of what he stands for as a businessman in our community. It is without a doubt that Shep along with myself will receive an overwhelming support on

election day and we look forward to making South Hill TRANSPARENT AGAIN.

Respectfully

Gavin L Honeycutt