

Council Minutes
Special Called Meeting
May 20, 2026 - 4:30 p.m. - 403 Second St. NE, Coeburn, VA

Attendees:

Upon roll call, all members of council were present: Jimmy Williams - Town Manager, and Cathy Sharpe - Clerk/Treasurer, were also present. William Sturgill - Town Attorney, was absent.

Call to Order:

Mayor Deventae Mooney called the meeting to order. Mr. Joe Still gave the invocation. The group remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Mooney.

Public Expression:

There was no Public Expression. Public Expression was closed

Response to Public Expression:

There was no Response to Public Expression.

Approval of the Agenda:

Ms. Rose Mary Holbrook made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Sharon Still seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

New Business:

- A. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget - Mr. Williams and Ms. Sharpe came across some mistakes in the personnel section of the budget. Mr. Williams has made corrections and adjustments to offset the changes which did not affect the overall budget.

Mayor Mooney informed Council that he had met with Police Chief Travis Mullins to discuss the hazardous duty information. The study was done, but no action was taken in the budget for that program. Chief Mullins went on to explain the program in more detail to Council. If nothing is done and the study has to be done over, it will need to be paid for again. The Coeburn Police Department is the only department in the area that does not participate LEOS. In the past the cost has been a concern. There are two options, 1.7, which is standard, and 1.85. This allows the officers to retire at an earlier age. The benefit of this would include making the department on par with other departments and helping with recruitment and retention rates. Officers retiring at an earlier age will keep younger officers out working in the community and will help address the issues of older officers being injured and needing a longer recovery time. Officers that must work longer accumulate higher salaries and more leave time. The base price for this program is

\$60,000.00. Mr. Mullins pointed out the department has been operating without an office manager and that would cover half the cost. He said he is willing to give up this position to offset the cost.

Chief Mullins also reviewed the arrest data compiled by the state. Coeburn is the third highest in the county as far as call volume and arrest data and pointed out the department does what other departments do with 2-3 times more officers. He informed Council that he appreciates all the work done on the budget and doesn't mean to add additional work but pointed out that the decision is time sensitive. Ms. Still worries about the town taking on additional responsibilities, referring to the past few years when the town struggled with funds. Chief Mullins said he understands Ms. Still's concerns and said he worries there will be retention issues with the department without this, because all the other agencies offer it.

Ms. Holbrook asked if there were any officers ready to retire at this point. Mr. Mullins said there is one officer that could retire now, then later he himself will be eligible, then it would be some time before other officers would be ready. He also stated he would like to retain officers and not have them use the position with the town as a steppingstone to other offers, or to get close to retirement age and leave the town to go to another agency that offers LEOS.

Ms. Holbrook asked if the price would go up or down. Chief Mullins said if it does increase, it would not be dramatically, thinking it would be like cost of living, but he will get more information on that.

Ms. Still asked if that \$60,000.00 would be paid in monthly installments or if it would have to be paid upfront. Mr. Mullins said he sent an email and asked that question but hadn't heard back. He thinks it would be done like how the retirement is paid. Ms. Holbrook asked where the money would come from if the budget is perfectly balanced and Mr. Mooney said it would have to be taken from somewhere else. Mr. Mooney said he worries about the budget increasing, and recognized that other towns have this, but also stated that other towns have more revenue.

While discussing revenue, Mr. Mooney stated the town needs to maximize its revenue and asked what is done to businesses that do not pay their business license fee. Mr. Williams said he asked the Town Attorney to prepare paperwork that will either be mailed or served to the owner. State code says the business can be locked up but doesn't specify penalty if the business is reopened. Mr. Still asked if the town needs to start with Mr. Sturgill and some policy. Mr. Mooney said the town needs to take action on this issue.

Ms. Holbrook asked why there is an across-the-board salary increase, asking if that was done to keep pace with the wage changes and keep it level across the board. Mr. Williams said he is basically following suit from the past and that is how it was done. He said there was a 6-year period with no raises at all. There was a discussion of the 2018 contract with Veolia and the financial issues it caused the town when the contract was broken. While on

the topic of contracts, Chief Mullins said he received confirmation that there will be no early termination fee for leaving SOMA and getting Southern Software.

Ms. Still said according to the code, the town can confiscate business property and sell it to get the money owed for the business license. Mr. Still said when businesses see other businesses not paying their license fee, they don't see the need to get theirs. Mr. Still said that collecting business licenses does need to be pursued more. Mr. Mooney said the administration of this town needs to prove to him that they are doing all they can to collect revenue. He said the policy which enables the collection of revenue needs to be enforced and the budget can be amended to allow the police department request. Mr. Mooney said if the town can require businesses to provide proof of the amount they file on their taxes, that would need to be done. Ms. Holbrook asked what the estimated amount is not being paid on the business license. Ms. Sharpe said she could make a list of the businesses that have not paid for a business license. Mr. Mooney said that would be the first step. Ms. Sharpe said she attended a treasurer's meeting and none of the other towns require the businesses to submit a document to verify the amount they put on their license application. Ms. Still said the code does allow for that.

The group continued to review the rest of the budget and personnel document. Mr. Mooney said the purpose of this meeting is to vote to advertise the budget and the personnel document will be voted on when the budget is voted on.

Sharon Still made a motion to approve the budget as presented to be advertised in The Coalfield Progress. Rose Mary Holbrook seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted as follows:

Carles Collins - Aye
Rose Mary Holbrook - Aye
Deventae Mooney - Aye
Joe Still - Aye
Sharon Still - Aye

Mr. Mooney asked Mr. Williams to have the advertisement in the Tuesday paper.

Mayor Mooney called for a public hearing, which will need to be advertised, to be held prior to June 8, 2026, regular meeting. He also asked for a special called meeting to be held June 15, 2026, at town hall to approve the budget.

Council Comments and Concerns:

Carles Collins - Mr. Collins had no comments or concerns.

Rose Mary Holbrook - Ms. Holbrook appreciates everyone's work on the budget and said it is a daunting task.

Joe Still - Mr. Still had no comments or concerns.

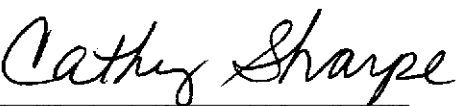
Sharon Still - Ms. Still had no comments or concerns

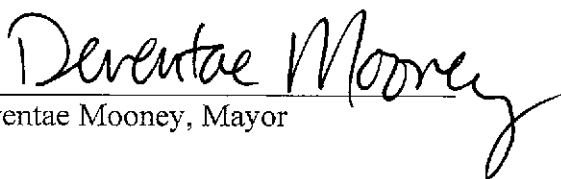
Deventae Mooney - Mr. Mooney had no comments or concerns.

Adjournment:

Mayor Deventae Mooney made a motion to adjourn this meeting. Ms. Rose Mary Holbrook seconded the motion, which resulted in all Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,


Attest: Cathy Sharpe, Clerk


Deventae Mooney, Mayor