

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
March 8, 2016**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

PRESENT

Don Harris, Mayor
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember
Donnie Linkous, Councilmember
Jimmy Jones, Vice Mayor
Lee Riffe, Councilmember
Steve Danko, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Watson, Town Manager
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney
Kim Hernandez, Executive Assistant
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator
James Hampton, Treasurer/Transit Dir.
Greg Quesenberry, Recreation Director
4 Members of Public

ABSENT

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk
Shane Gunter, Police Chief

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Steve Branch, Destiny Outreach Ministries Church led the Invocation. Mayor Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Harris removed the Police Department Update from the agenda.

Vice-Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Councilmember Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Trigg made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

2015 Audit Presentation – Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates

Gordon Jones stated that overall the audit was a clean report with one finding under Government Reporting for segregation of duties.

Scott Wickham handed out an audit presentation and went over the report.

Pg. 2: total revenue 1.45% which was good and from local taxes. Operating expenditures-0.52%, total expenditures -1.23% and fund balance-9.44% which was good growth. He stated that the town was going in the right direction and was in good health.

Pg. 4: chart showed the town had been pretty flat as far as assessments across the board.

Pg. 5: debt summary showed total obligations of around \$7 million, 5,444 population, and \$1,294 debt per capita. He stated that the town was below the state average of \$2,346 which was good. Debt repayment-the town was starting to pay down its debt.

Pg. 6: General Fund Revenues chart showed that local taxes increased and everything else was flat. General Fund Expenditures Chart was pretty flat as well. He stated that Public Works and Public Safety had gone up a little bit due to purchases.

Pg. 7: 46% in local taxes was good, 28% in governmental was normal. Public Works was 25% and Public Safety was 32% which was in line with others.

Pg 8: chart showed that the town was going up which was a good thing. He stated that we were below state average debt per capita.

Pg. 9: Water fund was -1.85% because there was no new water revenue. Expenditures had not grown so it was not too bad but we should keep an eye on it.

Pg. 11: he stated that there was a new standard this year that put a big liability on the books with VRS. He stated that the town overfunded it by \$41,131 (7%) which we would not get back.

Mr. Watson asked if it would be increased in the following year.

Mr. Wickham stated that he hoped we would make it back and that the town was in good shape. He stated that it was only an issue because of the way the deductions were being done but it was not a concern.

Pg. 14: showed the audit findings which there were no significant findings and that overall it was a pretty clean report.

Pg. 17-18: showed minor recommendations.

Mayor Harris thanked them for coming.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recreation Department Update – Greg Quesenberry

Mr. Quesenberry stated that they had started working on the pool this week, draining it and would start painting it soon. He stated that they had ordered their William the Water Drop t-shirts and had been planning out the July 4th events. He stated that this would be the 3rd year of the Summer Camp and that he had talked to Bluefield College's Marketing Class who was working on a survey to get some honest opinions about the Summer Camp. He stated that the Rec Park opened on Monday and that they had games starting tomorrow with 34 games already scheduled in March to play. He stated that he was working on communication with everyone and working together and that they were all were helping each other. He stated that they would like to redo the bathrooms and that Public Works was still working on the fitness trails. He stated that everyone was excited for it and that Public Works was also working on fixing the amphitheater up and that they were using the dirt from downtown to make it more accessible. Sunset at the Square Movies schedule has been made; Farmer's Market would open on May 6th with a corn roast. He stated that he had been working with Donna Meade with the VA Cooperative Staff Extension about a program called "Eat More Move More: which would bring awareness for those who had EBT cards and to promote it more. He stated that he had been working with Sue Carr on the Community Garden and that they had laid it out and staked it. He stated that there would be 20 gardens this year with each garden consisting of 5 hay bales, which would be easier and you would not have to till up the dirt. He stated that it would cost \$80 per garden for the opening year and \$35 thereafter. He stated that they had ordered an irrigation system with a timer that cost \$289 to water so they would not have to water their gardens and that they would also have basic garden tools. He stated that he spoke at the Rotary Club and that they were excited about it and wanted to get involved. He stated that we could get a grant for a minimum of \$2k but that we would not receive it until July 2017. He stated that Donna Meade was also working on another grant Eats Smart which would be available in mid March. He stated that the Community Action Grant would be available in July 2016.

Mayor Harris stated that he was on the ball and thanked him.

Mr. Riffe asked if we would be getting a bigger screen for the movies this year.

Mr. Watson stated the problem was the funding was not there but he would look into it and let council know.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

Special Industry Request, VOTE – Mike Watson

Mr. Watson stated that Mr. Chopra was asking that the Town consider allowing him to have a U-haul business and an office in the M-2 district. He stated that Planning Commission had reviewed the request and recommended the approval of these businesses.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve allowing a U-haul business and an office in the M-2 district. Mr. Linkous seconded the motion. Mayor Harris asked for a Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilmember Riffe:	Yes
Councilmember Linkous:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Abstained
Vice Mayor Jones:	Yes
Councilmember Danko:	Yes

The motion passed 5-0 with 1 abstaining by Roll Call Vote.

Schedule Joint Public Hearing: E-1 School Rezoning, VOTE & Schedule Joint Public Hearing: E-1 Bluefield College Rezoning, VOTE – Mike Watson

Mr. Watson asked that council vote to approve a Joint Public Hearing concerning the E-1 Rezoning of all local schools in the area and also to extend the E-1 Zoning for Bluefield College.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the E-1 School Rezoning for all local schools in the area and extending the E-1 Zoning for Bluefield College. Mr. Danko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

E-Tickets, VOTE

Mr. Watson stated that the E-Tickets Software had been discussed in the Work Session and that he was requesting to take \$26,207 out of prior year reserves to pay for this upfront. He stated that it would save the Town money by doing so.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve spending \$26,207 out of prior year reserves to purchase the E-Tickets software. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilmember Riffe:	Yes
Councilmember Linkous:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Vice Mayor Jones:	Yes
Councilmember Danko:	Yes

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

Time-off Request, VOTE

Mr. Watson stated that staff had been doing an excellent job during the past few months and asked that council approve giving staff an additional day off on Good Friday, March 25th.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the additional day off for Good Friday. Mr. Trigg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Watson stated that he offered the Police Department to save their time and use it later or would pay them for it and if it was overtime, then they would be paid for the overtime.

GHS Wrestling Resolutions, VOTE

Mr. Watson asked that council vote to approve staff to write resolutions to acknowledge the Wrestling Teams accomplishments and to present it to them at the next council meeting.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve staff to write resolutions for the Wrestling Team. Mr. Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Code Book Supplements

Mr. Watson asked council to bring in their code books so that they could be updated with the latest supplement. He stated that it would also be on the website.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Danko had none.

Mr. Jones had none.

Mr. Trigg stated that he had received some complaints about trash on Vencil Street and that it was residents of Crescent View who was doing it.

Mr. Watson stated that he would send staff to pick it up.

Mr. Trigg stated that the Police Department had been doing a great job on the school traffic. He stated that there were holes on the road going to Bob Evans.

Mr. Watson stated that staff had contacted Ollie's and was told that they would be paving their parking lot. He stated that if the Town had to fix the holes that we would bill them for it. He stated that the dip in front of Ryan's was owned by Staples and that staff had talked to them about getting it cleaned up.

Mr. Linkous asked if Staples owned it or was it the developer.

Mr. Watson stated that staff contacted the person who owned the building.

Mr. Linkous asked when Coach Carlock would be there.

Mr. Watson stated that he would find out and let council know.

Mr. Riffe stated that he was looking at the budget and noticed some departments were over and asked if that went against us on the audit.

Mr. Watson stated that what happened was that some departments blew out their line item but some spent less so the overall budget was fine and that it was okay to go over.

Mr. Riffe stated that he was just curious.

Mr. Watson stated that the auditors like to see us ratify the budget in the end.

Mr. Riffe thanked the Town for supporting the basketball league this year. He stated that it allowed them to buy trophies.

Mayor Harris said that he would like for council to look over the handout that was given to me them earlier in the meeting and if they had any questions to ask Mr. Watson that they would probably have another discussion concerning it at the next council meeting.

ATTORNEY REPORT

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Danko made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to *Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711-A-1.7* and Mrs. Hernandez read:

Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

Councilmember Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:21 p.m.

Councilmember Linkous made a motion to enter out of Executive Session. Vice-Mayor Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Councilmember Danko made a motion to adopt the following resolution certifying the Executive Session and Mrs. Hernandez read:

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia has convened an executive meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712-D of The Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia that such session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia hereby certifies that, to the best of each members knowledge, (I) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Town Council.

Adopted this 8th day of March.

Councilmember Linkous seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilmember Riffe:	Yes
Councilmember Linkous:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Vice Mayor Jones:	Yes
Councilmember Danko:	Yes

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

ADJOURN

Mr. Linkous made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk