

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
August 9, 2016**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Watson, Town Manager
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney
Shane Gunter, Police Chief
Kim Hernandez, Executive Assistant
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator
Kris Williams, Zoning Administrator
1 Member of Public

ABSENT

Don Harris, Mayor

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Jim Drake, Parkview Baptist Church led the Invocation. Vice-Mayor Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Autumn Jamboree Update – James Hampton

Mr. Hampton stated that the Autumn Jamboree would kick off on Friday, September 9th with the 5K Walk/Run at Graham Rec Park. He stated that it would start at 7 p.m. with registration from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. and the cost would be \$20 which included a t-shirt. He asked Lesley to talk about the t-shirts.

Mrs. Catron stated that the t-shirts would be black and two-sided. On the back it would have Town of Bluefield Zombie Fun Run with the date and on the front it would have a picture of a zombie that said I hate fast food.

Mr. Hampton state that the Opening Ceremonies would be at 9:30 a.m. on the small stage near the Veteran's Memorial and that Family feud would be played from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. He stated that Star 95 was giving away a 2 night stay to Twin Falls State Park. He stated that you had to be present to win and hoped that would keep people down there. He gave a breakdown of the days events:

- 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Arts & Crafts, etc. vendors
- 9:00 a.m. throughout the day - Food Vendors
- 9:30 a.m. throughout the day - \$0.25 Cancer Bingo next to WVVA.net
- 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Hayrides at the Farmer's Market Shelter
- 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - B& B Bouncers on Spring Street
- 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Bumper Cars and Mechanical Bull will be setup near Jack Asbury Square
- 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Beach Nite Band
- 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Santa Cruz Band
- 8:15 p.m. - Come watch the VT vs. TN football game on the big screen in Jack Asbury Square
- Fireworks immediately following the game.

Also shop our crafts, food, etc. vendors throughout the day under the big tent and at the Farmer's Market. He stated that the Food Vendors would be setup until around 10:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. He stated that the Essay Contest would be for Middle School and the Art Contest would be for grades K-5.

Mr. Linkous asked if the big stage would be left at the VFW Memorial.

Mr. Hampton stated that they could discuss it at the next meeting.

Personal Property Taxes

Mr. Linkous asked James if he worked with those who had been laid off or lost their jobs when it came time to pay their taxes.

Mr. Hampton stated that state laws prohibit him from waiving anything but that he worked with them if they were attempting to pay.

Mr. Linkous asked if they would be able to pass a resolution to not charge them a late fee.

Mr. Freedman stated that he would look into it and see.

Mr. Hampton stated that as long as they were making an effort to pay it, then he worked with them.

5K Challenge Update – Billie Roberts

Mrs. Roberts stated that she, Lesley and Kim had met with the City of Bluefield Parks & Recreation Department to discuss the 5K Challenge. She stated that it would be the morning after the Graham-Beaver Game and that check-in would begin at 7 a.m. at the Chamber where the 5K Challenge started and would end at the Gazebo in downtown Bluefield, VA. She stated that the DDC was sponsoring water and fruit to give out at the end and that Alpha Media would be set up playing music. She stated that there would be a shuttle bus to take everyone back to their vehicles and that Mr. Watson was encouraging employee participation and would pay for the employees to participate in the event. She stated that the Town of Bluefield would be competing against the city of Bluefield and the winner would receive a glass trophy to keep until the next year. She stated that points would be awarded for most participation, top 5 overall times, combination of the City Manager and Town Manager and the Fire Dept and Police Dept. She stated that staff would be going out tomorrow to talk to the employees and that there would also be a pride award given out for the best Graham/Beaver Spirit. She stated that Tom Cole would kick things off at the start and the Mayor would end things.

Mr. Watson stated that if an employee participated, then he would give them 4 hours to comp out and take the time when they wanted too. He stated that he hoped it would encourage employees to participate.

Mrs. Roberts stated that they had asked for council to participate in some way.

Mr. Linkous stated that he had heard the advertisement on the radio and that it stated that all of the money would be going to the City of Bluefield.

Mr. Watson stated that the money being made would go to purchase the shirts and to pay the timekeeper and that neither one would make money.

Mr. Linkous stated that the advertisement said that all proceeds would go to benefit the renovations at the Rec Center.

Mrs. Roberts stated that she had not heard the ad but would find out.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

Downtown Design Update – Billie Roberts

Mrs. Roberts stated that the Town had signed the contract with Arthur but we had to move the fiber box before he could come. She stated that she hoped that it would be done within the next week.

Mr. Jones asked if the owner of the old bank building could be asked to pressure wash or dress up his building.

Mrs. Roberts stated that she would contact him again.

Mr. Watson stated that they had talked to the previous owner and had offered to stucco it but the concerns were if it would stay on and who would maintain it.

Mr. Jones stated that it was listed on the registry.

Mr. Linkous stated that he saw the picture design for the sign in the newsletter and asked if we were going to dedicate it to Mrs. Corte since they footed the bill.

Mrs. Roberts stated that she had talked to Cathy about it and she said she did not know what to do and that she told her that the Town did not mind dedicating it.

Mr. Linkous stated that something needed to be done for her and that once people saw it finished that they may get more money to finish the rest of it.

Mrs. Roberts stated that staff did not know who owned the tiny part near the old Clay's Building to ask them about the Town using it.

Mr. Riffe asked if they were going to take the pole out.

Mrs. Roberts stated that they were not willing to remove it.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

122 High Street Deed, VOTE – Mike Watson

Mr. Watson stated that the Town owned a section of the curve on High Street and was negotiating on a house there. He stated that at the end there were 3 pieces of property to buy which could be sold later on for houses to be built since there would be a

better road. He stated that he needed a vote to authorize the expenditure of money to purchase the property at 122 High Street for \$5,000, approve the acceptance of the property/real estate interest described in the deed and to authorize the mayor to sign the deed on behalf of the Town. He stated that the house would be torn down.

Mr. Linkous made a motion to approve the deed for 122 High Street and authorize the mayor to sign it. Mr. Riffe seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

Section of 94 Montrose Street Deed, VOTE – Mike Watson

Mr. Watson stated that he needed a vote to authorize the expenditure of money to purchase the portion of 94 Montrose Street and the 3 easements for \$16,000, approve the acceptance of the property/real estate interest described in the deed and to authorize the mayor to sign the deed on behalf of the Town.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve accepting the Section of 94 Montrose Street Deed. Mr. Linkous seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Employee Appreciation Night at the Ballpark

Mr. Watson stated that the Fireworks for the Employee Appreciation Night at the Ballpark were postponed until the August 12th game and that employees would get in for free.

Two Virginias 5K Challenge

Mr. Watson stated that the 5K Challenge had been talked about earlier.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Riffe stated that he had the opportunity to ride around with Mr. Watson and see things and that he was impressed.

Mr. Linkous stated that everything was looking good. He stated that the services for David Smith would be Thursday at 1 p.m. and he was sure that flowers had already been ordered. He stated that they would need to fill his position quickly.

Mr. Trigg stated that he has had several people come up to him and tell him that the Town was looking good.

Mr. Danko asked on the revenue and expenses what the \$42k was for outside fire calls.

Mr. Watson stated that the county in the past had given the Town money to run calls outside of Bluefield, VA and gave us an additional \$14k-\$15k when the fire truck was purchased.

Mr. Danko asked how long we would get it.

Mr. Watson stated that it would be paid off in 2019 and that they were looking to purchase a new pumper truck which would cost around ½ million dollars and would take 2 years to build. He stated that he would bring it back for discussion next year.

Mr. Danko asked on Pg. 20 what the \$6,176 expenditure was for.

Mr. Watson stated that all of Field Fest was coded to the IDA.

Mrs. Roberts stated that a budget amendment would have to be done.

Mr. Danko asked what the \$14,145 was for.

Mrs. Roberts stated that it was the building downtown.

Mr. Danko asked about contingency and the \$14,098 expenditure.

Mr. Watson stated that he would have to look at it.

Mr. Danko asked on Pg. 22 what the \$274,361.83 was for.

Mr. Watson stated that it was debt services, the annual payment for Town Hall.

Mr. Danko stated that in years past, council had come up with things they wanted to see done in the next year but they had not done that yet.

Mr. Trigg suggested that Mr. Watson come up with something.

Mr. Jones suggested they have a meeting to discuss it.

Mr. Linkous asked when the sidewalk near Craig's building downtown was going to be poured.

Mr. Watson stated that he had talked to Craig the other day and that he was ok with everything. He stated that he had signed an agreement with VDOT yesterday to get half of the money for sidewalks and that LUMOS would be giving the Town \$3k since they had to tear up the sidewalk. He stated that he told Craig that he would fix the sidewalk ASAP if he had someone going in the building.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Unclaimed Personal Property Ordinance, (2nd Reading) – VOTE (To Read by Title Only)

Mr. Freedman stated that this would be the 2nd Reading by title only and read the following:

An Ordinance to create, by creating Article VI (Unclaimed Personal Property) of Chapter 2 (Administration) of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Bluefield, Virginia.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the Unclaimed Personal Property Ordinance 2nd Reading by Title Only. Mr. Linkous seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Unclaimed Personal Property Ordinance – VOTE (To Adopt the Ordinance)

Mr. Freedman asked for a vote to adopt the Unclaimed Personal Property Ordinance.

Mr. Linkous made the motion to adopt the Unclaimed Personal Property Ordinance. Mr. Trigg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Linkous asked if it would be added online to the code.

Mr. Freedman stated that when we did an update it would be.

ADJOURN

Mr. Danko made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. Mr. Linkous seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk