

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Work Session
September 13, 2016**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a Work Session on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Watson, Town Manager
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk
Kim Hernandez, Executive Assistant
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator

ABSENT

Donnie Linkous, Councilmember
Shane Gunter, Chief of Police

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harris opened the Work Session at 6:00 p.m.

Council and members of staff went and toured the Sanders House.

ADJOURN

Mayor Harris adjourned the Work Session at 7:20 p.m.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
September 13, 2016**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 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
Lee Riffe, Councilmember
Jimmy Jones, Vice Mayor
Steve Danko, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Watson, Town Manager
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney
Shane Gunter, Police Chief
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk
Kim Hernandez, Executive Assistant
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator
3 Members of Public

ABSENT

Donnie Linkous, Councilmember

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Vice-Mayor Jones led the Invocation. Mayor Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Harris added Charles Riddlehuber, City of Bluefield under Citizen Requests & Special Presentations. He also added the following under New Business & Reports: Parade Permit, VOTE; Purchase of bobcat and utility truck, VOTE; Letter of Appreciation to Dish Network, VOTE; and a Letter of appreciation to Keith Janovec, VOTE.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Charles Riddlehuber, City of Bluefield

Mr. Riddlehuber thanked the Town of Bluefield for partnering with the City of Bluefield on the 5k Challenge. He stated that there were 162 participants and that staff from both sides helped out tremendously. He stated that there was a traveling trophy between the two Bluefield's and that they hoped to have a better turnout next year. He stated that it was a good community event that happened the day after the Graham-Beaver game. He stated on behalf of the City of Bluefield, he wanted to thank the Town of Bluefield for all of their help. He also thanked the Downtown Development Corporation for providing water, Gatorade and fruit to the participants post race.

Mayor Harris thanked him and said everyone had a good time.

Mr. Watson stated that he had fun doing it and would do it again.

Mr. Riddlehuber stated that they were looking to make it better next year.

Mr. Riffe suggested doing it later in the day.

Mr. Riddlehuber stated that was something they would look into.

Mr. Riffe asked if our Recreation Department helped with it.

Mr. Watson stated no.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Graham Historical Society Update – Eva Saunders

Mrs. Saunders thanked the Town for all of their help cutting grass, moving things, etc. and said that they needed more volunteers. She listed the following upcoming events:

Oct 11 – annual employee bean dinner

Nov 4-5 – Holiday Bazaar

Dec 4 – Open House

Mayor Harris thanked her and her committee for everything they do.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

Leatherwood Lane Project Update – Billie Roberts

Mrs. Roberts stated that she and Mike attended a meeting with VDOT concerning the Smart Scale. She stated that the current estimate on the Leatherwood Lane Project was around \$1.2 million and was all allocated thru VDOT. She stated that Richmond would follow it closely and that they had already started surveying it. She gave the following dates:

Preliminary Field Inspection:	November 2016
Post Willingness:	March 2017
Field Inspection:	June 2017
Pre-Advertisement Conference:	August 2017
Advertisement:	November 2017

Mr. Watson stated that it was a zero match and that they would advertise the project. He stated that it would take about a year before there would see any dirt moving.

Mr. Danko asked when that would be.

Mrs. Roberts stated 2018.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

Resolution for Parade Permit, VOTE – Billie Roberts

Mrs. Roberts stated that there was a resolution for a parade permit for TATERS to conduct a parade within the corporate limits of the Town of Bluefield, VA on September 17th. She asked for a vote to approve it.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the resolution for the TATERS Parade Permit. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Utility Truck and Track Loader, VOTE – Mike Watson

Mr. Watson stated that staff had received quotes for a utility truck and track loader that were budgeted in this fiscal year. He stated that the lowest price for the utility truck was from Ramey Ford in Princeton for \$48,077.50. He stated that it was a 2016 Ford 350 (1 ton), dual wheel, 4x4 crew cab with a utility bed. He stated that the lowest price on the Track Loader was from Bobcat of Tazewell (Payne's Equipment) for \$55,627. He stated that the loader was a T740 T4 Bobcat Track Loader with 74HP turbo and attachments. He stated that his recommendation would be to pay the loan off in 4 years instead of 5 and that he would bring back the interest rates to council.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the purchase of the Utility Truck and Track Loader in the amount of \$103,704.50. Mr. Riffe seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

Sanitary Board Member Reappointment of Rick Taylor, VOTE – Mike Watson

Mr. Watson stated that Rick Taylor currently served as the Town of Bluefield's Representative on the Sanitary Board. He stated that his 3 year term was set to expire on December 1, 2016 and asked that council consider reappointing him for an additional 3 year term to begin on December 2, 2016-December 1, 2019.

Mr. Danko made a motion to reappoint Rick Taylor to the Sanitary Board for another 3 year term. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Sanitary Board Inc. Reappointment Discussion, VOTE – Mike Watson

Mr. Watson stated that Lonnie Yates and Charles Stacy are the current individuals serving on the Bluefield, Inc. Board. He stated that Mr. Yates was interested in being reappointed but that Mr. Stacy was not. He stated that the board only met four times per year and did not have a lot of authority. He stated that they met because of the bylaws and that everything was managed thru the Sanitary Board. He asked that council send him a recommendation of another person.

Mayor Harris stated that they would just wait and vote on both at the next meeting.

Letter of Appreciation, Dish Network, VOTE – Mike Watson

Mr. Watson asked that council approve staff sending a letter of appreciation to Dish Network for coming thru at the last minute and showing the football game for us.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve sending a letter of appreciation to Dish Network. Mr. Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Letter of Appreciation, Keith Janovec, VOTE – Mayor Harris

Mayor Harris stated he would like for staff to send out a letter of appreciation to Keith Janovec for always working to keep the Town looking good. He stated that he was out 6-7 days per week picking up trash, etc.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve sending a letter of appreciation to Keith Janovec. Mr. Trigg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Playground Equipment

Mr. Watson stated that Mrs. Green had brought in some ideas for the park on Depot St. He stated that she would be applying for a grant thru her church for \$15k. He stated that it would cost around \$15k-\$20k and that he would like to go to the Shott Foundation and ask for matching money. He stated that they would be looking to install low maintenance equipment to put in all of the Town parks. He stated that he would like to go ahead and start looking for funding if council was ok with it.

Luncheon with Delegate Morefield

Mr. Watson stated that there would be a luncheon with Delegate Morefield on Friday, September 16th at 1:30 p.m. at Fincastle on the Mountain. He asked that council let staff know if they planned to attend.

Flu Shots

Mr. Watson stated that flu shots would be in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, September 28th at 2 p.m.

Tour du' Parc

Mr. Watson stated that Tour du' Parc would be held on Wednesday, September 28th at 9 a.m.

Joint Meeting

Mr. Watson stated that there was a joint meeting with the City of Bluefield scheduled on Thursday, September 29th at 5:30 p.m. at the Bluefield Inn. He stated that he needed to give them a count by tomorrow of who would be attending.

Annual Chamber Dinner

Mr. Watson stated that the Annual Chamber Dinner would be on Thursday, October 6th at David's at the Club. He stated that the Town would be buying a table again this year and asked that council let staff know if they planned to attend.

VML

Mr. Watson stated that VML would be October 9th – 11th in Virginia Beach. He stated that it would start on Sunday this year and end on Tuesday.

Employee Lunch

Mr. Watson stated that Eddie Pauley with Regency was getting some area businesses together and was working on doing a lunch for the Town Employees at La Fiesta. He stated that it would be steak and baked potatoes and would be held on September 26th at 1 p.m. He stated that they had \$500 in prizes to give out.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Riffe stated that the grass needed to be cut on Hockman Pike. He gave a big shout out to all the employees who worked the Autumn Jamboree. He stated that it was a great event and asked that down the road, the Town have an Events Coordinator. He stated that he would like to see a layer added to the Christmas tree this year.

Mr. Watson stated that he would get a price on it.

Mayor Harris stated that Irvin Rich had made a suggestion about putting lights on the tower that was on top of the mountain.

Mr. Trigg agreed that staff had done a good job on the Autumn Jamboree. He asked about the corner of the sidewalk on Spring Street.

Mr. Watson stated that it was done like that so it would not hold water.

Mr. Trigg asked if there was a completion date on the Visitor's Center and asked about the drainage behind it.

Mr. Watson stated that it would be sloped around the back and that they wanted to be in either November or March.

Mr. Jones stated that they were talking about the traffic going into the middle school and may start going around back. He stated that they were going to see if VDOT would help and would like to see the Town do it in house.

Mr. Watson stated that he would have to get a quote.

Mayor Harris asked that they draw up some plans so that council could see what exactly he was talking about.

Mr. Jones stated that Frank Horn could probably do it.

Mr. Watson stated that the Town could possibly grade it but could not do the paving.

Mr. Jones suggested having a safety study done thru the state.

Mr. Danko stated that it was a Tazewell County School Board issue.

Mr. Jones asked where they would get the money from.

Mr. Danko stated that it would be up to them that it was not a Town issue.

Mayor Harris asked if any of them had heard of a Price who had moved to the Town and was buying different things.

Mr. Danko stated that he knew of him and that he was in his late 30's and owned La Fiesta.

Mayor Harris stated that the reason he was asking was because he heard that he bought Consol Lodge.

Mr. Danko stated that he had also heard that.

ATTORNEY REPORT

None.

ADJOURN

Mr. Danko made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Mr. Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk