

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

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 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
Jimmy Jones, Vice Mayor
Lee Riffe, Councilmember
Donnie Linkous, Councilmember
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember
Steve Danko, Councilmember

Chuck Presley, Incoming Councilmember
Ron Holt, Incoming Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

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

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Special Presentation: GHS Cheerleaders & Coaches – Mayor Don Harris

Mrs. Catron read the following resolution:



TOWN OF BLUEFIELD

RESOLUTION

GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL CHEER TEAM

WHEREAS, the 2016 Graham High School Cheer Team consists of twenty-three ladies, ranging from grades ninth through twelfth, and two coaches; and

WHEREAS, the team completed an undefeated season in cheer competitions; three of which were at Invitational Competitions; and

WHEREAS, the team received a first place ranking for the Conference 39 Competition; and

WHEREAS, they were ranked first among eight teams in Region 2A West for the State of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Graham High School Cheer Team were honored to compete among the top eight teams in the state of Virginia, and were selected during the second round as the 2A Virginia High School State Champions in Competitive Cheerleading; and

WHEREAS, this honor marked the first State Championship in Cheerleading for Graham High School; and

WHEREAS, this honor also marked the first State Championship in Cheerleading to be won by a school west of the Roanoke area since competitive cheer began for 2A teams in 1998.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, hereby recognizes the members of the 2016 Cheer Team, which include Seniors: Halle Cook, Carson Cooper (Captain), Natalya Curto, McKenzie Lester, Makenzie Novinger, Ashleigh Nunley, and Cameran Sarver (Captain); Juniors: Sydney Bowman, Gabi Jackson, Lauren Poe, Laurel Romano, and Hannah Webb; Sophomores: Milan Brewster, Bethany Broyles, and Alexis Rhudy; Freshmen: Laken Chronister, Isabella Edwards, Tristen Graham, Shailis Joplin, Cheyenne Osborne, Paris Sandifer, Josie Stevenson, and Kaelyn Workman; Head Coach Debra Brewster and Assistant Coach Tammy Cooper.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, hereby recognizes the outstanding achievements of the 2016 Graham High School Cheer Team and congratulates them on receiving the title of 2A Virginia High School State Champions.

Adopted the 22nd day of November, 2016; presented the 13th day of December, 2016.

Mayor Harris asked all of the cheerleaders/coaches to come forward. Council presented each cheerleader and coach with a copy of the resolution.

Special Request: GHS Wrestling Request – Mr. Tim Woodward

Mr. Woodward introduced Jen Raley, mother of Mason Raley who had spent her time investing in GHS Wrestling. He stated that she was working on projects to raise funds and that they needed around \$2k more to have everything paid for the season. He stated that they won their tournament on Saturday and were currently 8-0.

Mrs. Raley stated that they had sold sponsorships and would be having a Wendy's night.

Mr. Woodward stated that they were working to raise the funds and not just ask for money and that most of their tournaments were overnight which was costly.

Mrs. Raley stated that the tournaments were crucial because there were colleges at these tournaments looking at the kids.

Mayor Harris thanked them for all of their hard work.

Mr. Woodward thanked council and also congratulated the cheerleaders on their title.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Industrial Development Authority Update – Billie Roberts

Mrs. Robert stated that the IDA had gotten more active over the last year. She stated that they had one change in office and that Jay Kelly had resigned so there was an open position. She stated that it was a 4 year term, had to be a Town of Bluefield resident and that they met quarterly. She stated that the IDA reviewed and distributed the grant awards.

Welcome Center

She stated that the Welcome Center was awaiting the plat information on Walnut Street and once the property was conveyed to the IDA by the Town then they could sign a lease with Tazewell County.

Field Fest

Mrs. Roberts stated that the committee had their last meeting in November where they talked about if they wanted to continue with the Field Fest event next year. She stated that everyone was in agreement to move forward with it.

LOVE Sign

Mrs. Roberts asked council if the LOVE Sign was something that council wanted to move forward with.

Council said yes.

Mrs. Roberts stated that she and Mr. Watson had been working on designs to take back to the IDA.

Downtown Matching Grant

Mrs. Roberts stated that the downtown matching rehabilitation grant was a matching grant for the exterior improvements of a business. She stated from January 2015 until now they had given \$3,073 in matching grant funds and that total improvements was \$34,987.

Mr. Riffe asked if it extended towards Wal-Mart.

Mrs. Roberts stated that it was for locally owned businesses which could include a franchise with a franchisee.

Mr. Watson asked if it was extended to the shopping centers.

Mrs. Roberts stated that there were no actual boundaries.

Mr. Riffe asked about the Food City area.

Mrs. Roberts stated yes as long as it was locally owned.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

338 Highland Avenue Subdivision of Land, VOTE – Kris Williams

Mr. Freedman asked that 338 Highland Avenue Subdivision of Land be tabled until the next meeting.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Bluefield Sanitary Board, Inc. Appointment, VOTE

Mr. Watson stated that one person needed to be appointed to the Bluefield Sanitary Board, Inc. and that Anglis Trigg had showed interest in being appointed. He stated that it would be his recommendation to appoint Mr. Trigg to the Bluefield Sanitary Board, Inc.

Mr. Riffe made a motion to approve appointing Mr. Trigg to the Bluefield Sanitary Board, Inc. Mr. Linkous seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Donations Discussion

Mr. Watson stated that they needed to talk about how donations were done when they went into the Budget Work Session.

Holidays Request Off / Cancel Council Meeting, VOTE

Mr. Watson asked that council consider giving the employees December 23rd and December 30th off to extend their holidays. He stated that all functions would still operate such as trash, etc.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve giving employees December 23rd and December 30th off. Mr. Danko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Watson asked that council consider canceling the December 27th Council Meeting for the convenience of the holidays.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve canceling the December 27th Council Meeting. Mr. Linkous seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Volunteer Christmas Dinner

Mr. Watson stated that the Volunteer Christmas Dinner would be held on Thursday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. at Bluefield College.

Employee Christmas Dinner

Mr. Watson stated that the Employee Christmas Dinner would be held on Tuesday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m. at Bluefield College. He stated for those who could not make it to the dinner, they were having a luncheon at Bob Evans on Monday, December 19th at 11:30 a.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Danko had none.

Mr. Jones had none.

Mr. Trigg stated that he had enjoyed working with everyone and if anyone needed anything to not hesitate to call him. He stated that he was approached by someone who asked why he voted against the Police Department getting a raise and he explained to them the process and how he liked to let the Town Manager look for the money.

Mr. Linkous thanked everyone and said it had been good years. He stated that he had started out in the dilapidated building before being moved to the trailers and then to the New Town Hall. He stated that the majority of council had been there and had a lot to show for it. He wished the incoming councilmember's the best of luck and to let him know if there was anything he could do to help them.

Mr. Riffe thanked Mr. Linkous and Mr. Trigg for their insight the past 4 years that he had been on council. He stated that he looked forward to working with the incoming councilmember's and appreciated all of their hard work on being elected.

Mayor Harris stated that council had been doing things right because the council meetings were not full of people every time. He stated that the majority of things council always worked on together and wished Mr. Trigg and Mr. Linkous the best of luck. He stated that he looked forward to working with the new councilmen. He stated that they all needed to work together to achieve the best interests of the citizens. He stated that they would have disagreements but hopefully in the end those disagreements would not be taken home with them.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mayor Harris asked Mr. Trigg and Mr. Linkous to come forward. He read each a plaque for their service to the Town and presented it to them.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Woodbridge Court Easement, VOTE (To Accept Agreement and Deed of Easement & Authorize Mayor's Execution of the Document)

Mr. Freedman asked council to vote to accept the Agreement and Deed of Easement & Authorize the Mayor to execute the Woodbrige Court document.

Mr. Linkous made a motion to accept the Agreement and Deed of Easement & Authorize the Mayor to execute the Woodbridge Court document. Mr. Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Sewer Franchise Ordinance, VOTE (To Amend from 1st Reading), VOTE (To do 2nd Reading by Title Only), VOTE (To Adopt the Ordinance)

Mr. Freedman read the change that added the City of Bluefield, West Virginia to the Sewer Franchise Ordinance.

ORDINANCE INDEX NUMBER

VIRGINIA: AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL IN BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, ON THE 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2016.

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A FRANCHISE AND EASEMENT AS DESCRIBED IN THE DOCUMENT ATTACHED HERETO AND ENTITLED “AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA FOR FRANCHISE AND EASEMENT WITH THE SANITARY BOARD OF BLUEFIELD, INCORPORATED AND THE SANITARY BOARD OF BLUEFIELD”.

WHEREAS, a descriptive notice of this ordinance, a descriptive notice of the document attached hereto and entitled “AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA FOR FRANCHISE AND EASEMENT WITH THE SANITARY BOARD OF BLUEFIELD, INCORPORATED AND THE SANITARY BOARD OF BLUEFIELD”, and an invitation for bids regarding the said attached document, as required by section 15.2-2101 of the Code of Virginia (1950) as amended, were duly published in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph, a newspaper having general circulation in Bluefield, Virginia, on November 4, 2016, and November 12, 2016.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, that the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia hereby grants the franchise and easement as described in the document attached hereto and entitled “AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA FOR FRANCHISE AND EASEMENT WITH THE SANITARY BOARD OF BLUEFIELD, INCORPORATED AND THE SANITARY BOARD OF BLUEFIELD”, and hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to enter the effective date(s) on the said attachment and execute the said attachment as a true and exact copy.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that this ordinance, with the said attachment, shall be recorded among the land records of the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court in Tazewell County, Virginia and indexed therein in the names of the **Town of Bluefield, Virginia; The Sanitary Board of Bluefield, Incorporated; and The Sanitary Board of Bluefield; and the City of Bluefield, West Virginia.**

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, that the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia adopts this ordinance on the 13th day of December, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia authorizes Donald R. Harris, the Mayor of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia to execute this ordinance on behalf of said Council.

IT IS SO ORDAINED this 13th day of December, 2016.

(REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK)

PUBLIC HEARING: NONE
ADVERTISEMENT(S): 11/04/2016 AND 11/12/2016
FIRST READING: 11/22/2016
SECOND READING: 12/13/2016
ADOPTION DATE: 12/13/2016
FINAL RECORDED VOTE: _____
MEMBERS PRESENT: _____
MEMBERS ABSENT: _____
RESULT OF VOTE: _____
AYES NAYES ABSTENTIONS

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA

BY: _____
DONALD R. HARRIS, MAYOR
TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA

DATE: _____

ATTEST:

LESLEY CATRON, TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA

DATE

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve to amend from the 1st Reading. Mr. Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Freedman asked for a motion to approve the 2nd Reading by Title Only.

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A FRANCHISE AND EASEMENT AS DESCRIBED IN THE DOCUMENT ATTACHED HERETO AND ENTITLED "AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA FOR FRANCHISE AND EASEMENT WITH THE SANITARY BOARD OF BLUEFIELD, INCORPORATED AND THE SANITARY BOARD OF BLUEFIELD".

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

Mr. Freedman asked for a motion to approve adopting the ordinance.

Mr. Linkous made a motion to adopt the Sewer Franchise Ordinance. Mr. Riffe 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. Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Mr. Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk