

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
February 14, 2017**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 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, Councilmember
Lee Riffe, Vice-Mayor
Chuck Presley, Councilmember
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
Kris Williams, Zoning Administrator
2 Members of Public

ABSENT

Ron Holt, Councilmember

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Pastor Bill Lykins led the Invocation. Mayor Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Field Fest Update – Billie Roberts

Mayor Harris stated that it had already been discussed during the Work Session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

Planning Commission Member, VOTE – Mike Watson

Mr. Watson stated that there was a vacancy in Planning Commission and that Planning Commission recommended appointing Jarried McFarland. He asked for a vote to approve Planning Commission's recommendation.

Mr. Riffe made a motion to approve Jarried McFarland to fill the Planning Commission vacancy. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

Drop Box Discussion – Lesley Catron

Mayor Harris stated that it had already been discussed during the Work Session.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Resolution: EMS, VOTE

Mr. Watson stated an EMS Resolution was in council's packet. He stated that if it was approved then it would be forwarded to the county. He asked for a vote to approve the following:

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 14TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2017.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAZEWELL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, A/K/A TAZEWELL COUNTY EMS, A DIVISION OF THE TAZEWELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA GOVERNMENT, TO OPERATE WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that the Tazewell County Department of Emergency Medical Services, a/k/a Tazewell County EMS, a division of

the Tazewell County, Virginia government, is hereby authorized to operate within the corporate limits of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia for the purposes of providing emergency medical services for any persons therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that the Tazewell County Department of Emergency Medical Services, a/k/a Tazewell County EMS, a division of the Tazewell County, Virginia government, shall coordinate with the Bluefield Virginia Rescue Squad to ensure no lapse of coverage occurs within the corporate limits of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that this resolution is hereby adopted this 14th day of February, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that this resolution shall be effective on the 14th day of February, 2017.

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

IT IS SO RESOLVED this 14th day of February, 2017.

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PUBLIC HEARING:	NONE
ADOPTION DATE:	02/14/2017
EFFECTIVE DATE:	02/14/2017
RECORDED VOTE:	_____
MEMBERS PRESENT:	_____
MEMBERS ABSENT:	_____
RESULT OF VOTE:	_____
	AYES NAYES ABSTENTIONS

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA

BY: _____
DONALD R. HARRIS, MAYOR DATE
TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, A VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

ATTEST:

LESLEY CATRON, TOWN CLERK DATE
TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, A VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the EMS Resolution. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Water Plant Update

The Water Plant Update was discussed during the Work Session.

Spring Street Sidewalk Update

The Spring Street Sidewalk Update was discussed during the Work Session.

Town Hall Roof Repair

The Town Hall Roof Repair was discussed during the Work Session.

VML Local Officials Institute

The VML Local Officials Institute was discussed during the Work Session.

Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were discussed during the Work Session.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Terry Kirk, 1836 Lee Avenue stated that he was a lifetime member of the rescue squad and knew it had been struggling with no consistent income. He stated that there was no money January – March and he had seen the highs and lows. He stated that they were \$1,800 in debt monthly and needed the transports and dialysis patient transports. He thanked the Town for their service and being on the board and stated that it needed to be taken over by the county. He stated that hopefully it would be brought back in 2-3 years. He stated that the building needed to be gone because it was too big for service and had not been maintained in 10 years. He stated that it was leased for \$1 from the railroad. He stated that each call cost \$425 and they were running 1,600 – 1,800 per year. He stated that he believed the Town was making a good decision by doing this and that the senior citizens paid taxes and for their peace of mind needed to have a strong Rescue Squad.

Mayor Harris thanked him and stated that he and Mr. Watson had tried everything they knew to keep the Rescue Squad viable but that it was at the point where they could not do so. He stated that it would be forwarded to the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Riffe stated that they needed to do a resolution for the Graham Middle School basketball team for an undefeated season. He stated that they did not need to be brought in but that a resolution should be prepared for them. He stated when there was a significant motion on the floor such as the Rescue Squad that the motion needed to be read and not hurried along.

Mayor Harris stated that a motion was made and seconded and then he opened it up for additional comments.

Mr. Presley stated that he had received phone calls concerning coming off of Exit 3 that the one way sign was in the way and they could not see oncoming traffic.

Mr. Watson stated that he would see about moving it but that it was a VDOT sign and we did not maintain it but did aesthetics. He stated that it did need to be moved and would look into it.

Mr. Jones had none.

Mr. Danko had none.

Mayor Harris stated that the reason Mr. Holt was not there was his mother was not doing well. He stated that during the trip to Richmond that Delegate Morefield's aide told Mr. Holt that he would be voting against SB1585. He stated that he spoke with Senator Chaffins and expressed his concerns to him about the bill and was told that when he ran, he had to declare his party. He stated that the Senate did pass the bill and it was going thru the House now. He asked that when a member of council notified the Senator or Delegate of something, to do it with their own name instead of as a councilmember. He stated that if there were any issues brought up to council to first talk to Mr. Watson and let him get an answer.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Freedman stated that if there were ever a point that council needed help with a motion to come to him or Mr. Watson and they would help word it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice-Mayor Riffe made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to *Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711-A-1.6* and Mrs. Catron read:

The investing of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the government unit would be adversely affected.

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

Council entered into Executive Session at 7:49 p.m.

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

Councilmember Jones made a motion to adopt the following resolution certifying the Executive Session and Mr. Freedman 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 14th day of February.

Councilmember Presley seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Vice-Mayor Riffe:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Absent
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Councilmember Jones:	Yes
Councilmember Danko:	Yes

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

ADJOURN

Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk