

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
June 13, 2017**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 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
Ron Holt, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Holt 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. Vice-Mayor Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

Videoing Council Meetings, POSSIBLE VOTE – Mike Watson

Mr. Watson stated that he had done some research concerning videoing council meetings and found that live streaming would be too expensive. He stated that council had talked about taping it and putting it on the website at a later date. He stated that there was nothing legal that would have to be done besides putting up signs that it was being recorded. He stated that it would be me a minimal cost to purchase the equipment to do so.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the purchase of the equipment to video the council meetings and post them on the website. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

Mr. Riffe asked if the video camera would have a wide enough angle to see everyone.

Mr. Watson stated that it would be an open recording and would also include the Work Sessions.

Mr. Riffe stated that he was talking about if the camera angle would be wide enough to catch everyone or if they would have to pay an employee to video.

Mr. Watson stated that he would check into it.

Mr. Jones stated that he was for it but would like to see it done at no cost.

Mr. Holt stated that it would be about \$1k initial cost.

Mr. Jones stated that right now anyone could come and record it for free.

Mr. Presley stated that it was something he could purchase and do himself if need be.

Mr. Jones asked staff to see if there was a way to do it for free.

Mayor Harris asked for a Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Vice-Mayor Riffe:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes

Councilmember Holt: Yes
 Mayor Harris: No
 Councilmember Jones: Yes
 Councilmember Danko: No

The motion passed 4-2 by Roll Call Vote.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

Budget Amendments, VOTE – Mike Watson

Mr. Watson stated that the following budget amendments needed to be voted on:

Revenue

Line Item	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
10.34.0100.0509 / Prior Yr Reserves	\$175,290.46	\$181,610.40	\$6,319.94
	<u>\$175,290.46</u>	<u>\$181,610.40</u>	<u>\$6,319.94</u>

Expenditures

Line Item	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
10.43.3110.3320 / Maint Svc Contracts	\$28,000.00	\$34,319.94	\$6,319.94
	<u>\$28,000.00</u>	<u>\$34,319.94</u>	<u>\$6,319.94</u>

Revenue

Line Item	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
10.32.0400.0413 / Misc Law Enforcement	\$65,933.32	\$72,758.32	\$6,825.00
	<u>\$65,933.32</u>	<u>\$72,758.32</u>	<u>\$6,825.00</u>

Expenditures

Line Item	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
10.43.3110.1600 / Investigative OT/Police	\$23,641.25	\$30,466.25	\$6,825.00
	<u>\$23,641.25</u>	<u>\$30,466.25</u>	<u>\$6,825.00</u>

Revenue

Line Item	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
10.32.0400.0413 / Misc Law Enforcement	\$72,758.32	\$76,758.32	\$4,000.00
	<u>\$72,758.32</u>	<u>\$76,758.32</u>	<u>\$4,000.00</u>

Expenditures

Line Item	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
10.43.3110.3320 / Maint Svc Contracts	\$34,319.94	\$38,319.94	\$4,000.00
	<u>\$34,319.94</u>	<u>\$38,319.94</u>	<u>\$4,000.00</u>

Revenue

Line Item	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
10.31.3108.9903 / Gifts & Donations	\$27,000.00	\$67,000.00	\$40,000.00
	\$27,000.00	\$67,000.00	\$40,000.00

Expenditures

Line Item	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
10.47.7130.8201 / Equip Purchases	\$4,000.00	\$44,000.00	\$40,000.00
	\$4,000.00	\$44,000.00	\$40,000.00

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments. Mr. Holt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Presley stated that he seen where \$300k was put into the budget and asked where it came from.

Mr. Watson stated that every year on July 1st there was a set amount. He stated that during the year, money was borrowed from the LGIP to pay bills.

Mr. Presley stated basically we borrowed money from ourselves and it was put back in.

Mr. Watson stated yes.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Capital Improvement Project – VHD Funding, POSSIBLE VOTE

Mr. Watson stated that council had heard the presentation presented during the Work Session regarding the application thru the VDH. He stated that the funding for the capital improvement project was estimated at \$1.9 million and they were offered 4 different options. He stated that due to the way funding was allowed, it would allow us to put this amount into the pot for future spending but did not hold us to anything. He asked for a vote to send a letter allowing them to move forward but not picking an option yet.

Mr. Jones made a motion to allow the Town to notify VDH to move forward with no option chosen. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Visitor's Center Ribbon Cutting

Mr. Watson stated that the Visitor's Center Ribbon Cutting was tentatively scheduled for June 28th. He stated that he would let council know.

Harmony Acres Pool

Mr. Watson stated that Harmony Acres opened on June 5th.

Evening Shade

Mr. Watson stated that this week's Evening Shade Performance would be by Bill Archer and Karl Miller.

Fun in the Sun

Mr. Watson stated that Fun in the Sun would start on June 13th at Depot Street from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Night Swims

Mr. Watson stated that Night Swims at Harmony Acres would begin on June 14th from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and would continue every Wednesday night.

Community Garden

Mr. Watson stated that there were still a few spots open for the Community Garden.

Farmer's Market

Mr. Watson stated that the Farmer's Market was every Friday from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Mr. Holt asked who was overseeing the Farmer's Market now.

Mr. Watson stated that it was the Recreation Department.

Mr. Holt asked if large groups could come in for the night swim.

Mr. Watson stated that he could find out but usually they were prepared for large groups.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Watson stated that a copy of upcoming events was in council's packet.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

David Wohlford stated that he would like to see the Chief come to Sedgewood about halfway up Fairway about 7 a.m. and write tickets. He stated also near the pool because of all the speeders.

Chief Gunter stated that he did not have to wait until a council meeting to contact them.

Mr. Wohlford stated that there were also kids running golf carts going too fast and pulling out in front of cars. He stated another issue was where they increased the speed limit on 460. He stated that the on ramp was not long enough (at the rocks) for that speed limit and the one coming out of Sedgewood had none at all.

Chief Gunter stated that the ramps were 35 mph and was set by VDOT.

Mr. Wohlford stated that people did not pay attention. He asked if Leatherwood was in or out of Town limits.

Mr. Danko stated that it was in.

Mr. Wohlford asked if the Town received any money for the timbering.

Mr. Holt stated no.

Mr. Wohlford stated that it was a business and the Town should have gotten money for it.

Mr. Holt stated that he did not think there was an ordinance in place to tax.

Mr. Freedman stated that he would have to check but that they were not in the business of timbering.

Mr. Wohlford stated that he believed that the Town should have gotten money for it. He stated that they did a nice job on the clearing standards and asked the Town to suggest hydro seeding on the roads.

Mayor Harris stated that the Department of Forestry was overseeing it and asked Mr. Freedman to check into it.

Mr. Holt stated that Charlie Stacy had talked to them and that they were required to go back and hydro seed.

Mr. Wohlford asked if and when they would have to run water lines did they have any estimates on it.

Mr. Watson stated that it had not been determined and would be a decision council would make.

Mr. Wohlford stated that Wal-Mart was thru West Virginia American Water Company.

Mr. Watson stated that it was from the Sanders House forward.

Mr. Wohlford asked if we received anything from it.

Mr. Watson stated no.

Mr. Wohlford stated that he did not like funding Bluefield, WV and the Town needed to have something in place before they started talking to them. He stated that he had no desire to fund the City for Leatherwood.

Mr. Watson stated that they did have a study done to determine how it would be supplied and in the last 10 years the Town had put in a new water tank and had an agreement with the PSA to feed to Falls Mills which we would make a little money off of. He stated that future growth was part of the Capital Improvement Project and that last year they received grant money to supply to Falls Mills. He stated that an application would be sent in for long term growth and future projects increasing our water capacity from 1.5 million per day to 2 million per day. He stated that we no longer purchased from the WVAWC or the PSA and would look to sell to the PSA in the future. He stated that the sewer plant upgrade would increase for future growth as well and a quote was given for that. He stated that the Capital Improvement Project loan work had been done in the Town of Bluefield and that the City replaced the interceptors in Pinehill Park. He stated that Leatherwood was working with VDOT to get a line access break and that there had been no conversation with the Town about supplying water to them. He stated that it would be a great opportunity to sell to them. He stated that our water sales went down when Bluefield Beverage went out and that he was hoping after tonight's vote, there would be an increase in the water to break even. He stated that the Town was currently subsidizing the water fund with the general fund.

Mr. Wohlford stated that they needed to take care of their people first before committing to others.

Mr. Watson stated that they paid a fund sewer surcharge to extend to Pocahontas and other than labor costs, it was all paid thru that.

Mr. Wohlford stated that he was concerned about our system being adequate enough to supply to what we had now. He asked for a development like Leatherwood where would the water come from. He stated that the Town would not see major manufacturing companies coming in and did not see the Town getting any bigger.

Mayor Harris encouraged him to talk to Mr. Watson at any time.

George Leedy, Mountain Lane stated that he had missed out on the Public Hearing for the increases but noticed the discussion about videoing the meetings for the public. He suggested having a split screen and contacting BVU, Comcast or Gigabeam Network to do it. He stated that there was no reason it should not be live and archived.

Mr. Holt suggested archiving it for 6 months.

Mr. Presley stated that videoing and live streaming were different.

Mr. Holt stated that a few of council wanted to do live stream but the cost was a factor.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Riffe stated that he had attended the grand opening for the Grainery at the Sanders House and encouraged everyone to go by and see it. He stated that he also attended the Evening Shade kickoff and agreed that they did need to move forward with things.

Mr. Presley asked if all of council could be emailed when there were ribbon cuttings. He stated that he had not been receiving them. He stated that the first Field Fest event turned out good and that Janna Gray asked that Depot Street be renamed. He stated concerning Leatherwood that every sub contractor needed to pay. He stated that he had a friend who attended a council meeting and was asked to remove his hat. He asked if they had rules in place for such things.

Mayor Harris stated that he was the one who motioned for him to remove his cap to be respectful. He stated that he was a nice person.

Mr. Presley asked if it was a rule.

Mayor Harris stated that it was common courtesy and that wherever he went he took his hat off. He stated that he tried to catch him to apologize but missed him.

Mr. Jones stated that he had talked to him and he was ok and would be back.

Mr. Holt commended the board on voting to approve videoing the council meetings. He stated that he had missed Field Fest due to a prior commitment but went by at the end and it looked like it went well.

Mr. Danko stated that they needed a 10-15 year plan where the Town was going to be. He stated that there were a lot jobs available but he did not know how to get them here.

Mayor Harris stated that President Trump was in Wisconsin and was talking about Vocational Training. He stated that the schools were letting our students down and that

was the reason we did not have trades people. He stated that 20% of high school students went on to college and 80% did not. He stated that they needed to require vocational training of at least 1-2 years. He thanked Vice-Mayor Riffe for filling in him for at Evening Shade. He stated that he had a prior commitment.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Ordinance to Increase Tax on Meals – 1st Reading, VOTE

Ordinance to Approve and Adopt the FY 2017/2018 Budget – (1st Reading), VOTE

Mr. Freedman stated that this would be the first reading on the Ordinance to Increase Tax on Meals to 6 1/2 % and the Ordinance to Approve and Adopt the FY 2017/2018 Budget including the increases on meals tax, water and employee raises.

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 27TH DAY OF JUNE, 2017.

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING THE TAX ON MEALS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA TO SIX AND ONE HALF PERCENT (6.5%).

WHEREAS, a public hearing concerning increasing the tax on meals within the corporate limits of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia to six and one half percent (6.5%) was held before the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia on the 23rd day of May, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., after notice of the said public hearing was duly published on the 16th day of May, 2017, in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph, a newspaper having general circulation in Bluefield, Virginia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that the tax on meals within the corporate limits of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia, imposed under Section 50-332 of Article VIII of Chapter 50 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Bluefield, Virginia, is hereby increased to six and one half percent (6.5%).

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that Section 50-332 of Article VIII of Chapter 50 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Bluefield, Virginia is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 50-332. Levy.

There is hereby imposed and levied by the town on each person a tax at the rate of six and one half percent (6.5%) on the amount paid for meals purchased from any food establishment, whether prepared in such food establishment or not, and whether consumed on the premises or not.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that this ordinance is hereby adopted on this 27th day of June, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that this ordinance shall be effective on the 1st day of July, 2017.

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

IT IS SO ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA on this 27th day of June, 2017.

PUBLIC HEARING: 05/23/2017
FIRST READING: 06/13/2017
SECOND READING: 06/27/2017
ADOPTION DATE: 06/27/2017
EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2017
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 DATE
TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, A VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

ATTEST:

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

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 27TH DAY OF JUNE, 2017.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE 2017-2018 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, A VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, INCLUDING THE INCREASES IN MEALS TAX, WATER RATES, AND SALARIES/WAGES SHOWN THEREIN.

WHEREAS, a public hearing concerning the approval and adoption of the 2017-2018 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET for the Town of Bluefield, a Virginia Municipal Corporation, was held before the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia on the 23rd day of May, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., after notice of the said public hearing was duly published on the 16th day of May, 2017, in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph, a newspaper having general circulation in Bluefield, Virginia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that the 2017-2018 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET for the Town of Bluefield, a Virginia Municipal Corporation, which is attached to this ordinance, including the increases in meals tax, water rates, and salaries/wages shown therein, is hereby approved and adopted by the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia on this 27th day of June, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that this ordinance is hereby adopted on this 27th day of June, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that this ordinance shall be effective on the 1st day of July, 2017.

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

IT IS SO ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA on this 27th day of June, 2017.

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PUBLIC HEARING: 05/23/2017
FIRST READING: 06/13/2017
SECOND READING: 06/27/2017
ADOPTION DATE: 06/27/2017
EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2017

FINAL RECORDED VOTE: _____
MEMBERS PRESENT: _____
MEMBERS ABSENT: _____
RESULT OF VOTE: _____

AYES NAYES ABSTENTIONS

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA

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

ATTEST:

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

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the 1st Readings on both the Ordinance to Increase Tax on Meals and the Ordinance to Approve and Adopt the FY 2017/2018 Budget. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

Mr. Riffe stated that he still felt like they were shooting themselves in the foot and there was a better way to do it. He suggested that they not do anything and come back

and look at the Police Department and the 4% for the town employees and use the tax for other purposes besides giving raises.

Mr. Danko stated that they had to get a pay raise from somewhere.

Mayor Harris asked for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Vice-Mayor Riffe:	No
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Councilmember Jones:	Yes
Councilmember Danko:	Yes

The motion passed 5-1 by Roll Call Vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Holt made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to *Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711-A-1.1 and 2.2-3711-A-1.3* Mrs. Catron read:

Discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments.

Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

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

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:23 p.m.

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

Councilmember Presley made a motion to adopt the following resolution certifying the Executive Session and Mrs. Catron 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 13th day of June.

Councilmember Riffe seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

ADJOURN

Mr. Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk