

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Minutes  
June 12, 2018**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 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  
Anglis Trigg Jr., Councilmember  
Ron Holt, Councilmember

**ALSO PRESENT**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Raymond McHone, Words of Deliverance Church led the Invocation. Mayor Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Harris added a Public Hearing request under Citizens Requests & Special Presentations.

Councilmember Holt made a motion to approve the amended 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**

***Rezoning Proposals Joint Public Hearing, VOTE – Billie Roberts***

Mrs. Roberts requested a motion to approve a Joint Public Hearing for the Rezoning Proposals for the Downtown Area. She stated that it would be three separate hearings but could be approved as one vote.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the Joint Public Hearings for the Rezoning Proposals for the Downtown Area. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***Community Clean-up Day Update – Lesley Catron***

Mrs. Catron stated that they Community Clean-up Day was originally scheduled in June but was changed to July 14<sup>th</sup>. She stated after July 1<sup>st</sup> we would receive a grant from DEQ to help with the purchase of additional grabbers and garbage bags for that day. She stated that they would meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pinehill Park and split into 3 different groups and meet back at 11:45 a.m. She stated that as it got closer, she would send out additional information to everyone.

Mayor Harris stated that council would provide a meal and drinks for the volunteers.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS**

***Budget Amendments, VOTE – Lesley Catron***

Mrs. Catron stated that the following Budget Amendments needed to be approved.

**PURPOSE:** Police Department: Payment from Highlands Fellowship and GHS for Security Services

**Revenue**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
0400-0413	Misc. Law	<u>\$103,355.22</u>	<u>\$104,171.72</u>	<u>\$816.50</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$103,355.22</u>	<u>\$104,171.72</u>	<u>\$816.50</u>

**Expenditure**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
3110-1200	Salaries Overtime	<u>\$25,214.64</u>	<u>\$26,031.14</u>	<u>\$816.50</u>
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0400-0413	Misc. Law	<u>\$104,171.72</u>	<u>\$112,334.72</u>	<u>\$8,163.00</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$104,171.72</u>	<u>\$112,334.72</u>	<u>\$8,163.00</u>

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Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

***Permission for Businesses to Operate on Thistle Street, VOTE – Kris Williams***

Mr. Williams stated that after a recent Planning Commission, the Planning Commission voted to approve allowing CSC Service Works and Aramark to operate on 302 & 304 Thistle Street. He stated that this area was zoned M2 and any businesses not listed under the permitted uses must have permission from the Planning Commission and Town Council. He stated that based upon Planning Commission’s approval, it would be his recommendation to approve as well.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve for CSC Service Works and Aramark to operate on Thistle Street. Mr. Trigg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

***Sign Code Amendment (Sec. 74-1164), VOTE TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING –  
Kris Williams***

Mr. Williams stated that in council's packet was an amendment to Sec. 74-1164 Sign Code. He requested a vote to schedule a Public Hearing.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve scheduling a Public Hearing for the Sign Code Amendment (Sec. 74-1164). Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

George Leedy, 102 Mountain Lane stated that the Briarwood folks were not slowing down through Double Gates. He suggested a larger stop sign or a 100ft. stop ahead. He thanked council for all of their hard work.

Mayor Harris asked Mr. Watson to get with Chief Gunter concerning it.

Mr. Woodward stated that he had retired from teaching but would still coach. He stated that he just wanted to thank them for all that they done for Graham High School, for him, his Government Class, the Wrestling Team and Club. He stated that he had turned Student Government Day over and would help this October.

Mr. Holt thanked him for all that he had done.

Mr. Presley stated that he loved Coach Woodward.

Mr. Jones stated that he ran a sharp class and the students were well behaved.

Marsha Spease stated that she was a not a public speaker nor was she into politics but came as a parent, citizen and taxpayer. She stated that when she first started hearing about the new sports venue she was excited but that the excitement faded into disappointment when she heard the Sizemore Field which had been there since 1947 would be destroyed. She thanked Mr. Watson and Mrs. Roberts for speaking with her and was slightly amazed it was not shown in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph. She stated that she never saw anything about the layout of the project and was uncomfortable with the transition of it. She stated that they would love to save Sizemore Field and that 3 had received scholarships and it was a strong program. She stated that there were many things that were not made transparent to the public...land donated from Leatherwood? Financial Status? Promise from Leatherwood? Generating Revenue? She stated that the Town had a bank debt for over \$5 million and was about to double it. She requested that things become more transparent to the community and stated that there were rumors floating around but what she wanted to see were the numbers.

Mr. Watson stated that they were going on the same assumption that they were with the school system that the Leatherwood Property would be donated to them. He

stated that it was a long process and was not as simple as drawing a line. He stated that there was an intent and before they started they did an unbiased economic study and financial study about revenue. He stated that they wanted to open it up to the community and the Town was trying to fund the cost of the construction. He stated that every debt came through the board and some of the debt was where they continued to pay off Town Hall, the Fire Truck, etc. He stated that those were budgeted items and they worked with their Finance Director and refinanced a lot of these projects. He stated that local government debt was similar to a car debt. He stated that every month the board received a copy of every budget within the Town. He asked that if she heard any more rumors to call or come in and talk to him that he had an Open Door Policy.

Mrs. Spease asked how the cost vs. revenue study turned out and asked if taxes were going to be raised.

Mr. Watson stated that a few years ago they voted to raise meals tax and designated 1% towards this project and with retiring debt and this it was possible to pay it off in a 6 year time period but sometimes things changed such as interest rates, etc. He stated that they were doing their due diligence and that several banks had contacted them wanting to work with them.

Mrs. Spease asked if the analysis showed profitability.

Mr. Watson stated yes and he would be happy to show it to her if she came by.

Mrs. Spease asked if it could be public knowledge. She stated that the website was hard to navigate and stated that the budget needed to be online and made public knowledge. She stated that she would like this information made public for everyone not only for her.

Mr. Watson stated that he would look at putting it online.

Mrs. Spease stated that she was not a politician and appreciated what they did but had many concerns along with others. She stated that not everyone could come out or call but wanted to know how the project would be funded, how much of it would be taxpayer funded, etc. She stated that she would like to see the financial breakdown of it and with the decline in population and low enrollment if they kept losing and raising meals tax then people would cross the line to eat.

Mayor Harris asked if she was aware that the Council Meetings were televised.

Mrs. Spease stated that she was. She told Mr. Watson that she would stop by and look at the report.

David Wohlford stated that he had spoken with over 100 people and their biggest and single largest concern regarding the stadium was the lack of information. He stated that his grandson played at the playground last week and it was nice equipment but was

not finished and there were 2 platforms that were not supported. He stated that he had spoken with the Rec Director and he told him that they could not get the parts in. He stated that this company was out of California and that Mr. Freedman could file a DPOR Complaint and they could pull their license or file a cease and desist order. He stated that he was not sure if they got the equipment from California or North Carolina but there was no excuse for these parts not being here. He stated that it was unsafe...the slide was unsafe. He stated that he had spoken with Mr. Presley and that afterwards he and Mr. Beavers went out with some caution tape and taped the entire thing off. He stated that when he went out there on Sunday, all of the tape was off. He stated that he did not know if it was the Town Employees or those people out playing at the park but it was an issue that needed to be addressed because it had been up for 8 weeks and was not safe.

Mr. Watson stated that he had received pictures of the playground today and it was repaired and safely working.

Mayor Harris stated that his understanding was they could not get the parts.

Mr. Watson stated that was correct and that they had taped it off and other than constructing a fence around it that it was possible to remove the tape.

Mr. Jones stated that he knew of a gentlemen who was willing to pay the complete cost to make the West Graham playground handicap accessible lowering the swings, etc.

Mayor Harris stated that was very nice.

David Scruggs, 601 Fairway stated that he appreciated the pride that council took in the Town. He stated concerning the stadium that he was not excited about it and they did not need it. He stated that one could be built better than that and they should try to negotiate a better and longer agreement. He stated that the soccer field was built for all. He stated that they wanted all of the businesses and schools to rise and he was also a little disappointed with problems with the water. He asked that they get information out there and asked if the water was clean or not. He stated that he was glad to see those addressing problems with the ones who did not take care of their property.

Jarrold Bailey, 645 Sedgewren St. stated that he had been coming to the council meetings since September and what Mrs. Spease talked about was one of the most heartfelt things he had heard. He stated that he had talked to a lot of people and there was a lot of concern. He stated that he was not against the stadium but asked that they make sure it was done the most economical and responsible way. He stated that if the stadium solidified something great for the Town then that was wonderful. He stated that he knew the numbers were out there and asked to see them. He stated that there were people talking about how the stadium was going to save the town and increase revenue and if that were so then why was Bluefield, WV giving theirs to the School Board. He stated that he was sure there was an answer to it but he had not heard it himself. He thanked them for all that they did.

Mayor Harris stated that he and Mr. Freedman had attended the City's Public Hearing concerning turning Mitchell Stadium over to the Mercer County Board of Education and they deferred the vote until the next meeting.

### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### ***Cigarette Tax Ordinance, VOTE – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading***

Mr. Watson stated that the Cigarette Tax Ordinance would be read by title only.

***An ordinance increasing the cigarette tax within the corporate limits of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia to a rate of \$0.125 for each 20 cigarettes or fractional part thereof.***

He stated that a Public Hearing had been held and input received. He stated that it would have to be voted on twice and the existing budget did include the increases in it.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the Cigarette Tax Ordinance by title only. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

Mayor Harris asked if there were any more additional comments concerning the cigarette tax.

Mr. Riffe stated that he had said his peace with it and he would still vote no to raise taxes for 90 employees.

Mr. Presley stated that he felt the same way and had received 153 calls and everyone was complaining about it. He stated that \$500 was a blessing today for anyone to have to pay for a deductible and asked Mr. Watson on the back end when the Town had to pay more how would that be funded.

Mr. Watson stated that the first thing was they were not paying deductibles but were giving \$500 each to salaries as their raise. He stated that the cigarette tax was increased with the intent to help fund this and that the insurance had gone up many times since he had been there. He stated that there had been times that employees received a 2% raise and have gone backwards in their income. He stated that the Town's insurance was increased 14% or \$100k so instead of passing that cost on we increased the deductibles from \$250 to \$500. He stated that the benefits were why people worked for local government. He stated that this has not been done every time the insurance had gone up and this raise was to help them. He stated that if it were to go up again then it would be another vote for the board and if the money was not there this was an option or you would cut services and not provide them. He stated that there were no increases voted into the budget and it would have to come back before the board for a vote.

Mr. Presley stated that it basically was \$500 but they were wording it differently. He stated that cigarettes were a draw and brought people in to pay lower cigarette taxes and if less people stopped smoking cigarettes then where would that money come from. He stated that he understood that they were trying to take care of people and at the end of the day you chose what you did for a living and could not give free stuff. He stated that when people used more insurance the Town had a back end cost to it and asked how that would be funded when it went up.

Mr. Watson stated that we were in a pool based on different things, usage, etc. He stated that there was an employee's wife who used a lot of insurance last year and that was averaged out through the years. He stated that we did not have an increase last year but our rates were in a pool of 68 employees and based on usage. He stated that it may go 4-5 more years and come down or might go up next year and if it were to go up they would have to look at cutting cost and raising deductibles or something. He stated that was a future problem for everyone and he did not know how to answer his question and apologized.

Mr. Holt stated that he was one of the ones who proposed this and it was tough any time you proposed a rate increase. He stated that people did not want to pay more for taxes or services and he agreed with them because he lived on a limited income and would probably be more limited in the future because his wife worked at Springville Elementary School and his son attended school there. He stated that he and his family were feeling these budget cuts just like everyone else. He stated that they had Town Employees who made \$9.00 hour for full time and he had talked to a lot of people who said they chose to work for the Town and took a lot of pride in it. He stated that he could not help what the private sector paid their employees and their benefits but he could help the Town Employees and he cared about them. He stated that they had some of the best employees not only in this county but in the region and they had to take care of them and retain them because they did a great job and provided a quality of life in the Town that was tremendous. He stated that it was a difficult position to be in when he knew there were people there who needed his help. He stated that \$1 more on trash \$12 per year was something to people and he did not take it lightly because he knew people were on a limited income but he did think it was incumbent upon them as public servants to take care of the people who worked for them and keep them. He stated that they were a valuable asset to the Town and the reason he would vote for it. He stated that he tried to be as transparent as possible for his reasoning on these things. He stated that he had talked to people on social media and they read what they wanted to read into but he had his phone number posted any time anyone wanted to talk to him that he would and he would also do it face to face.

Mr. Riffe stated that Mr. Watson stated that it was not for the \$500 deductible but in the beginning that was what it was imposed for in moving it up to \$500.

Mr. Holt asked to clarify it since it was his motion. He stated that it was a \$500 pay raise for the employees in case they incurred any additional costs but could use it however they wanted to use it. He stated that they talked about it before but the motion was for a \$500 pay raise.

Mr. Riffe stated that it was implemented towards their insurance and asked him to not move it away from what it was for. He asked if there were 68 employees that were getting it and the other 22 were not, 90 full time employees.

Mr. Watson stated that there were 90 full time employees who were getting the \$500 raise which was around a \$45k increase not counting social security, etc. which would bring it up to around \$54k per year to give all full time employees a \$500 increase. He stated that it did not include the part time, Council, Planning Commission or Fire Department.

Mr. Riffe stated that only 68 of those had insurance.

Mr. Watson stated yes.

Mayor Harris stated that a lot of the services we received people took them for granted. He stated that at 3 a.m. there were people out plowing the streets or going out whenever the fire whistle went off. He stated that most of those on the Fire Department were volunteers and worked for the Town. He encouraged anyone to follow one of our garbage trucks because they did not stop from the time they started until they finished up in the afternoon and those were the ones Mr. Holt was referring to that made \$9.00/hr. He stated that they were dedicated and he felt they had a moral obligation to them. He stated that a lot of people took things for granted like their streets were going to be swept, the water was going to be on, etc. He stated that there was someone working there to make sure that these things were done. He stated that these were highly talented individuals and we were very fortunate to keep them for what salary they made. He stated that he agreed with Mr. Holt and the other positive things he said about the employees. He stated that they were doing all of the concrete and built a building downtown. He stated that this was saving the taxpayers multi-millions of dollars per year for what the employees were doing to make our community a better place to live.

Mayor Harris called for a Roll Call Vote.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	No
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Councilmember Jones:	Yes

Vice-Mayor Riffe: No

The motion passed 4-2 by Roll Call Vote.

***Fiscal Year Budget 2018/2019 Ordinance, VOTE – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading***

Mr. Watson stated that the next item was the 2018/2019 Ordinance. He asked Mr. Freedman if they voted to approve the ordinance or was it the first reading.

Mr. Freedman stated that it would be the first reading.

Mr. Watson stated that it would be read by title only and had to be voted on twice.

***An ordinance approving and adopting the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget for the Town of Bluefield, a Virginia Municipal Corporation, including any increases in taxation, water rates, trash rates, and salaries shown therein.***

Mayor Harris asked to delay it for a few minutes while Mr. Holt stepped out.

***Anytime Fitness Ribbon Cutting Ceremony***

Mr. Watson stated that the ribbon cutting for Anytime Fitness would be tomorrow at noon and invited everyone to come out. He stated that it was a new local business and he had heard it was really nice.

***Tazewell County Fair***

Mr. Watson stated that the Tazewell County Fair was July 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>.

***Rescue Squad Appreciation Dinner***

Mr. Watson thanked everyone who helped with the Rescue Squad Appreciation Dinner and to Mrs. Catron for all of her work on it. He stated that it was a nice turnout and they honored Jim with a picture and some signatures. He stated that last year it was turned over to Tazewell County EMS.

***Clean Up Day***

Mr. Watson stated that they tried to get their employees to go out on a Saturday to pick up trash. He stated that council would be supplying a lunch for them and invited everyone not only employees to come out and help.

Mayor Harris stated that the Rescue Squad Appreciation Dinner was a joint venture between the County and Town to recognize them. He stated that a prize was given away by Kicks Country and asked that they send a letter of appreciation to Kicks Country for the trip. He asked Mrs. Catron to explain the trip.

Mrs. Catron stated that it was a 3 night trip to Savannah, GA that included a hotel in the historic district and tickets to a Riverboat cruise and 2 tickets for a tour.

***Fiscal Year Budget 2018/019 Ordinance, VOTE – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.***

Mayor Harris asked for a Roll Call Vote on the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the Budget.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

The motion passed 4-2 by Roll Call Vote.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Riffe congratulated Mrs. Catron on her wedding. He thanked the Police Department and Public Works for their work at the Mountain Festival. He stated that our Town Workers did the best and stepped up and was not against that one bit. He asked what was going on behind the Visitor's Center with all of the digging.

Mr. Watson stated that they were trying to reset that shelf and keep some of that mud from sliding down.

Mr. Riffe stated that listening to all of the comments that once they got all of their information in line that they needed to have a transparent meeting of what it entailed. He stated that he was taking up for them and was in shock too of what he seen. He stated that once they had it all together they needed to have a meeting with the community and answer questions. He stated that they could get out on social media and blow it up and that everyone had an opinion but he kept his opinion to himself unless he was asked. He stated that if it was something to do with recreation and the kids he was for it but there was a big "if". He stated that he believed the engineering firms had been done.

Mr. Watson stated no, that they had not done interviews on the engineering firms yet. He stated that some of the things that they did they did not want other individuals to make decisions based on what they heard until all of the homework was done. He stated

that there was a due diligence that went into anything, engineering, core drilling studies, financing, funding agencies, foundations, etc. He stated that one of the reasons this was brought out was to advertise for engineering which would take about a month and they would come in and look at the construction, do some engineering to determine the best cost to get out of it all. He stated that there was a lot of information out there and were a lot of people involved in the decision and the Town was approached to help a problem and the entire board moved forward with the best information they had. He stated that the biggest concern was jeopardizing the financial side of the project based on the engineering but he would be more than happy to meet with anyone. He stated that this was not something they were trying to do against the community but with them and anytime they did a project such as Town Hall which was a \$4.5 million project it was tough. He stated that over the years they continued to do projects and he would be more than happy to explain anything to anyone. He stated that if council decided to move forward with a public meeting to explain it all, he would but until that time come he asked them to come and talk to him.

Mr. Jones stated that one thing they needed to understand about working with Mercer County on Mitchell Stadium was we were going to use them for 2 years while we were building our stadium and that was not so. He stated that the Beaver Stadium held 10,000+ and the stadium we were building would hold 4k – 5k. He stated that we would not come out financially unless we charged \$20 extra on a ticket and we would not do that so we would need to negotiate the Beaver/Graham football game every year which we would do automatically, one for their home game and one for ours.

Mayor Harris stated that Mr. Jones was their School Board Rep and it all started with them. He stated that they had no say so over the contract that was negotiated with the Tazewell County School Board and Mercer County.

Mr. Jones stated that he was concerned and called and talked to Todd Browning, Assistant Superintendent and asked if they planned to lease the stadium to us and what the cost would be. He stated that he was told yes and that it would cost considerably less than what we were paying.

Mr. Holt stated that there was a big misconception about the multi-use facility and that it was geared solely for football. He stated that we did not have a venue in Town that would hold some of the things we wanted to hold and bring into Bluefield, VA. He stated that it would also be for lacrosse, youth teams, festivals, tournaments, etc. He stated that this would bring things we had never done into Bluefield and was not solely geared towards football. He stated that they wanted to provide their home football team with a field if they wanted it but it was not solely geared towards football.

Mr. Presley stated that the Police Department had 4 new people and 3 were at the academy. He stated they were doing a great job. He stated that there were a lot of misconceptions out there and that a lot of people thought they had the \$6 million which they did not and suggested putting something out there getting the public's input. He stated that they did not have to tell them exactly what they were doing until it was

finalized. He stated that people were voting no and they needed to turn it around and let people know what they were doing. He stated that the Town Employees were awesome and he bought the trash guys lunch on Wednesdays at Bluefield College. He stated that the issue was not to feel sorry for them but we had a revenue issue not a budget issue in this Town and generations of people were leaving. He stated that young people were not staying and if they did not figure out how to bring in new money and trickle down that these taxes were going to raise on the ones who wanted to stay here or who could not financially afford to leave. He stated that was why he asked on the insurance how the back end was going to be paid and there were no answers. He stated that he had multiple properties and it was affecting him in the future. He stated that 10-20 years from now that Bluefield would not be the same Town we grew up in and they needed to work together like Mr. Cole said on his Facebook post and do something and not rush into it. He stated that it might take 10 years and would love to see everyone with a kid there play but he was a 12 year veteran of Graham Soccer and there was a big change coming with losing population and no answer for it in this county or vicinity. He stated that someone called him about Depot Street Park about a concrete pad and fixing a water line to the fountain and they were promised a bathroom. He stated that he did not know about it but was bringing it up. He asked staff to keep them updated and that they really appreciated the new playground equipment and what the Town had done for them.

Mr. Trigg stated that he had been here all of his life and when they first got the Graham Rec Park, he was the vice-chairman on the committee. He stated that they were told they would not be able to do it but they went up in the cow pasture. He stated that they bought so many acres and were given so many acres and the park turned out fine. He stated about the money that everyone had the same concern as now and talking about the multi-use facility and in no time, everything worked out and we had a nice place there. He stated about the football field and concerns with the Sizemore Field that it would be nice for all of those fields to be together. He stated that he went to a lot of places and smaller places had nice facilities. He stated that eventually things would make an upturn. He asked how many had been out to the new gym behind Graham High School and stated that you had 60-65 teams that came into Bluefield, VA spending money eating there, etc. He stated this was for all of the kids and it was about them.

Mayor Harris stated that the basketball program started and it exploded. He stated that the Town of Bluefield paid \$800k for that facility and like Mr. Trigg said it was for the kids. He stated that Mr. Presley talked about 10 years from now but they were dealing with what they had now for the youth. He talked about the Town being in debt and stated that the Hockman Pike Project was \$6-\$7 million and they had no choice but to build that road because the State of Virginia agreed to close that bridge down. He stated that this was an investment in the future and what they were looking at. He stated that he and his fellow councilmembers had spent a lot of time in meetings and asked them to look around and compare us to the other Towns in the community that we had something to be proud of.

Mr. Trigg stated that the multi-use facility would be used for soccer, lacrosse, etc. and some of those fields now we could not use when we needed them because we did not

own them but if we owned our own field it could be used whenever. He asked that they have more faith in the Town's people and an example was the wiring downtown. He stated that a grant became available and it did not cost the Town anything. He stated that things worked out.

### **ATTORNEY REPORT**

#### ***Resolution Authorizing Town Manager to Accept or Refuse Gifts, Donations, Requests, or Grants, VOTE***

Mr. Freedman asked for a motion authorizing the Town Manager to Accept or Refuse Gifts, Donations, Grants, etc. He stated that it was something that he and Mr. Watson had talked about and thought it was needed. He stated that the Resolution stated that it would still be brought to council in some form so that they were aware of it.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve authorizing the Town Manager to Accept or Refuse Gifts, Donations, Grants, etc. Mr. Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### ***Resolution to Establish and Clarify Terms for IDA Members, VOTE***

Mr. Freedman stated that this Resolution was to establish and clarify terms for IDA Members. He stated there was a correction and it was not Brady Ayers but Brad Ayers. He stated that this Resolution was connected to the IDA's participation issuing the bond for Bluefield College in building their new facilities. He stated that in the near future it would be coming up for a Public Hearing before the IDA. He stated that because of a discrepancy of one of the IDA members being reported twice, he and the Bond Counsel thought it was best to do this resolution to establish and clarify the terms just for purposes of the record. He asked for a motion to adopt the resolution as corrected.

Mr. Jones made a motion to adopt the Resolution to Establish and Clarify terms for IDA Members with the one correction from Brady Ayers to Brad Ayers. Mr. Trigg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### ***Non-Exclusive Telecommunications Franchise – VOTE, Acceptance of Bid – VOTE, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading***

Mr. Freedman stated that he would need a motion to accept the Non-Exclusive Telecommunications Franchise Bid and a motion to approve the first reading by title.

***An ordinance granting a Non-Exclusive Telecommunications Franchise to Lumos Network, Inc. for the purpose of permitting such grantee the ability to construct, maintain and operate telecommunications system within the public rights-of-way of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia, and to further permit such grantee the ability to provide telecommunications services over such telecommunications system.***

Mr. Holt made a motion to accept the Non-Exclusive Telecommunications Franchise Bid. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the first reading of the Non-Exclusive Telecommunications Franchise. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Holt made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to *Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711-A-1.3 and Section 2.2-3711-A-1.7* Mrs. Catron read:

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.

Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

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

Council entered into Executive Session at 9:02 p.m.

Councilmember Holt made a motion to enter out of Executive Session. Councilmember Jones 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 12<sup>th</sup> day of June.

Councilmember Trigg seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 p.m. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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Don Harris, Mayor

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Lesley Catron, Town Clerk