

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
October 9, 2018**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

PRESENT

Don Harris, Mayor
Jimmy Jones, Councilmember
Ron Holt, Councilmember
Chuck Presley, Councilmember
Anglis Trigg Jr., Councilmember
Lee Riffe, Vice-Mayor

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Watson, Town Manager
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney
Shane Gunter, Police Chief
6 Members of School Board
12 Members of Public

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Harris removed the following items from the agenda: Bailey Log House Update, Attorney's Report and Executive Session #7.

Councilmember Holt made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Councilmember 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 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.

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

Council entered into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m.

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

Councilmember Holt 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 9th day of October.

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.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Citizen Request: Issues regarding Landlords and Sidewalks – Kathy Riley, Vicki Spurgeon

Ms. Spurgeon, 300 Riverview Drive stated that she came in 2015 and asked then about the guidelines on people who owned houses and was told it was being worked on. She stated that her neighborhood concerns were about some of the houses and at that time there were 10 empty houses plus rental houses. She stated that she was afraid their property values were not what they should be. She asked for guidelines to be set up. Concerning sidewalks she thanked them for the new road in Pinehill Park and stated that a lot of people had been walking on the new sidewalk but that they needed a sidewalk there as well.

Mr. Watson stated that it was being worked on and unless someone called with a problem then they could not fix it. He stated that they were trying to make the owner's be more proactive. He stated that there was a house up from where she lived that was driving him crazy and they were trying to find a way to make them clean it up but in order to enforce such issues it had to be a safety/health concern.

Ms. Spurgeon asked about trash being covered with tarps that was causing mice.

Mr. Watson stated years ago there was a non-operable vehicle that they could get rid of after it had been covered with a tarp for 6 months. He stated that he would like to be rougher with the ones that needed it but some of it was legally hard to address.

Ms. Spurgeon stated that it should be the landlord's responsibility and not the renters.

Mr. Watson stated that he had to go after the name on the water bill which would be the renter who uses the water and not the landlord

Ms. Spurgeon stated that they needed guidelines.

Mr. Watson stated that he would look into it. He stated that the next sidewalks would be on South College but if Council wanted to add some there, he would add that to the project list.

Mayor Harris stated that they were also looking at lighting on Bullet Bill Drive.

Mr. Holt stated that he felt her pain and that he and Mr. Riffe had discussed it and how it affected everyone's properties. He stated that they were trying to find a way to address it.

Mayor Harris thanked them for coming in and that it hurt to see things like this happen in our Town.

Citizen Request: Issues regarding Comcast and Verizon Lines – Don White

Mr. White, 105 North Lane stated that several weeks ago some utility poles were addressed for replacement. He stated that APCO utilized a contractor for it when switching out the poles but left 2 lines on the old pole. He stated that as more poles became identified for replacement it would leave 2 poles

Mayor Harris asked Mr. Watson to look into it.

Mr. Freedman stated that he could speak with Mr. Watson concerning it.

Mr. Watson stated that AEP owned the poles and it was contracted out. He stated that it was AEP lines first then went to other lines. He stated that staff would contact them and see what could be done.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christmas Committee Update – Lesley Catron

Mrs. Catron stated that the 2 main Christmas Events were scheduled:

The Annual Tree Lighting and Community Gathering was scheduled for Saturday, November 17th. She stated that the outdoor ice skating rink and hayrides would be from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. and this year First United Methodist Church had agreed to work with other local churches to present Little Town of Bethlehem under the Farmer's Market Shelter. She stated that they would be offering crafts, games and snacks from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. She stated that the Tree Lighting would start at 6 p.m. with the Story of Christmas read by Pastor Steve Branch, Destiny Outreach Ministries and musical performances performed by their Praise and Worship Team. She stated that several churches had agreed to serve hot chocolate and cookies. She stated that the kids contest this year would be opened up to Abbs Valley along with Dudley Pre-K through 2nd Grade. She stated that this year the classroom would decorate an ornament as a class and the winning class would receive a pizza party. She stated that the winner would be announced that evening so we were expecting a lot more children to come out. She stated that Santa would end the evening riding in on the Fire Truck.

The Christmas Parade was scheduled for Saturday, December 15th at noon with lineup beginning at 11 a.m. She stated that we hoped to use the Ammar's parking lot again this year and the theme would probably be aimed towards the elves since they were such a big hit last year. She stated that parade applications should be ready in the next few weeks.

Mayor Harris thanked her and the committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

Schedule Joint Public Hearing: 360 S. College Ave. (Sexton Hill Property), VOTE – Billie Roberts

Mrs. Roberts stated that Planning Commission and the Zoning Administrator recommended rezoning 360 South College Avenue (Sexton Hill Property) from R-2 to B-2. She stated that a Joint Public Hearing would need to be scheduled to receive public feedback.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve scheduling a Join Public Hearing to receive public feedback concerning the rezoning of 360 South College Avenue (Sexton Hill Property) from R-2 to B-2. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Graham Transit Drug and Alcohol Policy, VOTE

Mr. Watson stated that a copy of the Resolution to Adopt the Graham Transit Drug and Alcohol Policy was included in Council's Packet. He asked for a vote to approve it.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Graham Transit Drug and Alcohol Policy. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Student Government Day

Mr. Watson stated that Student Government Day was scheduled for October 25th at 9 a.m.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Trigg had none.

Mr. Presley asked what the status was of the no parking signs at Dudley.

Mr. Watson stated that staff had talked with Mrs. Maupin.

Mr. Presley suggested putting more cameras around Town. He gave a shout out to the Fire Department and Police Department and stated that the Police Department was still underpaid.

Mr. Holt stated that they had a fantastic Police Department and the pay was a region wide problem. He thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and for giving their feedback.

Mr. Jones had none.

Mr. Riffe told everyone to mark their calendars for October 20th and 25th for the Twisted History at the Sanders House. He stated that their Holiday Bazaar was scheduled for November 4th and 5th. He stated that he had talked with Mr. Watson before concerning landlords and that Chad Lambert and Kris Williams were working on it.

Mayor Harris stated that the Town received an award at VML. He read the HEAL Award that was received to everyone and stated that they had great staff, the best in the Commonwealth and thanked them.

ATTORNEY REPORT

None.

ADJOURN

Mr. Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk