

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
April 9, 2019**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 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
Chuck Presley, Councilmember
Jarrod Bailey, Councilmember
Ron Holt, Councilmember
Anglis Trigg Jr., Vice-Mayor

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Watson, Town Manager
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk
Shane Gunter, Police Chief
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator
5 Members of Public

ABSENT

Matt Freedman, Town Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Steve Branch, Destiny Outreach Ministries led the Invocation. Mayor Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Trigg 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

None.

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: Security Services Payment

Revenue		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
0400-0413	Misc. Law	<u>\$70,887.82</u>	<u>\$72,698.32</u>	<u>\$1,810.50</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$70,887.82</u>	<u>\$72,698.32</u>	<u>\$1,810.50</u>

Expenditure		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
3110-1200	Salaries OT	<u>\$18,477.45</u>	<u>\$20,287.95</u>	<u>\$1,810.50</u>
		<u>\$18,477.45</u>	<u>\$20,287.95</u>	<u>\$1,810.50</u>

PURPOSE: Donation for Sunset @ the Square Movies

Revenue		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
3108-9903	Gifts & Donations	<u>\$8,095.00</u>	<u>\$13,095.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
		<u>\$8,095.00</u>	<u>\$13,095.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>

Expenditure		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
7130-6014	Other Operating	<u>\$11,000.00</u>	<u>\$16,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
	Supplies	<u>\$11,000.00</u>	<u>\$16,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>

PURPOSE: Reimbursement from VACORP for Property Damage

Revenue		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
0900-0204	Recovered Costs	<u>\$40,000.00</u>	<u>\$40,322.86</u>	<u>\$322.86</u>
		<u>\$40,000.00</u>	<u>\$40,322.86</u>	<u>\$322.86</u>

Expenditure		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
9100-5850	Contingency	<u>\$34,089.00</u>	<u>\$34,411.86</u>	<u>\$322.86</u>
		<u>\$34,089.00</u>	<u>\$34,411.86</u>	<u>\$322.86</u>

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

Mayor Harris asked for a Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jim Justice stated that he had met with Mr. Presley and Mr. Jones on Friday morning and talked to them about a documentary he had watched on the lack of EMS. He stated that he had asked Mr. Presley if we had a problem here and was told we were working on it. He stated that he was not happy at all about it. He stated that he went home and around 11:45 a.m. that same day, his neighbor collapsed at the end of the driveway. He stated that some neighbors went to help him get up and he passed out a total of 3 times. He stated that another neighbor called 911 and there was no ring or answer so they called back 3 minutes later and still no answer. He stated that 911 called them back 5 minutes later and it took 40 minutes for them to get there and they had come from Pocahontas. He stated that before they could get out of the neighborhood that he coded and they had to stop and spent 15 minutes working on him and brought him back. He stated that they took him to BRMC and from there flew him to Charlottesville where they put in a pacemaker. He stated that he was alive and should be coming home that night or the next day but this appalled him and there needed to be a sense of responsibility to the citizens. He stated that he was very concerned about this and had talked to Frank Morgan and asked him if he knew that the Town did not have an EMS Service and he did not. He stated that something needed to be done and that the Town owed it to the citizens to make this a priority.

Mayor Harris stated that it was a concern that they had been discussing at length.

Mr. Watson stated that he had received a copy of response times from Tazewell County EMS but had not had time to really look at them yet but the standard response times looked good in general.

Mr. Holt stated that he would get the raw data from the 911 center to Mr. Watson this week.

Mayor Harris stated that Mr. Holt had been on top of this and had been an advocate for Bluefield, VA.

Mr. Holt stated that they had been talking about this for over a month and that the Town never had its hand in the Bluefield, VA EMS because it was a separate entity. He stated that Charlie Stacy approached them wanting the County to take it over and made a lot of good promises that did not look like were getting done.

Mr. Justice stated that he looked online and saw Jim Spencer's direct quotes.

Mr. Holt stated that we provided excellent fire services to the county but it did not look like they were holding up their end of the bargain.

Mr. Justice stated that this just hit him in the face and was a hard lesson. He stated that he was extremely happy that the Town was looking into it.

Mayor Harris stated that this was the County's responsibility but we as the Town had an obligation to look after our residents.

Dave Wohlford asked council where we stood on getting crosswalks/sidewalks near the fountain and asked them to continue looking into it. He stated regarding the EMS that it was part of our Town Charter to provide those services to our Town. He stated that it had been going on since the big financial uproar and that it was just now being looked into. He stated that he appreciated that they were looking into it but it had been a long time and in 2-3 years something should have already been accomplished.

Mayor Harris stated that he and Mr. Watson had served on the Rescue Squad Board and had spent a lot of time working on it to get better service. He stated that Charlie Stacy approached them with the proposition to take over the EMS and we provide Fire Service. He stated that it was unfortunate the way it was happening but they were aware of it and would take some action.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

GHS Tennis Team Donation Request, POSSIBLE VOTE

Mr. Watson stated that the tennis team had requested a \$500 donation for general use throughout their season. He stated that they needed to find a good medium for wrestling and other organizations because they were coming more frequently. He stated that they needed to look into coming up with a policy.

Mayor Harris asked council to each give thought to this and bring back a recommendation. He asked that the donation be tabled until the next time so that they could discuss the policy recommendations.

Virginia Rural Water Association Conference

Mr. Watson stated that he along with some of staff would be attending the Virginia Rural Water Association Conference in Roanoke on April 15th – 17th.

Town Offices Closed

Mr. Watson stated that Town Offices would be closed on Good Friday, April 19th.

Free Spring Clean Up Schedule

Mr. Watson stated that the Free Spring Cleanup Schedule was in council's packet and call ins would start the week of April 22nd.

Community Clean Up Day and Cookout

Mr. Watson stated that the Community Clean Up Day and Cookout would be held on May 18th at 8 a.m. at Pinehill Park.

GHS Educational Foundation Dinner

Mr. Watson stated that for the past several years they had supported the GHS Educational Foundation which allowed non-sports students to attend and receive awards. He stated that it was \$200 for a table which covered for the students to be able to attend. He stated that it was set up for the students but if any of council would like to attend he could make the arrangements. He stated that it was sometime in May and would let council know.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Holt stated that they had opening day for Little League and that everyone appreciated the Town's support. He stated that they were up to 250 kids this year and it was a great league.

Mr. Jones had none.

Mr. Bailey stated that he had been approached about mulch at the local parks and had talked to Mr. Watson about it and they were working on it. He stated that he had also had a request to leave the parking area at the park near Sedgewood.

Mr. Watson stated that was a tough situation. He stated that they had sent out letters to people in that area before the Town took it over so that they would not make

anyone mad. He stated that they could revisit the parking and had graveled out another 3ft for parking. He stated that it could be investigated but he would have to contact the people who donated it because the original concern was to do away with parking. He stated that staff could look into the possibility of parking along the street line. He stated that he was looking at putting in a few benches there and seeing what was economically feasible that would look good and require low maintenance.

Mr. Bailey asked if anyone knew who left the mess on Fairway Street.

Mr. Watson stated that he thought it was AEP.

Mayor Harris stated that there was a short in the wiring.

Mr. Bailey stated that the rocks had been there for 5-6 weeks since they dug it up.

Mr. Presley gave a shout out to all of the departments and to Mr. Holt and the Little League. He stated that it was cool to see all of those kids. He stated that Mr. Holt had been pushing the issues with the EMS and was on it. He stated that there needed to be flashing lights or a sign at Burger King because you had to turn right but people were turning left and he almost took someone out there today.

Mr. Jones stated that there was concrete busted behind New Graham Pharmacy.

Mr. Watson stated that they were working on it and would get it fixed as soon as possible.

Mayor Harris read the following certificate from the Little League:

This certificate is proudly presented to the Town of Bluefield awarded April 6, 2019 for dedication and support of Bluefield Virginia Little League.

Mayor Harris thanked Mr. Holt for representing the Town and said he done a great job. He stated that he could see the problem in the future of running out of space and they had talked about purchasing the property behind it for parking or even expansion. He reminded council that they would provide the meat for the Community Clean Up Day Cookout. He stated that New Graham Pharmacy was having an egg hunt on the Saturday before Easter in Jack Asbury Square. He stated that he would like to recognize Vice-Mayor Trigg who was celebrating his 50 year anniversary.

Mr. Trigg stated that time sure slipped up on you.

ATTORNEY REPORT

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Harris stated that Mrs. Roberts would be joining them in Executive Session.

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

Council entered into Executive Session 8:03 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 April.

Councilmember Bailey seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Watson stated that the corrected date for the Community Clean Up and Cookout would be June 8th instead of May 18th. He stated on May 18th they would be having a Police Officer Appreciation Walk.

ADJOURN

Mr. Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk