

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
November 12, 2019**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 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
Anglis Trigg Jr., Vice-Mayor
Chuck Presley, Councilmember
Jimmy Jones, Councilmember
Ron Holt, Councilmember
Jarrod Bailey, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Watson, Town Manager
Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk
Rachel Looney, Administrative Asst.
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator
7 Members of Public

ABSENT

Shane Gunter, Police Chief

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Rev. Dr. Jay Ferguson, First United Methodist Church led the invocation. Mayor Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Harris stated that he attended the Veteran's Day Parade on Sunday in Tazewell. He stated it was true patriotism. He removed the Public Nuisances from the agenda to give time for staff to meet with the committee.

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christmas Committee Update – Kim Hernandez

Mrs. Hernandez gave the following update:

Saturday, November 16th Tree Lighting & Community Gathering

-Little Town of Bethlehem sponsored by local churches under the Farmer's Market Shelter 4-6 p.m. The churches will be handing out free cookies, cocoa, apple cider, hotdogs, crafts, treat bags and FUMC will be setting up a photo booth. The 2020 Census will have a table set up as well handing out information.

-Town will be doing hayrides from 4-6 p.m.

-Free Ice Skating Rink set up on Walnut Street from 4-8 p.m.

-Tree Lighting Ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. in Jack Asbury Square

-Parkview Baptist Church will be set up in Jack Asbury Square serving free cocoa and cookies at 6 p.m.

-Graham High School Choir will be performing Christmas songs

-Ornament Contest Winners will be announced (winners will receive a class pizza party)

-Santa will arrive on the ladder truck

-Will Calfee, GHS Senior will help light the tree

Parade-“Christmas Through a Child’s Eyes” Saturday, December 14th

-lineup at 11 a.m. in Ammar’s parking lot, parade starts at noon

-Float Contest Winners, \$15 non-refundable fee to be judged. 1st Place-\$300, 2nd Place-\$200 and 3rd Place-\$150

-Train and a town float will be in the parade so if any of council would like to ride in the parade, let staff know (have Ron on train). Mayor will be in Chief’s car at beginning of the parade. Applications are at Town Hall and on the website.

December 17th - Employee Luncheon at Fincastle at noon for any employee who cannot make the dinner. If Council would like to attend please let staff know so we can have a headcount. Employee Dinner will be at Fincastle that evening at 6:30 p.m. and Santa will be there to visit with the kids. Council is welcome to attend both just let staff know.

December 19th – Volunteer Dinner at Fincastle at 6:30 p.m. Council to bring 3 wrapped gifts each, Town will buy some as well and we will have a raffle drawing to give out prizes.

2019 Community Development Block Grant Update – Billie Roberts

Mrs. Roberts stated that the Department of Housing and Community Development approved our initial request for planning grant assistance for Business District Revitalization. She stated that we were awarded \$3,000 to complete the following:

-Completion of a public meeting.

-Completion of an initial management team meeting, the management team members must help the town to develop a plan for completing the initial Planning Grant Activities.

-Complete a physical inventory survey of all buildings vacant and occupied, including a written summary of inventory results, maps and detailed information about each space in and surrounding the business district.

-Completion of a second management team meeting where the plan of action would be discussed.

She stated that these items must be completed by January 7, 2020 and that the actual funding amount was up to \$35k dependent upon costs to complete the identified and agreed upon activities.

Fincastle Committee Update – Jarrod Bailey

Discussed during Work Session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

A Resolution to authorize and direct the Town of Bluefield to contract with Frizzell Construction Company, Inc. Motion to Adopt, ROLL CALL VOTE – Kim Hernandez

Mrs. Hernandez stated that she needed a motion to adopt and a Roll Call Vote for: A Resolution to authorize and direct the Town of Bluefield to contract with Frizzell Construction Company, Inc. to complete a portion of the Town of Bluefield's Water System Capital Improvement Project identified as VDH Project No. WSL0001-18.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve the Resolution to authorize and direct the Town of Bluefield to contract with Frizzell Construction Company, Inc. Mr. Trigg seconded the motion.

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.

Vote to go to Public Hearing Water Capital Improvement Project WSL-001-19 Bond Issuance, ROLL CALL VOTE – Kim Hernandez

Mrs. Hernandez stated that she needed a Roll Call Vote to have a Public Hearing at the next council meeting, November 26th for the Water Capital Improvement Project WSL-001-19 Bond Issuance.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve going to Public Hearing on November 26th for the Water Capital Improvement Project WSL-001-19 Bond Issuance. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

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

Tim Woodward stated that it was great to see Mr. Jones back. He thanked everyone for Student Government Day and said he was there to request a \$1k donation for this upcoming season. He stated that the Wrestling Club (Ben Fritz) was given a donation of \$500 but this was something different. He stated that his very first request was in 1992 when Cis Barrett was Mayor. He stated that he did not like to turn in a request without being present and over the years the donations from the Town have helped to purchase new mats, food, lodging, fees, expendables, etc. He stated without the help from the Town they would not have had enough money to cover the costs.

Mr. Presley stated that he done a great job.

Mr. Holt thanked him for everything that he did.

Mr. Woodward stated that he hoped to be back in February/March with some more State Champions.

Mr. Holt asked how many had gone on with a college scholarship.

Mr. Woodward stated that Dylan had gone on to Virginia Tech and Caleb to SWVCC, he had a couple back in the 90's so around 6-8 kids.

Mr. Holt stated that this was good to help these kids.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Band Boosters Donation Request, POSSIBLE VOTE

Mr. Watson stated that he had received a request from the Band Boosters for a \$500 donation to help with travel to represent GHS.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the \$500 donation request for the Band Boosters as has been done in the past. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

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.

Graham Wrestling Donation Request, POSSIBLE VOTE

Mr. Watson stated that he had received a Graham Wrestling Donation request for \$1k.

Mr. Presley made a motion to give \$1,000. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

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.

Fall Leaf Pickup

Mr. Watson stated that the Fall Leaf Pickup was still continuing and would do so for the next few weeks.

Annual Tree Lighting & Community Gathering

Mr. Watson stated that the Annual Tree Lighting & Community Gathering would be held on November 16th at 6 p.m. in Jack Asbury Square.

Christmas Parade

Mr. Watson stated that the Christmas Parade was scheduled for Saturday, December 14th at noon.

Employee Dinner

Mr. Watson stated that the Employee Dinner was scheduled for Tuesday, December 17th at Fincastle at 6:30 p.m.

Volunteer Dinner

Mr. Watson stated that the Volunteer Dinner was scheduled for Thursday, December 19th at Fincastle at 6:30 p.m.

Legislative Trip

Mr. Watson stated that this year's Legislative Trip would be held January 21-23 and that reservations had been made for everyone. He asked them to let staff know if they were not planning to attend so that the reservations could be cancelled.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Holt stated that Tazewell hung banners to honor their local Veteran's and he would like to see us do the same thing as them and Princeton. He stated that it was not something we could do this year but he would like to work on it for next year. He stated that shortly after the election, gun laws were proposed by the governor. He stated that it was an overreach on constitutional rights and the Red Flag Gun Laws put them in a dangerous situation if enforced. He asked that a resolution be sent stating that we did not need those laws here.

Mayor Harris asked if he would like to put that into a motion.

Mr. Holt made a motion for the attorney to prepare a resolution to send to the governor stating that we did not support those laws in Bluefield, VA. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

Mr. Jones had none.

Mr. Bailey stated that he was glad to see Mr. Jones back. He stated that he was in full support with Mr. Holt on the gun laws and that there was more strength in numbers and they needed to get more Towns/Counties on board to send something to Richmond.

Mr. Presley stated that he was glad Mr. Jones was back. He stated that while he was campaigning in the Springville area that the Fire Department was highly praised for their service to Springville. He gave a shout out to all the departments.

Mr. Trigg asked about the water line.

Mr. Watson stated that all of the connections had been installed, chlorine and bacteria samples were tested and we were waiting on the engineers to send them to VDH for approval. He stated that it was good weather to patch but did not know if we could get it paved this fall.

Mayor Harris thanked our employees for doing such a good job. He stated that we had employees riding on the back of trucks in 20 degree temperature and all kinds of weather.

ATTORNEY REPORT

A Resolution to respectfully request the General Assembly of Virginia amend and reenact Sections 5, 8, 9, and 10 of the existing Charter for the Town of Bluefield, Motion to Adopt, ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Freedman read what was titled on the agenda: A Resolution to respectfully request the General Assembly of Virginia amend and reenact Sections 5, 8, 9 and 10 of the existing Charter for the Town of Bluefield. He stated that there were 2 exhibits attached (an affidavit and Exhibit B which outlined the changes showing the strikeouts in green and the additions in red). He read the following from the legal ad that was previously advertised in the newspaper: The proposed amendments to the exiting charter of the Town of Bluefield in basic summary include eliminating the Mayor's vote in the Town Council's proceedings (except in the case of a tie); adding an additional councilmember to the Town Council; updating election years, eliminating the Town Council's viva voce requirement for its elections of officers (and adding the word appointments therewith); where permitted by law allowing councilmembers present and voting at a lawfully held meeting to adopt a resolution or ordinance (versus a majority of those elected to the council); clarifying the Town Council may act by motion, ordinance or resolution; and several general grammatical and language changes. He stated if council was good with the resolution then he would need a motion to adopt and a Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Holt made a motion to adopt the Resolution entitled: A Resolution to respectfully request the General Assembly of Virginia amend and reenact Sections 5, 8, 9, and 10 of the existing Charter for the Town of Bluefield. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed 4-2 by Roll Call Vote.

Nationwide Opioid Litigation-Class Action Settlement Proceeding Discussion, ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Freedman read what was titled on the agenda: Nationwide Opioid Litigation-Class Action Settlement Proceeding Discussion. He stated that it was discussed during the Work Session to remain in the proceedings.

Mr. Holt made a motion to remain in the proceedings. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

ADJOURN

Mr. Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

Don Harris, Mayor

Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk