

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
March 10, 2020**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 7:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

PRESENT

Don Harris, Mayor
Jarrod Bailey, Councilmember
Chuck Presley, Councilmember
Ron Holt, Councilmember
Anglis Trigg Jr., Vice-Mayor

ALSO PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Jimmy Jones, Councilmember

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Harris led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Harris added Little League Bids to New Business and Reports and Section #1 under Executive Session.

Councilmember Holt made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Councilmember 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:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Holt made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember 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:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

CITIZEN REQUESTS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

Sanitary Board Reappointment, ROLL CALL VOTE – Kim Hernandez

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was discussed during the Work Session regarding Mr. Watson's term expiring on the Sanitary Board effective April 20, 2020. She stated that if council was good with renewing his term that she would need a motion and a Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve reappointing Mr. Watson to the Sanitary Board. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously by ROLL CALL VOTE.

Little League Bids, ROLL CALL VOTE – Ron Holt

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve getting bids for lighting to be placed at the Little League Fields. 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:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

CITIZEN COMMENTS

David Wohlford stated that they needed to be careful when putting out for bids without doing them. He suggested that they contact AEP to get specs and that they could do it cheaper than contractors. He stated that he had been asked by several about the new coffee house and that people wanted to know the specifics of what was going on with it.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Charter Changes Update

Mr. Watson stated that he had sent an email that the Charter Changes had passed and would become effective July 1, 2020 for an additional councilmember to make it 3 seats up for election plus the mayor. He also stated that the voice vote without a resolution/ordinance passed and the mayor having a tie breaking vote only. He stated that staff would be contacting the registrar to get this on the next ballot.

Rezoning-Sections Stockton & Grim Street Joint Public Hearing, ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Watson stated that Planning Commission had recommended a Joint Public hearing to receive input on the rezoning of Stockton & Grim Street. He stated that it would be scheduled on April 14, 2020. He asked for a motion to schedule the Joint Public Hearing.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve going to Joint Public Hearing for the rezoning of sections of Stockton & Grim Street. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously by ROLL CALL VOTE.

GHS Model General Assembly Donation Request, POSSIBLE VOTE

Mr. Watson stated that he had received a donation request from the GHS Model General Assembly for \$1k to attend in Richmond, VA. He asked for a motion to approve.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve the \$1k donation request for GHS Model General Assembly. Mr. Holt seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously by ROLL CALL VOTE.

Additional Day Off Request, VOTE

Mr. Watson stated that he would like to ask for an additional day off on April 10th to extend the Easter weekend.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the additional time off request. Mr. 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:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Holt stated that he had read through Planning Commission Meeting Minutes and they were lengthy and suggested they talk about recording them and putting them online as well. He asked that it be brought back for discussion at the next council meeting. He congratulated GIS 4th Grade for winning the Reading Bee on the county level and also to the 5th Grade who won a category. He suggested sending them a letter of congratulations from council.

Mr. Bailey had none.

Mr. Presley gave a shout out to the Police Department and staff for always doing a great job.

Mr. Trigg had none.

Mayor Harris had none.

ATTORNEY REPORT

An Ordinance to Amend Article III (Building Code) of Chapter 10 (Buildings and Building Regulations) of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Bluefield, Virginia – 2nd READING (by title only), MOTION TO ADOPT, ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Freedman stated that this would be the 2nd Reading of the Building Code Ordinance (by title only) entitled: An Ordinance to Amend Article III (Building Code) of Chapter 10 (Buildings and Building Regulations) of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Bluefield, Virginia. He stated if Town Council was good to read by title only then he would need a motion and a Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading by title only. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously by ROLL CALL VOTE.

Mr. Freedman read: An Ordinance to Amend Article III (Building Code) of Chapter 10 (Buildings and Building Regulations) of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Bluefield, Virginia. He stated if council was good with the 2nd reading by title only then he would need a motion to adopt and a Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Holt made a motion to adopt the Building Code Ordinance. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously by ROLL CALL VOTE.

A resolution authorizing the nonjudicial sale, disposal, and conveyance of twenty (20) tax delinquent real properties located within the corporate limits of the Town of Bluefield, MOTION TO ADOPT, ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Freedman stated he was sure council had a chance to look over the Resolution authorizing nonjudicial sale of 20 tax delinquent properties in the Town of Bluefield. He stated the Resolution was entitled: A resolution authorizing the nonjudicial sale, disposal, and conveyance of twenty (20) tax delinquent real properties located within the corporate limits of the Town of Bluefield. 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 authorizing non-judicial sale of 20 tax delinquent properties. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously by ROLL CALL VOTE.

A resolution to direct the removal of an unsafe structure located upon 114 Meredith Street in the corporate limits of the Town of Bluefield, MOTION TO ADOPT, ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Freedman stated that this resolution was for an unsafe structure located at 114 Meredith Street and was entitled: A resolution to direct the removal of an unsafe structure located upon 114 Meredith Street in the corporate limits of the Town of Bluefield. He stated that the back page showed the picture and if council was good with the Resolution then he would need a motion to adopt and a Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Presley made a motion to adopt the resolution for an unsafe structure located at 114 Meredith Street. Mr. Holt seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously by ROLL CALL VOTE.

A resolution to direct the removal of an unsafe structure located upon 111 Montrose Street in the corporate limits of the Town of Bluefield, MOTION TO ADOPT, ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Freedman stated that this resolution was for an unsafe structure located at 111 Montrose Street and was entitled: A resolution to direct the removal of an unsafe structure located upon 111 Montrose Street in the corporate limits of the Town of Bluefield. He stated that there was one change on the date the photo was added and it was 7/2/19. He stated if council was good with the Resolution then he would need a motion to adopt and a Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to adopt the resolution for an unsafe structure located at 111 Montrose Street. Mr. Holt seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously by ROLL CALL VOTE.

Amended Sign Ordinance Joint Public Hearing 3/24/20, ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Freedman stated that Planning Commission recommended scheduling a Joint Public Hearing for the Amended Sign Ordinance on 3/24/20. He stated that it had been discussed twice with Planning Commission and the changes were in red. He asked if council was good with scheduling a Joint Public Hearing then he would need a motion and a Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Holt made a motion to schedule a Joint Public Hearing for the Amended Sign Ordinance. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously by ROLL CALL VOTE.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Harris asked Mrs. Hernandez to read the Section.

MOTION FOR CLOSED MEETING

It is hereby moved that the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia enter into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), (3) and (8) of the Code of Virginia as amended, The specific purpose for this motion is to discuss the following matter(s):

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.

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 employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in the subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter with such closed meeting being confined to the following subject: collections litigation discussion and legal implications of lease of certain recreational property.

Councilmember Bailey made a motion to enter into Executive Session as described above. Councilmember Holt 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:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

Mr. Bailey made a motion to enter back into regular session. Mr. 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:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia convened a closed meeting on March 10, 2020, pursuant to a duly adopted motion, attached hereto, and such closed meeting was convened in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia returned to its open meeting held on March 10, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA HEREBY CERTIFIES that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were discussed in the closed meeting held on March 10, 2020, to which this certification applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening such closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia in such closed meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Holt made a motion to send a Resolution in support of our local Blue Jays. 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:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

ADJOURN

Mr. Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting 9:12 pm. Mr. 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:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

Don Harris, Mayor

Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk