

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Minutes  
May 12, 2020**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 6:00pm 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  
Alan McGraw, Interim 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 6:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Jim Drake, Parkview Baptist Church led the Invocation. Mayor Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Harris added an additional Executive Session for local contract negotiations and added under Town Manager's Report to remove the Local Emergency Resolution with a vote.

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:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Bailey made a motion to approve the consent agenda. 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

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Harris asked Mrs. Hernandez to read the Executive Session.

### **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, 6) 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 investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected with such closed meeting being confined to the following subject (s): interviews of prospective Town Attorney candidates and contract for local services.

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

Mr. Presley made a motion to enter back into regular session. Mr. 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

### **CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia convened a closed meeting on May 12, 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 May 12, 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 May 12, 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.

### **CITIZEN REQUESTS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS**

### ***Field Fest/Fincastle July 4<sup>th</sup> Event Update – Billie Roberts***

Mrs. Roberts stated that council had given a certain amount of money to put towards a July 4<sup>th</sup> event but with COVID and the State getting ready to go into Phase 1 that she had talked to Mr. Watson, her Field Fest Committee along with Fincastle and it did not make sense to spend that money right now when we could not have more than 50 people at a gathering. She stated that the committee would reassess the situation in August to see where we were with the Government recommendations. She stated that they may have a Graham/Beaver event or possibly a Labor Day event. She stated that the community was definitely ready for social gathering.

## **NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS**

None.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

### ***Rezoning of Stockton St. from R2 to MHS, VOTE***

Mr. Watson stated that Planning Commission had unanimously recommended to approve the rezoning of the Henry Grim property located on Stockton St. from R-2 to MHS. He stated that council would need to vote on Planning Commission's recommendation.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the Rezoning of the Henry Grim property located on Stockton St. from R-2 to MHS. 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

### ***Town Offices Closed***

Mr. Watson stated that Town Offices would be closed on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day.

***Remove Local Emergency Resolution, VOTE***

Mr. Watson stated that it was added to the agenda to remove the Local Emergency Resolution.

Mr. Holt stated with the Governor taking steps to re-open Virginia that he would like to make a motion to rescind the Local Emergency Resolution so that it would cut out the “red tape” to open things back up. 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. Trigg stated that everyone was doing a good job including the stores. He stated that some were wearing masks and gloves and some were not.

Mr. Presley stated that he had received a request right before he got there by the GHS Boosters for a police escort from Mitchell Stadium to the High School for a parade for the seniors. He stated that he would have them to get in contact with Chief. He stated that the School Board had set graduation for July 25<sup>th</sup>. He gave a shout out to the public for coming, staff and Chief. He stated that we had 3 new hires who would be going to the academy soon and this put us back up to where we needed to be with officers.

Mr. Bailey had none.

Mr. Holt thanked Mr. Watson and staff for all that they had done over the past several weeks. He stated that this was the most difficult thing he has had to deal with while being on council. He thanked all of the First Responders as well and stated that we were making progress but not out of the woods yet. He thanked the Town for the flowers that was sent to his wife during the loss of her father.

Mayor Harris thanked staff for multi-tasking during the shutdown.

**ATTORNEY REPORT**

Mr. McGraw thanked council on behalf of his firm for this opportunity to step in and help them.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting 8:07 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