

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
April 26, 2016**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 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, Councilmember
Donnie Linkous, Councilmember
Jimmy Jones, Vice Mayor
Lee Riffe, Councilmember
Steve Danko, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Watson, Town Manager
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney
Kim Hernandez, Executive Assistant
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk
Shane Gunter, Police Chief
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator
Kris Williams, Zoning Administrator
Todd Miller, Water Plant Operator
1 Member of Public
1 Member of Media

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Vice-Mayor Jones led the Invocation. Mayor Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Harris stated that he would like to remove the Sam's Club Request under Citizen Requests & Special Presentations. He stated if someone were to show up, then they could add it back to the agenda.

Vice-Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Councilmember Danko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water Department Update – Todd Miller

Mr. Miller gave the following update:

- Water Plant had received the Gold Award for water quality in 2015 from the Virginia Department of Health.
- Currently having the motor for finished water pump #2 rewound and bearings replaced.
- Submitted annual water withdrawal report to the DEQ on January 14, 2016.
- Health Department Inspection was done on March 29, 2016.
- Currently collecting field samples 5 days per week instead of the usual 3 days per week. Purchased extra lead sampling kits to check the citizens water if it is brought in.
- Cleaned both sedimentation basins in March.
- Quarterly samples completed on February 10, 2016.
- Currently painting the floors and pipes.
- Currently feeding Falls Mills on Mondays (11-12 hours). During the winter, we averaged 16 days per month.
- Water loss over the past 3 months has averaged 20.8%. It is normal for water loss to creep up during the winter months.
- Production over last 3 months has averaged 922,000 gallons per day.
- Continuing work on our cross connection and backflow program.

Mayor Harris thanked him and his staff and said that they always did a wonderful job.

Mr. Watson stated that he had received the preliminary engineering report and would bring it back to council.

IDA Update (Love Sign and Downtown Summer Events) – Billie Roberts

Mrs. Roberts stated that the IDA was working on a Love sign and would be applying for a grant thru the Virginia Tourism Corporation in the near future which would allow us to purchase this sign. She stated that they were encouraging places to have their own love sign and that it would be in a place where people could take pictures, etc. She asked council if they had any ideas about what they would like the sign to look like or where they would like to put it, to let her know.

Mayor Harris stated that it would look good behind the VFW Memorial on the bank.

Mr. Riffe asked if Lawrence Brothers would be making it.

Mrs. Roberts stated yes.

Mr. Riffe asked when.

Mrs. Roberts stated that there was no specific deadline but would like to have it in June before the first summer event took place.

Mr. Linkous stated that it would look good downtown near the Welcome Center.

Mr. Watson stated that we had an eager group of people helping.

Mrs. Roberts stated that it was part of the IDA Committee that was helping with this and the downtown summer events. She stated that Greg Degray had suggested having a Thursday night event. She stated that they would be on June 9, July 4, and August 11 at 5 p.m. and that the IDA would be sponsoring the event called-Summerfield Festival #ilovebluefield. She stated that they would have local artisans, farmers, brewery and entertainment to participate.

Mayor Harris stated that it sound like a great idea.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

Enterprise Zone Ordinance, VOTE (2nd Reading) – Billie Roberts

Mrs. Roberts stated that this would be the 2nd reading by title for the Enterprise Zone Ordinance and asked council for a vote to approve it.

Mr. Linkous made a motion to approve the 2nd reading by title for the Enterprise Zone Ordinance. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Freedman stated that they needed to vote to approve the ordinance and read the title: An ordinance to create, by creating article III (Town of Bluefield Enterprise Zone Ordinance) of Chapter 4 (Community Development), of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Bluefield, Virginia.

Mr. Linkous made a motion to approve the Enterprise Zone Ordinance. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

Falls Mills Fishing Club Request, VOTE – Lesley Catron

Mrs. Catron stated that the Falls Mills Fishing club would be hosting Kids Day at the Falls Mills Dam on Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. She stated that they would be giving away free food, drinks and bikes and was in need of bottled water/soda. She suggested that they purchase drinks totaling no more than \$200.

Mr. Watson stated that this was a community event done each year and that we would purchase the drinks and deliver to them.

Mr. Riffe made a motion to approve spending up to \$200 and suggested water since it was healthy. Mr. Trigg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Trigg asked if they would be having the fishing day at the Mayflower.

Mr. Watson stated no, that it was too much work and that they wanted someone else to take it over. He stated that it was very labor intensive.

Mr. Riffe suggested having it at Falls Mills instead.

Mr. Watson stated that he would mention it to them.

Mayor Harris suggested naming that section after Joyce Buchanan when it was complete.

Mr. Riffe suggested that they include it into the Hometown Heroes Celebration that was mentioned previously.

Mr. Watson stated that they could put something near the Bluestone River with information and knowledge about it.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Upcoming Events

Mr. Watson stated that there was a list of upcoming events in council's packet. He stated that there was a lot going on in the area.

Budget Work Session

Mr. Watson stated that we would have a Budget Work Session on Tuesday, May 3rd at 5:30 p.m. He stated that we were losing money on water taps. He stated that we only charged \$350 to put in a water tap but that it cost us \$650 to do.

Mr. Linkous asked why.

Mr. Watson stated exactly and that it needed to be raised.

Mr. Linkous asked what the Sanitary Board charged for their taps.

Mr. Watson stated that he was not sure.

Area Businesses Meeting

Mr. Watson stated that on Thursday at noon in the Council Chambers, there would be a meeting with area business owners. He stated that this was something that was done once a month in the region and that it was a chance for businesses to tell what they did and to showcase a certain business each time. He invited council to attend.

Leatherwood Limited Access

Mr. Watson stated that there would be a legal notice in the paper tomorrow which was required by VDOT to break limited access on Leatherwood. He stated that it would allow 2 weeks of public comments to be sent to Richmond.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Constance Saunders, 74 Sedgewood Townhouses stated that she was listening to the talk about the budget and on the last page of the audit; she had a lot of concerns about not having receipts.

Mr. Watson told her she was welcome to come by his office and he would go thru it with her. He stated that the Town hired a pre-audit firm and an audit firm to do its audit.

Ms. Saunders stated that there were a lot of concerns as a citizen to see that and that Mr. Riffe had addressed it as well.

Mr. Riffe stated that his first year of council he was alarmed at the different audit findings but after Mr. Watson explained it to him, he then understood.

Mr. Watson stated that council received a copy of the checks and expenses each month. He stated that he would explain it to her or would have someone else to explain it if she would like.

Mayor Harris stated that the Town always had a balanced budget.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Danko had none.

Mr. Jones had none.

Mr. Trigg had none.

Mr. Linkous stated that there was a drive currently going on to raise funds/food for all of the local Tazewell County Schools. He stated that Sheila Vest was in the process of doing a fundraiser and there would be more information on it later. He stated that taxes would be due soon and asked if they could discuss helping those who were laid off by not charging them a late penalty for not paying on time.

Mr. Riffe had none.

Mayor Harris stated that anyone who would like to donate food for the schools could drop it off at his store and he would deliver it. He stated that on May 4th at Bluefield College, the DDC would be hosting a luncheon at noon. He stated that he had tickets if anyone was interested.

Mr. Watson stated that there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house on May 17th from 9 a.m. to noon for the SVAM Center of Excellence at the Bluestone Workforce Training Center.

ATTORNEY REPORT

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Danko 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.

Vice-Mayor Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

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

Councilmember Danko 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 26th day of April.

Councilmember Linkous seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilmember Riffe:	Yes
Councilmember Linkous:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Vice Mayor Jones:	Yes
Councilmember Danko:	Yes

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

ADJOURN

Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Mr. Linkous seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk