

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Minutes  
October 25, 2016**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 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  
Lee Riffe, Councilmember  
Jimmy Jones, Vice Mayor  
Steve Danko, Councilmember  
Donnie Linkous, Councilmember

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mike Watson, Town Manager  
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney  
Shane Gunter, Police Chief  
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk  
Kris Williams, Zoning Administrator  
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator  
Greg Quesenberry, Recreation Director  
1 Member of Media  
5 Members of Public

**ABSENT**

Kim Hernandez, Executive Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 removed the Domestic Violence Awareness Proclamation and the Planning Commission Vote.

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 Danko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Recreation Department Pool Report Update – Greg Quesenberry***

Mr. Quesenberry stated that the total revenue for this year was \$53,657.64 with a deficit of around \$4,749.19. He stated that with changes in employees, it cut expenses on payroll and that Sam's Club receipts dropped quite a bit. He stated that gate admissions this year was up \$3,483 which helped to offset other costs. He stated that they were looking at installing a POS system at the ticket booth and start implementing bar codes on the pool passes to help track them better.

Mr. Watson stated that they were pretty much breaking even and that it was not there to make money. He stated that the tickets would have to be increased more in order to make money and that they wanted to keep it to where everyone could come.

Mr. Riffe asked if the schools caused any effects.

Mr. Quesenberry stated that he got to open earlier this year and got in 70 days.

Mr. Watson stated that they did swimming lessons in the evenings \$20 for 8 days and that Gail helped with those. He stated that it was a family atmosphere and they did not put up with anything bad.

Mr. Quesenberry stated that it was like stepping back in time and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

Mr. Riffe stated that it was a good thing just like the basketball and if you could run a pool, then you could run a basketball league. He asked how the community garden went.

Mr. Quesenberry stated that they received 2 grants, one from VT to pay for the arrogation system and the other from the Rotary Club to put in a little rest area and an outdoor sink. He stated that they had 20 spots and all were filled.

Mr. Watson stated that one time the water got up but it was not bad and went pretty good.

Mr. Quesenberry stated that he had spoke at a local Garden Club and they were very interested in it.

Mr. Riffe asked about the Farmer's Market Director next year.

Mr. Quesenberry stated that he had talked with Mike about it and they were weighing their options. He stated that they had a good turnout and that the corn roast was a huge success.

Mr. Riffe suggested having the Farmer's Market in the evening.

Mr. Quesenberry stated that he had tried that before but did not have many vendors who wanted to do it.

Mr. Watson stated that ideally a Saturday morning would be good but we were competing with others around us.

Mr. Riffe asked if there was a program in the schools that would get the kids interested in this.

Mr. Quesenberry stated that they wanted to do something like that this year but all of the spots were taken and stated that he would work on it for next season.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS**

### ***Welcome/Visitor's Center Update – Billie Roberts***

Mrs. Roberts stated that the Welcome/Visitor's Center had already been talked about during the Work Session.

Mr. Riffe asked if there would be a sign on 460 or in Town about the Welcome Center.

Mrs. Roberts stated that she and David Woodard had talked about it and said that it was a must.

Mr. Linkous asked if there would be a sign on the building.

Mrs. Roberts stated that they would probably put something left of the building.

Mr. Linkous stated that they would need something big.

Mayor Harris asked if she was familiar with the new SWVA logo.

Mrs. Roberts stated yes and that it was very cool and exciting and that Todd Day was super excited about the logo. She stated that she would get them some information on it.

Mayor Harris stated that the Governor was looking at SWVA as a potential growth area.

***SGR VDOT Update – Billie Roberts***

Mr. Watson asked that they go ahead and do the Vote for the State of Good Repair.

Mr. Linkous made a motion to apply for the SGR VDOT for the Tazewell Avenue Bridge.

Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mrs. Roberts asked for a vote for the Revenue Sharing Grant for the sidewalks.

Mr. Riffe made a motion to approve for the area of Hill Street to Depot Street, the completion of GHS to GMS (Valleydale to Huffard Drive) and the Mountain Lane Intersection to Fincastle which would connect to Huffard Drive.

Mr. 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.

**NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS**

***Rezoning of Walnut Street – Kris Williams***

Mr. Williams stated that during the recent Planning Commission Meeting that Planning Commission voted to approve the rezoning of Walnut Street from R2 to B2. He stated that based upon their decision that it would be his recommendation to approve the rezoning of Walnut Street.

Mr. Watson asked if it was the entire block.

Mr. Williams stated yes.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the Rezoning of Walnut Street. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

***Sprint Sign Variance***

Mr. Williams stated that Planning Commission had approved a sign variance of 64.6 sqft for the Sprint building. He said that code stated that anything over 60 sqft had to be approved. He stated that based upon Planning Commission's recommendation that it would also be his recommendation to approve the Sprint Sign Variance.

Mr. Linkous made a motion to approve the Sprint Sign Variance. Mr. Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

***Resolution: BB&T Financing***

Mr. Watson asked for a vote to approve the BB&T Financing Resolution for the track loader and utility truck. He stated that the lowest interest rate was 1.96% for 5 years.

**Resolution Approving Financing Terms**

**WHEREAS:** The Town of Bluefield, Virginia ("Town") has previously determined to undertake a project for the lease purchase of a utility truck and bobcat with equipment, and the Finance Officer has now presented a proposal for the financing of such Project.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as follows:**

1. The Town hereby determines to finance the Project through Branch Banking and Trust Company ("BB&T"), in accordance with the proposal dated October 19, 2016. The amount financed shall not exceed \$125,215.00, the annual interest rate (in the absence of default or change in tax status) shall not exceed 1.96%, and the financing term shall not exceed five (5) years from closing.

2. All financing contracts and all related documents for the closing of the financing (the "Financing Documents") shall be consistent with the foregoing terms. All officers and employees of the Town are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any Financing Documents, and to take all such further action as they may consider necessary or desirable, to carry out the financing of the Project as contemplated by the proposal and this resolution. The Financing Documents shall include a Financing Agreement and a Project Fund Agreement as BB&T may request.

3. The Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to hold executed copies of the Financing Documents until the conditions for the delivery of the Financing Documents have been completed to such officer's satisfaction. The Finance Officer is authorized to approve changes to any Financing Documents previously signed by Town officers or employees, provided that such changes shall not substantially alter the intent of such documents or certificates from the intent expressed in the forms executed by such officers. The Financing Documents shall be in such final forms as the Finance Officer shall approve, with the Finance Officer's release of any Financing Document for delivery constituting conclusive evidence of such officer's final approval of the Document's final form.

4. The Town shall not take or omit to take any action the taking or omission of which shall cause its interest payments on this financing to be includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of the registered owners of the interest payment obligations. The Town hereby designates its obligations to make principal and interest payments under the Financing Documents as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" for the purpose of Internal Revenue Code Section 265(b)(3).

5. The Town intends that the adoption of this resolution will be a declaration of the Town's official intent to reimburse expenditures for the project that is to be financed from the proceeds of the BB&T financing described above. The Town intends that funds that have been advanced, or that may be advanced, from the Town's general fund, or any other Town fund related to the project, for project costs may be reimbursed from the financing proceeds.

6. All prior actions of Town officers in furtherance of the purposes of this resolution are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed. All other resolutions (or parts thereof) in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed, to the extent of the conflict. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Clerk)  
SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mayor/Manager)

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the BB&T Financing Resolution. Mr. Trigg 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.

***Bluefield Sanitary Board, Inc. Member Appointment Discussion***

Mr. Watson stated that David Scruggs was interested in filling the open seat but that he needed to get more information. He stated that he would like to go ahead and vote to appoint Lonnie Yates to the Bluefield Sanitary Board Inc.

Mr. Linkous made a motion to appoint Lonnie Yates to the Bluefield Sanitary Board, Inc. Mr. Danko seconded the motion.

Mr. Riffe asked if you had to live in Town to be on the board.

Mr. Watson stated no.

Mr. Linkous asked why they would not appoint someone who lived in Bluefield, VA.

Mayor Harris stated that he lived in Bluefield, VA.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

***Water Plant Upgrade***

Mr. Watson stated that the final set of plans had been sent in and he hoped they would be approved. He stated that it would increase our capacity 1.95 and that it would give us the ability to go up.

***High Street Update***

Mr. Watson stated that staff was cleaning up the area and working on an agreement with 3 more property owners.

### ***Leatherwood Update***

Mr. Watson stated that he had received all information for the Limited Access Break and that it should be on their December agenda.

### ***Spring Street Lighting***

Mr. Watson stated that he had the opportunity to talk to the individual who had concerns and he felt that they would be able to work it out. He stated that it would be parking on one side and then when it got to closer to that end, swapping the lane. He stated that they would start working on it again after the Visitor's Center was complete.

### ***Security Cameras***

Mr. Watson stated that 70% of the cameras were up and being recorded 24 hrs a day.

Mr. Riffe asked if they could use their in car computers to look at them.

Mr. Watson stated not yet. He stated that there should 2 on the WVVA building.

### ***Body Cameras Grant***

Mr. Watson stated that the Police Department received a grant for 16 body camera units. He stated that we had 17 officers and that the Town would purchase the other camera needed.

### ***Transit Grant***

Mr. Watson stated that a new compressor for the garage and a dealers package computer which does engines and transmission was purchased for the garage. He stated that we paid 3% of the cost.

### ***Equipment Sale***

Mr. Watson stated that there was a list in council's packet of the equipment for sale. He stated that they were going to put a hold on the motor grader and had gone to a stainless chipper instead of metal. He asked for a vote to sale the following equipment:

AUCTION EQUIPMENT 2016

2007 Ford 4-Door Sedan (#20)  
2007 Ford 4-Door Sedan (#21)  
Isuzu Rodeo Jeep 1999 (#55)  
Kubota 4x4 Tractor Mower w/ Deck  
Motor Grader  
(2) 6-Yard Salt Chippers  
(3) 3-Yard Salt Chippers  
2006 Ford Bus (#83)  
2009 Ford Bus (#82)  
2009 Ford Bus (#61)

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the sale of the above equipment. Mr. Linkous seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

***Upcoming Events***

Mr. Watson stated that there was a list of upcoming events in council's packet.

***Community Foundation Dinner***

Mr. Watson stated that the Community Foundation Dinner would be on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Fincastle on the Mountain.

***November 8<sup>th</sup> Town Council Meeting***

Mr. Watson asked for a vote to cancel the November 8<sup>th</sup> Town Council Meeting due to elections.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve cancelling the November 8<sup>th</sup> Town Council Meeting. Mr. Linkous seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

***Depot Street Playground Grant***

Mr. Watson stated that he had talked with Mrs. Green and she had applied for the grant thru her church and that it would be a \$15k grant. He stated that we would try to get another grant as well. He stated that we were looking at spending \$30k and would also be fundraising. He stated that they should know something in December.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mayor Harris thanked Rick Taylor for coming.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Danko had none.

Mr. Jones had none.

Mayor Harris had none.

Mr. Trigg had none.

Mr. Linkous asked about the bushes at Wendy's.

Mr. Watson stated that he went by and looked at it and would get it taken care of.

Mr. Linkous asked if the wall at the railroad was still on the agenda.

Mr. Watson stated that they were still looking at replacing it.

Mr. Riffe asked about the Christmas tree.

Mr. Watson stated to add a 4 ft section it would cost \$3,500. He asked if they wanted it to be done this year.

Mr. Danko asked if they had the finances to do it.

Mr. Watson stated that it could be pulled out of prior year expense or contingency.

Mr. Riffe stated that it was a big event and that the Christmas tree needed to be bigger. He made a motion to approve the purchase of a 4ft section. Mr. Danko 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.

Mr. Riffe asked as a citizen, what happened to the sign that was in his yard and was wondering if Mr. Watson had heard anything.

Mr. Watson stated that they were aware of it and that the Town did not pull election signs. He stated that it was a sticky situation.

Mr. Linkous stated that he had 19 signs stolen and that he was offering a \$1,000 reward for information. He stated that they had 3 people who had come forward so far and that he had a video. He stated that he hoped people would be respectful and that everything he had done was done with class.

Mayor Harris stated that he had 3 signs taken and that he hated that people were taken the signs. He stated that he had the opportunity to attend the Dudley Autumn Festival and hung out with Officer Horn. He stated that he was overly impressed which speaks well of our Police Department.

**ATTORNEY REPORT**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Harris stated that Steve Arey and Rick Taylor would also be going into Executive Session.

Vice-Mayor Jones made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to *Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711-A-1.1 and 2.2-3711-A-1.3 2.2-3711-A-1.7 and Mrs. Catron* read:

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; and evaluation of performance of departments.

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 and briefings by staff members of consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

Councilmember Danko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

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

Councilmember Riffe made a motion to adopt the following resolution certifying the Executive Session and Mr. Watson 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 25<sup>th</sup> day of October.

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. Danko made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m. Mr. Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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Don Harris, Mayor

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Lesley Catron, Town Clerk