

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Minutes  
April 18, 2017**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

**PRESENT**

Don Harris, Mayor  
Jimmy Jones, Councilmember  
Lee Riffe, Vice-Mayor  
Chuck Presley, Councilmember  
Steve Danko, Councilmember  
Ron Holt, Councilmember

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mike Watson, Town Manager  
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney  
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator  
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk  
Kim Hernandez, Executive Assistant  
4 Members of Public

**ABSENT**

Shane Gunter, Police Chief

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

***Special Presentation: Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation, VOTE – Jennifer Bourne, Clinch Valley Community Action, Inc.***

Janelle Howery, Sexual Assault Advocate for Tazewell County stated that April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month. She stated that she worked with clients from the ages of 7 to 96. She asked council for a vote to accept the following Sexual Assault Awareness Proclamation.



**TOWN OF BLUEFIELD  
Sexual Assault Awareness Month  
PROCLAMATION**

Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in this community. Every day, women, men and children across the Town of Bluefield experience the pain and trauma of sexual assault. From verbal harassment and intimidation to molestation and rape, this crime occurs far too frequently, goes unreported far too often, and leaves long-lasting physical and emotional scars. During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves not only to erasing the secrecy and shame surrounding sexual assault, but also to raising awareness, expanding support for victims, and strengthening our response.

**Whereas**, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm our community, and statistics show one in five women and one in seventy-one men will be sexually assaulted at some point in their lives (Black et al., 2011); and

**Whereas**, child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that one in six boys and one in four girls will experience a sexual assault before the age 18 (Dube et al., 2005); and

**Whereas**, young people experience heightened rates of sexual violence, and youth ages 12-17 were 2.5 times as likely to be victims of rape or sexual assault (Snyder & Sickmund, 2006);

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I do hereby proclaim April 2017 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. I urge all residents of the Town of Bluefield to work together to help expand sexual assault prevention efforts and ensure the next generation fosters attitudes that promote healthy attitudes that promote healthy relationships, equality and respect. I join advocates and communities across the country in taking action to prevent sexual violence. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and each day of the year is an opportunity to create change for the future.

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Donald R. Harris, Mayor

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April 11, 2017

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the Sexual Assault Awareness Proclamation. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### ***Bailey Log House Update – Lynn Burnette***

Mrs. Burnette went over a list of things happening at the Bailey Log House. She stated that they were closed during the months of January-March opening up in April for tours. She stated that more of the Bailey Family was coming in and that one was moving back into the area and she steered her to the Virginia side. She stated that Ron Bailey funded the Geology part of the Bailey Log House which will allow the younger kids do a little bit of their own geology. She stated that they would be having their annual yard sale, Fall Festival and a Reenactment of West Virginia. She stated that the local Girl Scout Troop would be cleaning to earn their badges and that the youth in Town helped with the Open House by doing a Manger Scene. She stated that this year they would be offering the following crafts:

- Family Trees
- Homemade candles
- Quilts
- Paper dolls
- Corn shuck dolls
- Family Scrapbooking
- Needle Points
- Praying Dolls made out of handkerchiefs

She thanked council and staff for all of their help.

Mayor Harris thanked her.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS**

#### ***ADA Playground Equipment Discussion – Billie Roberts***

Mayor Harris stated that they had already discussed the ADA Playground Equipment during the Work Session.

***Unique Fitness Downtown Event – Billie Roberts***

Mayor Harris stated that they had already discussed the Unique Fitness Downtown Event during the Work Session.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

***Budget Amendments, VOTE***

Mr. Watson stated that the following Budget Amendments needed to be voted on:

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS  
2016 / 2017**

**PURPOSE:** Communications Recording System – Police Department

**Revenue**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
0100-0509	Prior Year	<u>\$100,928.09</u>	<u>\$115,290.46</u>	<u>\$14,362.37</u>
	Reserves	<u>\$100,928.09</u>	<u>\$115,290.46</u>	<u>\$14,362.37</u>

**Expenditure**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
3110-8106	Grants	<u>\$56,857.99</u>	<u>\$71,220.36</u>	<u>\$14,362.37</u>
		<u>\$56,857.99</u>	<u>\$71,220.36</u>	<u>\$14,362.37</u>

Mr. Watson requested a motion to approve the budget amendments.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Mr. Holt seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Vice-Mayor Riffe:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Councilmember Jones:	Yes
Councilmember Danko:	Yes

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

***Free Spring Clean Up Schedule***

Mr. Watson stated that a copy of the free spring clean up schedule was in council's packet and that it had been advertised in the paper.

### ***FOIA Training***

Mr. Watson stated that the FOIA Training would be held on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

### ***Virginia Rural Water Association Conference***

Mr. Watson stated that some of staff would be attending the Virginia Rural Water Association Conference on April 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> in Roanoke, VA.

### ***Thank You Card***

Mr. Watson stated that the Town received a thank you card from Sheriff Hieatt for its \$250 donation and read it.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Riffe stated that he had received a call about a sewer complaint that he had passed on to Mr. Watson and Mr. Danko.

Mr. Watson stated that he had talked to the lady and that it was a storm water drain that the Town was going to work on.

Mr. Presley stated that he and Mr. Holt had mentioned live streaming the council meetings. He asked Mr. Watson if he would email council any articles that were put in the paper concerning the Town so that council would be made aware of it. He asked that a resolution be prepared for Dr. Chopra.

Mr. Holt stated that he thought it was important to do live stream but not for the Work Sessions.

Mr. Jones stated that he talked to someone about all of the trees being timbered and was assured that after 3 years, we would no longer see the stumps. He stated concerning the budget that they all needed to give and take and that he would not vote for the \$3k across the board for the Police Department. He stated that he would like to see it at \$2,800.

Mr. Danko asked that the Board of Supervisors come to our meetings to update council on what was going on.

Mayor Harris stated that he would be meeting with Charlie on Thursday and would talk to him about it. He stated that he liked the recommendation of recognizing Dr. Chopra and asked for a motion to approve doing something.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve doing a resolution or some type of recognition for Dr. Chopra. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor Harris asked that the Town send a letter of condolence or something to Donna Kelly in the passing of her husband. He stated that she worked hard every year on the Beautification Commission to make our Town look great.

### **ATTORNEY REPORT**

Mr. Freedman stated that some complaints regarding skateboarding and bikes in Town were brought up to him. He stated that he would look at some things and bring it back to council.

Mayor Harris stated that there were already skateboarding signs up in different areas.

Mr. Presley stated that there were some up in Brierwood.

Mr. Watson asked council if they wanted to live stream the council meetings.

Mayor Harris stated that he was not in favor of doing it but it was whatever council wanted.

Mr. Presley asked him to look at the cost.

Mr. Watson stated that he would bring it back.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Holt 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-1.6* 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.

The investing of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the government unit would be adversely affected.

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

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:06 p.m.

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

Councilmember Presley 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of April.

Councilmember Riffe seconded the motion.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

Vice-Mayor Riffe:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Councilmember Jones:	Yes
Councilmember Danko:	Yes

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

#### ***Sanitary Board Discussion***

Mayor Harris stated that they need to vote to approve Mr. Watson to replace Mr. Danko on the Sanitary Board.

Mr. Watson stated that they would need to amend the agenda to add this vote.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve amending the agenda to include a vote on the Sanitary Board. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor Harris asked for a motion to appoint Mr. Watson to replace Mr. Danko on the Sanitary Board.

Mr. Riffe made a motion to approve appointing Mr. Watson to replace Mr. Danko on the Sanitary Board. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Danko made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Presley 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