

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
January 23, 2018**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 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
Ron Holt, Councilmember
Chuck Presley, Councilmember
Lee Riffe, Vice-Mayor

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Watson, Town Manager
Shane Gunter, Police Chief
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney
Kim Hernandez, Executive Assistant
Kris Williams, Zoning Administrator
12 Members of Public

ABSENT

Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilmember Jones led the Invocation and asked for a moment of silence in honor of Steve Danko. Mayor Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Harris removed the Term Limits Discussion under Attorney's Report.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

Resolution: Party ID, VOTE – Lesley Catron

Mrs. Catron stated that in council's packet was a Resolution in opposition to Senate Bill 263. She stated that the bill was introduced on January 5th to the General Assembly for consideration during the 2018 session. She stated that it proposed political party identification on local ballots for candidates nominated by a political party or at a primary election. She stated that if council approved the resolution that signed copies would be sent to the appropriate contacts.

RESOLUTION INDEX NUMBER

VIRGINIA: AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL IN BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA ON THE 23RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2018.

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 263

WHEREAS, Senator David Suetterlein has introduced Senate Bill 263 into the Virginia General Assembly for consideration in the 2018 session; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 263 proposes political party identification on local ballots for candidates nominated by a political party, except where a local charter provides otherwise; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 263 would create a hyperpartisan atmosphere in small municipalities, and, thus, cause unnecessary tension in local elections.

***Resolution: Opposition of Loss of Authority Regarding Wireless Industry, VOTE –
Lesley Catron***

Mrs. Catron stated that in council's packet was a Resolution in opposition to House Bill 1258 and Senate Bill 405. She stated that both bills were introduced to the General Assembly on January 10th and were to eliminate most local control over the installation and operation of new wireless support structures. She stated that it would create a shift in authority, moving decision making from the community and elected officials to for-profit corporations that installed wireless equipment. She stated if council approved this resolution that signed copies would also be sent to the appropriate contacts.

RESOLUTION INDEX NUMBER

VIRGINIA: AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL IN BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA ON THE 23RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2018.

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION
TO HOUSE BILL 1258 AND SENATE BILL 405**

WHEREAS, Delegate Terry Kilgore has introduced House Bill 1258 into the Virginia General Assembly for consideration in the 2018 session; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ryan McDougle has introduced Senate Bill 405 into the Virginia General Assembly for consideration in the 2018 session; and

WHEREAS, these bills propose to eliminate most local control over the installation and operation of new structures and the replacement of current technology; and

WHEREAS, these bills mandate a ministerial process which eliminates the ability for local officials, residents, and businesses to have meaningful input into decisions affecting the character of their own communities; and

WHEREAS, these bills represent a shift in authority, moving decision-making authority from the community and local elected officials to for-profit corporations that install wireless equipment; and

WHEREAS, wireless equipment installations can have significant health, safety and aesthetic impacts but those companies have little, if any, interest in taking into account those concerns that potentially conflict with their profit margins.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia hereby opposes Senate Bill 405 and House Bill 1258, and further urges its local representatives, the appropriate committee(s), and the General Assembly to do the same as it is presented for consideration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that this resolution is adopted on this 23rd day of January, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that this resolution is effective on this 23rd day of January, 2018.

at 1939 Virginia Avenue. He stated that based upon Planning Commission's decision and obtaining appropriate state licensing, it would be his recommendation to approve a day care group located at Calvary's Hill Church located at 1939 Virginia Avenue.

Mr. Riffe made a motion to approve a day care group located at Calvary's Hill Church located at 1939 Virginia Avenue. Mr. Holt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

David Wohlford, Fairway Street stated that he owned a motorcycle and asked that the Town stickers for motorcycles be made smaller and waterproof.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Water System Update

Mr. Watson stated that the Town had a water leak somewhere in the last 3 weeks. He stated that we were buying water from WVAWC. He stated that the guys were working to find the leak and he would let council know when it was found.

Water CIP Update

Mr. Watson stated that the Water CIP project was moving forward and we would be advertising for bond counsel soon. He stated that we could spend money and they would pay us back at the end.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Watson stated that a list of upcoming events was in council's packet. He stated that there was always something to do.

Legislative Trip to Richmond

Mr. Watson stated that staff and council would be going to Richmond for Legislative Days on January 24th – 26th. He stated that they would be able to speak to different people while they were there such as Dominion Power, etc.

Newsletters

Mr. Watson stated that council received a copy of the newsletter and asked them to read over it and let staff know if they wanted to add or change anything by January 31st.

Mr. Holt suggested putting something on the Town's Facebook page letting everyone know about the water leaks.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Presley asked that they have a Work Session to talk about term limits. He stated that the Police Department was going a great job. He stated that there was a bear in Pinehill Park and asked when the speed limit on 720 would change.

Mr. Watson stated that all they needed to do was put up new speed limit signs.

Mr. Holt had none.

Mr. Jones had none.

Mr. Riffe asked staff to look into putting a new digital sign up at the Treasurer's Office. He stated that a lot of people read that sign including those who rode the bus or those who came in to pay their bills each month. He congratulated Calvary's Hill Baptist Church on the daycare.

Mayor Harris thanked Mr. Jones for having the moment of silence for Mr. Danko. He stated that he attended the funeral and it was an extremely large funeral. He stated that the church was beautiful and the tributes that were paid to Mr. Danko were well deserved.

ATTORNEY REPORT

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Harris asked for a Roll Call Vote to enter into Executive Session.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

Mrs. Catron read the following Executive Session: *Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711-A-1.1, Section 2.2-3711-A-1.3 and Section 2.2-3711-A-1.7.*

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 or 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.

Council entered into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

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

Vice-Mayor Riffe 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 23rd day of January.

Councilmember Holt seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

Council resumed regular session.

Mayor Harris asked if there was anything else to be brought up.

Mr. Holt made a motion to appoint Rick Holman to the council vacancy seat of Mr. Danko. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

Mayor Harris asked for a Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	No
Councilmember Jones:	No
Vice-Mayor Riffe:	Abstain

The motion failed by Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Holt made a motion to appoint Anglis Trigg to the council vacancy seat of Mr. Danko. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

Mayor Harris asked for a Roll Call Vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

The motion passed by Roll Call Vote.

ADJOURN

Mr. Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk