

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
March 27, 2018**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 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
Anglis Trigg Jr., Councilmember
Lee Riffe, Vice-Mayor

ALSO PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Pastor Bill Lykins, Memorial Baptist Church led the Invocation. Mayor Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Citizen Request: Road Request – David Havens

David Havens, 108 Church St, Tazewell, VA. He stated that he provided housing for 25 families who paid taxes, etc. in Bluefield, VA. He stated that he has tried to keep up the Belmont Street property entrance but cannot. He stated that there was about 200ft that was treacherous and he had been waiting on the Town to fix but they have not done anything. He stated that it was difficult for his tenant to take her child to school, for the trash to be picked up and had no lighting. He stated that he would like the Town to upgrade that 200ft-250ft part of the road.

Mr. Watson stated that this was something we did not do and it was considered a “Paper Street” which was undeveloped by the citizens to put in driveways. He stated that later on they would come in asking the Town to pave them. He stated that we went to the end of the road and that all pickup was at the bottom. He stated that Sexton Hill was an example of a “Paper Street” and was not a Town Street. He stated that the owners got together and fixed the street. He stated that we did not go onto a private drive to pick up anything. He suggested that he go through Planning Commission to build a road to meet VDOT standards then it could be accepted. He stated that another example would be Springwood Road in Sedgewood. He stated that the road would not be taken into the Town’s system until it was brought up to the codes required by VDOT.

Mayor Harris stated that what Mr. Havens was asking for did not fall into our realm.

Mr. Watson stated that another house could not be put in above the current one without a road be putting in.

Mr. Presley asked if he had to go through Planning Commission to build a road.

Mr. Watson stated yes to build as the same existing road.

Mr. Havens stated that he did not own either side of this Right of Way and the house was approved for construction years ago. He stated that when he bought the property it said it was a Town street on the tax papers so he assumed it was. He stated that it did not make sense for him to put in a road when he did not own it.

Mayor Harris stated the house had been there for about 25-30 years.

Mr. Havens stated that it was not finished when he bought it.

Mr. Holt stated that he would have to go through the procedure first.

Mayor Harris agreed and then when it was done then he could come back to council.

Mr. Havens stated that he would be back.

Mr. Freedman stated that he had not looked at the maps associated with this property but we were under no obligation to maintain it. He stated that what council was saying was that it would have to be brought up to Town standards before anything could be done.

Special Presentation: Resolutions for Graham High School Wrestlers – Mayor Don Harris

Mayor Harris asked the wrestlers to come forward.

Mr. Holt read the Resolution for Mason Raley and presented it to him.



**Town of Bluefield
Resolution
MASON RALEY**

WHEREAS, Mason Raley is a member of the Graham High School Wrestling Team; and

WHEREAS, he is in the 195 lbs. weight division and completed this year with a season record of 40-9 and an overall career record of 124-33 at Graham High School; and

WHEREAS, his tournament honors include receiving 2nd place at the Carroll County Invitational, 3rd place at the Rural Retreat Invitational, 3rd place at the Highlander Invitational, and 2nd place at the Agie Skeens Memorial Tournament; and

WHEREAS, he received 2nd place at the 2A Region D Tournament in the 195 lbs. weight division; and

WHEREAS, he received 4th place at the 2A VA State Tournament in the 195 lbs. weight division.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, hereby recognizes Graham High School Wrestler Mason Raley on his successful season and applauds his wrestling career accomplishments.

Adopted the 13th day of March 2018. Presented the 27th day of March 2018.

Donald R. Harris, Mayor

Lesley L. Catron, Town Clerk

Mr. Jones read the Resolution for Caleb Fritz and presented it to him.



**Town of Bluefield
Resolution
CALEB FRITZ**

WHEREAS, Caleb Fritz is a member of the Graham High School Wrestling Team; and

WHEREAS, he is in the 113 lbs. weight division and completed this year with a season record of 43-5 and an overall career record of 140-27 at Graham High School; and

WHEREAS, his tournament honors include receiving 1st place at the Carroll County Invitational, 1st place at the Rural Retreat Invitational, 3rd place at the Highlander Invitational, and 2nd place at the Bobby Bates Classic, 2nd place at the Agie Skeens Memorial Tournament, and 2nd place at the Ed Cressell Classic; and

WHEREAS, he was Champion at the 2A Region D Tournament in the 113 lbs. weight division; and

WHEREAS, he received 4th place at the 2A VA State Tournament in the 113 lbs. weight division.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, hereby recognizes Graham High School Wrestler Caleb Fritz on his successful season and applauds his wrestling career accomplishments.

Adopted the 13th day of March 2018. Presented the 27th day of March 2018.

Donald R. Harris, Mayor

Lesley L. Catron, Town Clerk

Mr. Presley read the Resolution for Justin Fritz and presented it to him.



**Town of Bluefield
Resolution
JUSTIN FRITZ**

WHEREAS, Justin Fritz is a member of the Graham High School Wrestling Team; and

WHEREAS, he is in the 132 lbs. weight division and completed this year with a season record of 48-6 and an overall career record of 48-6 at Graham High School; and

WHEREAS, his tournament honors include receiving 1st place at the Carroll County Invitational, 2nd place at the Rural Retreat Invitational, 2nd place at the Highlander Invitational, 3rd place at the Bobby Bates Classic, 3rd place at the Agie Skeens Memorial Tournament, and 5th place at the Ed Cressell Classic; and

WHEREAS, he was the Champion in the 132lbs. weight division at the 2A Region D Tournament; and

WHEREAS, he was the Champion of the 2A VA State Tournament in the 132 lbs. weight division.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, hereby recognizes Graham High School Wrestler Justin Fritz on his successful season and applauds his wrestling career accomplishments.

Adopted the 13th day of March 2018. Presented the 27th day of March 2018.

Donald R. Harris, Mayor

Lesley L. Catron, Town Clerk

Coach Woodward thanked Council on behalf of the Wrestling Team for their support and for the donation. He stated that they wore the new singlets many times including at the State Tournament.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

None.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Winter Storm

Mr. Watson stated that the Town would be picking up brush for free caused from this past storm if the citizens got it to the road.

Town Offices Closed

Mr. Watson stated that Town offices would be closed on Friday, March 30th for Good Friday. He stated that trash regularly picked up on Friday would be picked up on Thursday, March 29th.

GHS Educational Dinner

Mr. Watson stated that the GHS Educational Dinner would be held at Fincastle on the Mountain on Thursday, April 26th.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Audrey Kirk (owner of Kirk's Blessing), Lee Avenue stated that she helped with the United Way of SWVA. She stated that she had been going to Chamber of Commerce meetings, etc. to introduce herself and talk about the Childcare Start-up Assistance Project. She stated that there were people already providing child care services in the Town of Bluefield but were unlicensed to do so. She stated that she had been talking to Mr. Watson about it and the limit they could have without a license was 4 or less in their home. She stated that although they did not have to be licensed that they should be. She stated that this project would host training sessions, offer financial support and resources for professional development and credentialing, award mini-grants for home improvements to start a family day care and provide one on one coaching and mentoring through the licensing process. She stated currently Kirk's had 80 kids and 20 kids in preschool through the State funded program.

Mr. Holt stated that he liked seeing them using Pinehill Park.

Ms. Kirk stated that they enjoyed it and the new playground equipment.

Mayor Harris thanked her for what she has done.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Riffe stated that he would like to see rates down to bring businesses in and if they raised taxes on anything else then they would be knocking them out as well. He stated that he hoped they could come up with something

Mr. Jones stated that by paying more taxes on the cigarette tax it would be voluntarily.

Mr. Holt stated that he could not thank the Fire Department, Street Department, and Police Department enough for all they had done during the last storm. He stated that they were a point of pride for the Town. He stated that he had received a lot of compliments for Mike as well. He stated that he did not want to be known as tax crazy but asked council to do their homework and come up with a solution before the next meeting.

Mr. Presley agreed with Mr. Holt concerning the coverage during the storm. He stated that they needed to look at some of the streets that were neglected. He asked about getting a Town Seal put on the wall behind them.

Mr. Watson stated that staff was looking into it. He stated that during storms if cars are blocking the road, then a scraper could not fit and the citizens needed to be mindful of that.

Mr. Trigg agreed with Mr. Holt and Mr. Presley and stated that he received a lot of compliments of the downtown area and the sidewalks being cleared. He stated that everyone did an excellent job.

Mayor Harris stated that Dave Bowers asked him to convey his and Darlene's thanks for the snow removal. He stated that he went down and watched them work on Sunday and gave them some water. He stated that some of those guys had been working around the clock.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Freedman stated that each of these would be a 2nd Reading by title only.

Ordinance to Amend Section 50-96 of Town Code, 2nd Reading – VOTE (To Ready by Title Only) and VOTE (To Adopt the Ordinance)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, BY AMENDING SECTION 50-96 OF DIVISION 1 (GENERALLY) OF ARTICLE III (LICENSE TAXES) OF CHAPTER 50 (TAXATION) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading by title only. Mr. Holt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Freedman asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance.

Mr. Holt made a motion to adopt the Ordinance to Amend Section 50-96. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ordinance to Create Section 50-109 of Town Code, 2nd Reading – VOTE (To Ready by Title Only) and VOTE (To Adopt the Ordinance)

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE, BY CREATING SECTION 50-109 OF DIVISION 1 (GENERALLY) OF ARTICLE III (LICENSE TAXES) OF CHAPTER 50 (TAXATION) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading by title only. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Freedman asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance.

Mr. Holt made a motion to adopt the Ordinance to Amend Section 50-109. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ordinance to Amend Sections 50-214 & 50-215 of Town Code, 2nd Reading – VOTE (To Ready by Title Only) and VOTE (To Adopt the Ordinance)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, BY AMENDING SECTIONS 50-214 AND 50-215 OF ARTICLE V (MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX) OF CHAPTER 50 (TAXATION) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading by title only. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Freedman asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance.

Mr. Holt made a motion to adopt the Ordinance to Amend Section 50-214 & 50-215. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ordinance to Repeal Sections 50-217 & 50-218 of Town Code, 2nd Reading – VOTE (To Ready by Title Only) and VOTE (To Adopt the Ordinance)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL, BY REPEALING SECTIONS 50-217 AND 50-218 OF ARTICLE V (MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX) OF CHAPTER 50 (TAXATION) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading by title only. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Freedman asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance.

Mr. Holt made a motion to adopt the Ordinance to Amend Section 50-217 & 50-218. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ordinance to Create Section 2-510 of Town Code, 2nd Reading – VOTE (To Ready by Title Only) and VOTE (To Adopt the Ordinance)

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE, BY CREATING SECTION 2-510 OF ARTICLE VI (UNCLAIMED PERSONAL PROPERTY) OF CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading by title only. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Freedman asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance.

Mr. Holt made a motion to adopt the Ordinance to Amend Section 2-510. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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 Section 2.2-3711-A-1.3* 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.

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

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:14 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.

Councilmember Holt 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 27th day of March.

Councilmember Presley seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

ADJOURN

Mr. Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk