

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Minutes  
April 24, 2018**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 24, 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  
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk  
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney  
Shane Gunter, Police Chief  
3 Members of Public

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Pastor Raymond McHone, Words of Deliverance 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**

Vice-Mayor Riffe 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**

### ***Community Clean Up Day – Lesley Catron***

Mrs. Catron stated that the last year they did the cleanup everyone met at Pinehill Park and split up into 3 different areas and met back afterwards for a cookout. She stated that it would be done the same way this year on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. She stated that everyone would meet at Pinehill Park at 8:30 a.m. and split into 3 groups and take a Town bus to one of the locations and meet back at Pinehill Park at noon for a cookout. She stated that the locations this year would be from the fountain to Bluefield College, Food City to Bluefield College and East End from the state line to Downtown. She stated that the Town would provide grabbers, trash bags, etc.

Mayor Harris stated that Mr. Presley had mentioned following behind in a truck to pick up the full bags.

Mr. Presley stated that any of council who had a truck could follow behind in the different areas to pick up the trash.

## **NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS**

### ***Little Library Update – Lesley Catron***

Mrs. Catron stated that Kim Riffe had brought up the idea concerning having a Little Library in Town to encourage kids to read a book/leave a book.

Mr. Presley asked if anyone had stolen one and never brought it back.

Mr. Riffe stated that he was sure that had been done and this was for adults as well.

Mrs. Catron stated that staff had received good feedback and if council had not seen it yet that it looked like a big birdhouse. She stated that another one would be placed in Sedgewood and the Town was willing to put them up if someone maintained it and kept up with it.

Mr. Watson stated that Public Works built it and Lesley hand painted the work on the sides of it. He stated that he was very impressed by it and that he had ordered the next one to be put up. He stated that it was a little smaller.

Mr. Holt stated that it was a great idea and asked that it be put on the Town's Facebook page.

Mr. Watson stated that the one at Pinehill Park had not been up long. He stated that he liked the concept of it but someone would have to want to do it before we would put it up. He stated that there was a lady in Double Gates wanting to do it and they were looking for a public place to put it.

### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

***Resolution: Graham Transit Drug & Alcohol Policy, VOTE (attached at end of minutes)***

Mr. Watson stated that a copy of the Graham Transit Drug & Alcohol Policy was attached and asked for a vote.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the Resolution for the Graham Transit Drug & Alcohol Policy. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

***Resolution: Bond Issuance for Hockman Pike Relocation Project, VOTE (attached at end of minutes)***

Mr. Watson stated that this was the 6 year plan for the Hockman Pike Project and a Revenue Sharing Grant had been applied for. He stated that the funding at the time did not match inflation and the original project was \$1.5 million. He stated that we received \$750k from Revenue Sharing which left around \$601,200. He stated that the payment was already in the existing budget and asked for a vote to approve the Resolution.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the Resolution for Bond Issuance for Hockman Pike Relocation Project. Mr. 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.

### ***Spirit of the Clinch***

Mr. Watson stated that the Town had been invited to the Spirit of the Clinch event which was on Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at the Painted Peak. He asked that council let staff know ASAP because we had to RSVP tomorrow and it was by invitation only.

### ***Leatherwood Lane***

Mr. Watson stated that Leatherwood Lane would be closed on Sunday and Monday for paving of the intersection.

### ***Better Living Show***

Mr. Watson stated that the Better Living Show would be holding a sneak peek on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. He stated that admission was \$5 and a business card.

### ***Cole Chevy Mountain Festival***

Mr. Watson stated that the Cole Chevy Mountain Festival would be held May 29<sup>th</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup> and that the Town would be doing the same things as always.

### ***Town Seal***

Mr. Watson stated that staff had checked on the Town Seal and to do a sand blast like seal on the front would cost \$1,800. He stated that he was trying to get the price down and if not that was what he would go with.

Mr. Presley asked how big.

Mr. Watson stated 5 ft.

### ***CIP Water Project Update***

Mr. Watson stated that the CIP was moving along and staff had solicited for Bond Counsel and would be grading based on VDH requirements. He stated that he had been charging all fees to a specific line item in the Water Fund. He stated that staff would be keeping track of it for when we were reimbursed.

### ***GHS Educational Dinner***

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

Mayor Harris stated that he, Mr. Presley and Mr. Holt would be attending.

### ***Spring Clean Up***

Mr. Watson stated that the Annual Spring Clean Up call-ins started this week. He stated that pickups would begin next week.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Trigg had none.

Mr. Presley stated that he had received a lot of comments concerning the Town's website and asked that it be updated.

Mr. Watson stated that staff was looking at firms to do it and it would not be cheap. He stated that he would bring back prices to Council.

Mr. Presley stated that Shenley Avenue was spelled incorrectly as Schenley. He stated that the Police and Fire Department was doing a good job as always.

Mr. Watson stated that he would look into it.

Mr. Holt suggested the Town have an app to report potholes and sidewalk issues. He stated that it would be a neat way for the citizens to communicate. He stated that the sidewalk near Hardees was bad and could be a potential hazard to runners, etc.

Mr. Presley stated that Bluefield, WV started one about 2 months ago.

Mr. Watson stated that staff had looked into it but that most people would call Town Hall or the Police Department on the weekends for water leaks. He stated that he had received several complaints about potholes between Ryan's and BB&T and had put gravel in them. He stated that he was old school and liked that the person had to call in with a complaint and not use an app. He stated that if it were something council wanted to do that he could bring it back in a Work Session.

Mr. Jones stated that there was a pothole at Westwood after you pass the grocery store at the curve going into Westwood that needed to be repaired.

Mr. Watson stated that he would have them look at it again.

Mr. Riffe agreed with Mr. Watson about social media being bad sometimes but that the new generation was all about social media. He stated that he was looking forward to the Field Fest with Ray Scott.

Mr. Trigg stated that the bush at BB&T needed to be cut back because you could not see.

Mr. Watson stated on a positive note that the Visitors Center had been ranked #1 in the State.

### **ATTORNEY REPORT**

Mr. Freedman asked council if they would like staff to proceed with doing a survey.

Mayor Harris stated yes that it was 4-2 to move forward.

Mr. Presley agreed to move forward with it online and in the newsletter.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilmember Holt 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.

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

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:00 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of April.

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 8:35 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

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 24TH DAY OF APRIL, 2018.

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY  
FOR THE GRAHAM TRANSIT [TOWN OF BLUEFIELD]**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, that the Graham Transit [Town of Bluefield] Drug and Alcohol Policy, attached hereto, is hereby adopted, and shall be adhered to as described therein effective July 1, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, that all employees, officers, or agents of the Town of Bluefield who are subject to the Graham Transit [Town of Bluefield] Drug and Alcohol Policy, attached hereto, shall strictly abide by the requirements of such policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, that the Administrator or Manager of the Graham Transit [Town of Bluefield] program of the Town of Bluefield shall be responsible for ensuring that all employees, officers, or agents of the Town of Bluefield who are subject to the Graham Transit [Town of Bluefield] Drug and Alcohol Policy, attached hereto, shall abide by such policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that this resolution is hereby adopted on this 24th day of April, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that this resolution shall be effective on the 24th day of April, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that Donald R. Harris, the Mayor of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia, shall execute this resolution on behalf of the said Council.

IT IS SO RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA on this 24th day of April, 2018.

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PUBLIC HEARING: NONE  
ADOPTION DATE: 04/24/2018  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/24/2018  
RECORDED VOTE: \_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBERS PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBERS ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
RESULT OF VOTE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AYES NAYES ABSTENTIONS

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DONALD R. HARRIS, MAYOR DATE  
TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, A VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
LESLEY CATRON, TOWN CLERK DATE  
TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, A VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION