

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
August 28, 2018**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 7:00 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
12 Members of Public

ABSENT

Shane Gunter, Police Chief

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Harris added the following under Citizen Requests: Tazewell Avenue Traffic-Becky Ritter and Sanders House Request-Joyce Johnston. He removed the Sedgewood HOA Reimbursement Request-Eddie French and also added a Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Accept a Deed on Behalf of the Town under Attorney Report.

Councilmember Jones made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Councilmember Holt 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

Tazewell Avenue Traffic

Becky Ritter, 1915 Tazewell Avenue stated that the issue was traffic on Tazewell Avenue and it was worse this year. She stated that she had been at this address for 8 years and this year it was unbearable and she could not get home between 2:30-3:30 p.m. She stated that it was not just an inconvenience but a safety issue. She stated that her neighbors had health issues and first responders would have trouble getting to them. She stated that she felt the School Board should be highly concerned that the first responders could not get to the school in those hours. She stated that a solution should come between the Town and the School Board and re-route traffic and close the street beside the school. She suggested the parent's park in the church parking lots.

Mr. Jones asked if she had met with Mr. Watson yet that they needed to get it resolved.

Ms. Ritter agreed that it needed to be resolved soon.

Mr. Presley stated that the road near Thistle Foundry was closed but use to be open for traffic.

Mr. Watson asked if it was the unopened alleyway.

Mr. Presley stated that she was talking about the metal building by Dudley's house. He stated that you went straight towards Thistle Foundry.

Mr. Watson asked if it was open at one time.

Mr. Presley stated yes.

Ms. Ritter stated that it was an issue in the morning as well but not as bad as in the afternoon when parents started lining up at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Watson stated that the buses were supposed to travel past the cars.

Ms. Ritter stated that the buses went up and turned around in the school parking lot.

Mr. Watson stated that it was paved before to widen the road.

Ms. Harman stated that the cars starting showing up at 2 p.m. and jamming the street. She stated that she could not have anyone at her house during those hours and that school did not let out until 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Riffe stated that it was the same issue at the high school and asked if they made them stop parking at the parking lot near the store.

Mr. Watson stated that it was a 2 lane road there.

Mr. Riffe stated that he thought they were not allowed to go down until the buses had pulled out.

Ms. Ritter asked them to go and look for themselves.

Mr. Holt stated that he wrote himself a note to do that.

Mr. Presley stated that he had seen it already.

Ms. Ritter asked them to observe the whole situation.

Mayor Harris asked Mr. Jones to have someone from the School Board to look into it.

Mr. Jones stated that they had a meeting next week.

Mr. Watson stated that they could go behind the school but it was a narrow road.

Mayor Harris asked Mr. Watson to look into the street being closed.

Mr. Watson stated that they could restrict parking on one side.

Mr. Holt stated that it was a major issue at Richlands High School. He suggested putting in police presence to help with it.

Ms. Ritter stated that the issue was no flow.

Resident at 2021 Tazewell Avenue stated that it took her 45 minutes to go 3 houses to get to her house. She stated that she ended up letting her daughter out to walk up the street to get to the house. She stated that it was very dangerous coming and going.

Daughter of 2021 Tazewell Avenue stated that when they came up the street that they threw trash in the yards and in the mornings she was late getting to school because it took them so long to get out.

Other neighbors stated that there were 3 of them and they were all disabled in their homes and people were not accommodating to let them in or out.

Mayor Harris thanked the group for making them aware of the situation and stated that staff would look into the problem.

The neighbors stated that there was a 15 mph speed limit but it was at the top of the hill and those coming over the hill did not see it because it was covered by trees. They stated that it was dangerous for kids playing at the top.

Mayor Harris thanked them for coming.

Mr. Jones asked if the biggest problem was in the morning or afternoon.

Ms. Ritter stated afternoon.

Sanders House Request

Joyce Johnston thanked council for all that they did. She stated that they had a student who won the National Essay contest and \$1,000. She stated that The Graham Historical Society owned the Sanders House and was on the Historic Registry and was tax exempt. She stated that she had been on the boards and believed in the organizations but above all wanted people to be involved and use it for activities. She asked for financial support for a play called "Twisted History" which encompassed the surrounding areas with the purpose to get people in and to use the Sanders House. She stated that she had some small donations, \$100 from Art Meade and \$250 for the Tourism Committee. She stated that the total cost was \$2,200 which included costumes, props and advertising. She stated that she believed it would grow and that they had picked up showers, weddings, reunions, etc. She stated that they had been asked to complete the Railroad Museum and that Mr. Riffe had been very helpful.

Mr. Riffe stated that this was not just the Historical Society doing it but it was a community group of people coming together to do this 2 day event.

Mr. Holt asked how much they currently had in donations.

Ms. Johnston stated \$350. She stated that she would ask the Eastern District Rep to give some as well.

Mr. Watson asked when it was.

Ms. Johnson stated October 20th and October 25th from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. She stated that she had left copies of the expenses.

Mayor Harris asked in the future for her to send a letter requesting the donation in advance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Harris stated that Barry Brooks and Eric Young would be joining them in the Executive Session. He stated that the council meeting would resume after 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 2.2-3711-A-1.7* 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.

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.

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

Council entered into Executive Session at 7:39 p.m.

Councilmember Presley made a motion to enter out of Executive Session. Councilmember Jones 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 28th day of August.

Councilmember Trigg 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

Budget Amendments, VOTE – Lesley Catron

Mrs. Catron stated the following Budget Amendments needed to be voted on:

PURPOSE: Payment from I.S.A.R. for Security Services (Police Department)

Revenue		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
0400-0413	Misc. Law	<u>\$40,250.00</u>	<u>\$40,392.00</u>	<u>\$142.00</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$40,250.00</u>	<u>\$40,392.00</u>	<u>\$142.00</u>

Expenditure		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
3110-1200	Salaries OT	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,142.00</u>	<u>\$142.00</u>
		<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,142.00</u>	<u>\$142.00</u>

PURPOSE: Security Services Reimbursement (Police Department)

Revenue		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
0400-0413	Misc. Law	<u>\$40,392.00</u>	<u>\$41,137.50</u>	<u>\$745.50</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$40,392.00</u>	<u>\$41,137.50</u>	<u>\$745.50</u>

Expenditure		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
3110-1200	Salaries OT	<u>\$10,142.00</u>	<u>\$10,887.50</u>	<u>\$745.50</u>
		<u>\$10,142.00</u>	<u>\$10,887.50</u>	<u>\$745.50</u>

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

July 2017/2018 Budget Transfers Update

Mr. Watson went over the following July 2017/2018 Budget Transfers. He stated that we had lost in the water fund but hopefully would catch up. He asked for a motion to approve the Budget Transfers.

Prior year reserves: (2017/2018 Budget)

Transfers after July 2018

TEOAF	\$38,354.55
Fire LGIP	\$31,000.00
Equipment	\$31,500.00
Water fund	\$67,606.61
General fund LGIP Playground	<u>\$40,000.00</u>
Total Transfers to General Fund:	\$208,461.16

Transfer Prior to July 2018

Paving	\$160,000.00
Cemetery	<u>\$15,805.00</u>
Total	\$175,805.00

Water CIP Engineering Cost
 (Loan from general fund)

\$89,393.39

Total of all funds	\$473,659.55
General fund loss	(\$148,259.79)
Total Balance	\$325,399.76
Transfer Community Center LGIP	<u>\$200,000.00</u>
Difference	\$125,399.76
Loan to Cemetery	\$89,393.39
Final	\$36,006.37

TEOAF	(Grant finished)
Fire LGIP	(Difference of transfer and purchase)
Equipment	(Sweeper)
Water fund	(CIP Payment reimbursement)
General fund LGIP	(Playground Equipment)

Transfer from General Fund Cash Account to Community Center LGIP: \$200,000

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the July 2017/2018 Budget Transfers. Mr. Trigg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Blood Drive

Mr. Watson stated that the American Red Cross would be holding a blood drive at Town Hall on Thursday, August 30th from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Autumn Jamboree

Mr. Watson stated that the Autumn Jamboree would be held on Saturday, September 1st in downtown Bluefield, VA beginning at 1 p.m.

VML Conference

Mr. Watson stated that the VML Conference would be September 30th – October 2nd in Hampton, VA.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Riffe stated that he was looking forward to the Autumn Jamboree.

Mr. Jones had none.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve a Resolution to be prepared for Pete Beavers retirement. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

Mayor Harris stated that Mr. Beavers had told him he had been with the Town for 26 years and was only 49 years old. He asked for a Roll Call Vote.

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.

Mr. Presley asked if there was any more information on Oktoberfest.

Mr. Watson stated that they were going through the process and would look into it.

Mr. Trigg asked that a sign be put up showing Crescent View with an arrow. He stated that the Warhawk sign looked good.

Mayor Harris thanked Lesley and Tim for the Warhawks unveiling. He stated that the 5k race on Saturday was wonderful and thanked Ron and the DDC for helping. He stated that he would be leaving next week for VML Legislative and would be serving on the board again for the year.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Resolution Authorizing Town Manager to Accept a Deed for the Town (attached at end)

Mr. Freedman stated there was a Resolution in Council's Packet authorizing the Town Manager to accept a deed on behalf of the Town.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Accept a Deed on behalf of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Freedman stated that he was working on an ordinance for Special Events and hoped to have it ready for them at the next council meeting.

ADJOURN

Mr. Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk