

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Minutes  
August 27, 2019**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

**PRESENT**

Don Harris, Mayor  
Ron Holt, Councilmember  
Chuck Presley, Councilmember  
Jarrod Bailey, Councilmember  
Anglis Trigg Jr., Vice-Mayor

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mike Watson, Town Manager  
Kim Hernandez, Interim Town Clerk  
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator  
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney  
Shane Gunter, Police Chief  
14 Members of Public  
2 Members of Media

**ABSENT**

Jimmy Jones, Councilmember

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Rev. Dr. Jay Ferguson, First United Methodist Church led the invocation and thanked council for all of their help with events, etc. Mayor Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Harris stated that the limit for citizen's comments was posted on both Council Chamber doors and was limited to 3 minutes. He added under Citizen Requests & Special Presentations James Sylveski and Carrie Turley.

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

Vice-Mayor Trigg: Yes  
Councilmember Presley: Yes  
Councilmember Bailey: Yes  
Mayor Harris: Yes  
Councilmember Jones: Absent  
Councilmember Holt: Yes

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Vice-Mayor Trigg: Yes  
Councilmember Presley: Yes  
Councilmember Bailey: Yes  
Mayor Harris: Yes  
Councilmember Jones: Absent  
Councilmember Holt: Yes

**CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

***Census Bureau***

Carrie Turley stated that they were out in the communities doing a partnership with all to get an accurate account. She stated that the changes for the 2020 Census would be that they were encouraging everyone to do it online. She stated that the goal was to use the same outline in 2010 and work with the community members and to only be counted once. She stated that it was hard to count in the areas of ages 0-5, the homeless population and the senior citizens and that they would need assistance in doing it online. She stated that they were forming a complete count committee of locals in the area such as mayors, police, school superintendents, faith based, non-profit, etc. and after they had members to join then they would set a date to train. She stated that they also had a group checking and updating addresses and that this would be the largest follow-up census they had ever had. She stated that they would also need a space to hire and do job fairs.

Mayor Harris suggested that she get with Mrs. Hernandez or Mr. Watson to set it up.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS**

None.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

***VDOT State of Good Repair***

Mr. Watson stated that paving had been bid out for the State of Good Repair and the bids came in under. He stated that W-L was the lowest bidder and they would be milling Virginia Avenue from Norris to Luther Street 2-4" and it would be a vast improvement. He stated that this was fully funded grant money by VDOT in the amount of \$300k

***Town Paving Update***

Mr. Watson stated that various streets had been bid out for paving and came in under bid. He stated that AAA Paving was the lowest bidder and that the list was long because we did not pave last year. He named the streets that would be paved:

- Alexander Circle (Ashley Way to Cul-da-sac)
- Jefferson St (Virginia Ave to Greever)
- Square St (Hicks St to First St)
- South College (Graham Ave to Tazewell Ave)
- Hill Ave (Valley Dale to Fincastle Ln)
- Route 720 (Bluestone Dr to West Mountain View)
- Glen St (Lee Ave to Stoney)
- Lee St (Kester St to Lowe St)
- Lowe St (Lee St to Virginia Ave)
- Alley off of Lowe St
- Kester St (Lee St to Virginia Ave)
- Depot St (Railroad Tracks to Thayer)
- Summit St (Quail St to Cardinal St)
- Windsor Circle (Starting at Guard Shack staying left around Windsor Circle)
- Dudley St (End to End)
- Brierwood Dr (Mountain Ln to Marking)

He stated that they touched a little bit of paving in each community and that this was budgeted money. He stated that the award letters had gone out and the paving should start at any time.

***Water CIP Update***

Mr. Watson stated that Phase I had been bid out and that Phase II was done in house and was the expanding of the amount of water and increasing the size for the opportunity to sell more water and to be an emergency backup source for the Falls Mills Area. He stated that the materials were paid through the funds received when they first run the sewer into the industrial park. He stated that he had received a letter a few months ago from VDH stating that most projects were coming in 30-40% over budget and to be careful before spending. He stated that ours came in 54% over budget and we were looking at some cost savings and other things to be done but it was a bidders market right now. He stated that VDH offered to extend the difference at the same rate and terms and that we would receive somewhere between 12-13% in free money. He stated that this would allow upgrades to the Water Plant including capacity, a backup power supply, new meters, etc.

***The Sanders House “Twisted History” Donation Request, POSSIBLE VOTE***

Mr. Watson stated that last year council donated to The Sanders House “Twisted History” and that the Town had encouraged them to do more events which they had done. He stated that last year’s event went over well and the donation was \$800. He stated that this year’s event would be held October 10-12 and requested council to give another \$800 to \$1k donation.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve \$1k donation for The Sanders House “Twisted History”. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Vice-Mayor Trigg:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Bailey:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Councilmember Jones:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

***SWVA Travel Sports Donation Request, POSSIBLE VOTE***

Mr. Watson stated that he had received a donation request from SWVA Travel Sports a few months ago who was asking for a donation for their travel team. He stated that there were different levels of sponsorship and asked council what they would like to do.

Mr. Holt stated that he knew this organization and the person who operated it during the off season and they did a lot of traveling. He made a motion to approve a \$100 donation. Mr. Trigg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Vice-Mayor Trigg:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Bailey:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Councilmember Jones:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

### ***The Two Virginias 5k Challenge***

Mr. Watson stated that The Two Virginias 5k Challenge was on Saturday and had the largest turnout yet. He stated that the fastest guy ran it in around 14 minutes. He stated that a lot of staff participated and the DDC volunteered and handed out water and fruit at the end of the race.

### ***Autumn Jamboree***

Mr. Watson stated that the Autumn Jamboree would be held on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at noon in downtown Bluefield, VA.

### ***VML Conference***

Mr. Watson stated that the VML Conference this year would be held in Roanoke VA at the Hotel Roanoke on October 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Charlie Stacy handed out the latest EMS call summary/track response times. He stated that they had received 60 calls with a response time of 6 minutes to the Town. He stated that the numbers had improved and he was monitoring them through an e-dispatch system.

He stated that he lived at 518 Sable Lane and was a candidate for the Eastern District Board of Supervisors. He stated in Section 74-1174 of our code it discussed temporary political signs and the 45 day rule which would be September 21<sup>st</sup>. He stated that some candidates had challenged the legality of this and the Town did not enforce it. He stated that if council chose not to enforce it and was not satisfied with it then it should be repealed. He asked that council go to a Public Hearing to repeal it or to enforce it that it was a disadvantage to the candidates. He stated that others were not obliging by the order and already had their signs out but that he wished to abide by the code but it was unfair. He asked that they follow the legal process of repealing an ordinance that was invalid.

Erik Robinson, 125 Carriage Lane, president of the BVLL stated that they had 70 more kids this year and also sponsored a regional and state tournament that brought in 13 teams and over 600 people. He stated that they could not have done it without the support of the Town and on the first day the scoreboard broke and they had a main water

line break in which the Town came out and fixed both. He stated that he had received a tremendous amount of comments about how beautiful the Town was, etc. He stated that they were asked to do two more tournaments next year which they would have to think about because this one was a 5 day tournament. He thanked council and the Town for all of their help.

Mayor Harris thanked him and stated that he could not believe the crowd of people there from all over the Commonwealth.

Mr. Robinson stated that the Town set up all of their tents to help and that it was hard finding hotel rooms but all in all everyone was happy with everything.

David Wohlford, Sedgewood stated that the meetings were not on the website and that council was having a lot of meetings. He stated that the Country Club was a good idea although he had not seen anything because it was all done in Executive Session. He stated that Mr. Jones' health had taken a toll on him and he had been gone for some time and the time had come for council to make a decision. He stated that he thought the world of him and that he had done a great service to the community.

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Holt stated that he was a Little League coach and father and they could not do it without the Town's monetary and labor donations. He stated that Mr. Watson was there fixing the scoreboard himself and thanked Mr. Trigg and the Mayor for coming to the opening ceremonies. He stated that there was over 1,000 people there and it was unfortunate that we did not have a hotel but hopefully in a matter of time business partners would see the need for one. He stated that they stayed from Claypool Hill to Wytheville in hotels. He stated that his phone number was on the website and that council made themselves transparent and the only time they seen people come out was concerning an issue. He stated that Mr. Jones had served the public for 40 years and they did not talk about him in the open out of respect.

Mr. Bailey had none.

Mr. Presley gave a shout out to all of the Town Departments and invited everyone to come out this week to the big game. He thanked Mr. Robinson for all that they did and encouraged Mr. Stacy to call and talk to Mr. Watson regarding the sign ordinance.

Mr. Trigg thanked everyone for coming out and thanked Mr. Watson for taking care of everything needed for the North Side event.

Mayor Harris stated that what Mr. Trigg was talking about was the Pig Roast and that he had attended is first one several years ago and has yet to miss one since. He stated that it was their homecoming for those who had moved out of the area and that he talked to one last year that rode his motorcycle in from North Dakota. He stated regarding Mr. Jones that a lot of work was going on by different people in the community and he

respected and thanked council for their patience. He thanked everyone for coming out and making the community great. He stated that council was there for them and could take criticism when it was due.

### **ATTORNEY REPORT**

#### ***Resolution: Town Clerk Appointment, Motion and Vote to Adopt, ROLL CALL VOTE***

Mr. Freedman stated that the Resolution was titled "A Resolution to Elect and Appoint Kim Hernandez to serve as Town Clerk of the Town of Bluefield". He stated that the Resolution was to elect and appoint Kim Hernandez to serve as Town Clerk of the Town of Bluefield, and such election and appointment shall be consistent with all the requirements of Section 13 of the Charter of the Town of Bluefield. He stated if council was good with the Resolution then he would need a motion to adopt the resolution, second and a Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve the Resolution: Town Clerk Appointment of Kim Hernandez to Town Clerk. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

Vice-Mayor Trigg:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Bailey:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Councilmember Jones:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Harris asked Mrs. Hernandez to read the Section.

#### **MOTION FOR CLOSED MEETING**

It is hereby moved that the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia enter into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (3) of the Code of Virginia as amended, The specific purpose for this motion is to discuss the following matter(s):

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.

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, with such closed meeting being confined to the following subjects: the acquisition of a recreational

facility where public discussion could adversely affect the Town's bargaining position and concerns regarding a Town of Bluefield Official.

Councilmember Presley made a motion to enter into Executive Session as described above. Councilmember Holt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Vice-Mayor Trigg:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Bailey:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Councilmember Jones:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

Mayor Harris asked Chief Gunter if the Police Department would be heavily patrolling the tailgate spaces at the game.

Chief Gunter stated yes, that they would do as they had done in the past.

Mr. Presley made a motion to enter back into regular session. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Vice-Mayor Trigg:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Bailey:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Councilmember Jones:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

### **CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia convened a closed meeting on August 27, 2019, pursuant to a duly adopted motion, attached hereto, and such closed meeting was convened in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia returned to its open meeting held on August 27, 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA HEREBY CERTIFIES that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were discussed in the closed meeting held on August 27, 2019, to which this certification applies and (ii) only such public business

matters as were identified in the motion convening such closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia in such closed meeting.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Vice-Mayor Trigg:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Bailey:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Councilmember Jones:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call Vote.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Trigg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Vice-Mayor Trigg:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Bailey:	Yes
Mayor Harris:	Yes
Councilmember Jones:	Absent
Councilmember Holt:	Yes

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Don Harris, Mayor

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Kim Hernandez, Interim Town Clerk