

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
April 28, 2020**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 7:30pm in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Watson, Town Manager
Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator
Rachel Looney, Administrative Asst.
Shane Gunter, Police Chief
5 Members of Public

ABSENT

Jimmy Jones, Councilmember

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Harris led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Harris added the 2020/2021 Budget PH with a vote under Town Manager's Report.

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

Vice-Mayor Trigg made a motion to approve the consent agenda. 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

CITIZEN REQUESTS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

BVLL Lights Request – Jarried McFarland

Mr. McFarland stated that BVLL had great news and had received a grant from the June Oblinger Shott Foundation to purchase new lights. He stated that he was there to ask permission to put lights on the Little League fields.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve putting lights on the Little League fields. 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

Tazewell County Chamber – Regina Sayers

Mrs. Sayers stated that not only was she the Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens Executive Director but was also the Chair for the Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce. She stated that she had Lori Stacy with her as well. She stated that COVID had us all in unprecedented times and the Chamber was partnering with Clinch Valley Community Action working on a program to support small businesses. She stated that they were asking councils, board of supervisors, businesses, individuals, etc. to partner in the Community Investment Partnership. She stated that they were also applying for grants and this would be to help those small businesses who did not qualify for loans, un-employment, etc. She stated that these would be grants and that they had a count of 60 small businesses in Richlands, 45-60 in Tazewell and 50-60 in Bluefield. She stated the affected sole proprietors did not have drive-thru or curbside and they wanted to help them to be able to come back to work with a plan. She stated that Mrs. Stacy put together a flyer and an application.

Mrs. Stacy stated that the application was put on their website yesterday and that they already had 7 submitted applications. She stated that small businesses were hanging in the balance as to whether they could open back up or not.

Mrs. Sayers stated that this was not money they would have to pay back but it was asked of them to pay it forward in the future. She stated by doing that they could help someone who had been flooded, fire, tornado, or a new business getting started. She stated that they would like to have someone from the professional community to serve on the review board.

Mayor Harris stated that he had talked to Mr. Watson earlier that day regarding this and he did not know of anyone to serve on the board but that they would discuss it and get back to her. He asked what they were looking for financially.

Mrs. Sayers stated that they had received a \$5k grant from the Community Foundation and that Richlands stated that they would meet that or do better. She stated that they had funding left over and they liked the fact that they would not have to administer it. She stated that Clinch Valley Community Action was tax deductible.

Mayor Harris stated that it was commendable what they were trying to do and that he was probably the smallest one in our Town.

Mrs. Sayers stated that the Chamber was there to help.

Mrs. Stacy stated that they were trying to make it easier for the small businesses to come back and not make more unwanted debt.

Mrs. Sayers stated that maybe it was that they would help pay the utilities for the month so that they could make a profit or maybe it would be to help pay their rent or buy their supplies.

Mr. Holt stated that he appreciated what they were doing. He stated that big box stores did not seem affected and it was frustrating the small business owners.

Mrs. Sayers stated that there were 60 in just one community and that many were self-providers for their families and also employed others.

Mrs. Stacy stated that she was at Lowes one day and was told they had hit record sales for that day and that it was frustrating for the small business owners.

Mr. Holt stated that he knew they were needed but that it did not make the small business owners feel better. He thanked them for what they were doing.

Mr. Presley stated that he and the Mayor were small business owners and that he did not pay himself a salary.

Mrs. Sayers stated that we wanted small businesses in our community for taxes and revenue. She stated regarding the Falls Mills Project that they had started construction and thanked them for their support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

High Street Project Update – Billie Roberts

Mrs. Roberts went over the following timeline for the High Street Project:

- May 4th – Ad will run in BDT for construction
- May 19th – Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting
- June 4th – Receive Bids
- 1st Week of July – Estimated Notice to Proceed
- Nov 2nd – Substantial Completion
- Dec 3rd – Final Completion

She stated that this project would take out the “S curve”. She stated that they would be closing the road which would make the project go a lot faster and would be notifying the residents of the closure.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

Budget Amendments, ROLL CALL VOTE – Kim Hernandez

Mrs. Hernandez went over the following Budget Amendments:

PURPOSE: Purchase 3 new PBT Units

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
0400-0413	Misc. State Law	\$112,723.20	\$113,623.20	\$900.00
	Enforcement	\$112,723.20	\$113,623.20	\$900.00

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3110-8106	Grants	\$1,799.70	\$2,699.70	\$900.00
		\$1,799.70	\$2,699.70	\$900.00

PURPOSE: Equipment Grant used to purchase new computer

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
0400-0413	Misc. State Law	<u>\$113,623.20</u>	<u>\$114,873.20</u>	<u>\$1,250.00</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$113,623.20</u>	<u>\$114,873.20</u>	<u>\$1,250.00</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3110-8106	Grants	<u>\$2,699.70</u>	<u>\$3,949.70</u>	<u>\$1,250.00</u>
		<u>\$2,699.70</u>	<u>\$3,949.70</u>	<u>\$1,250.00</u>

PURPOSE: Payment for Security Services

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
0400-0413	Misc. State Law	<u>\$114,873.20</u>	<u>\$118,983.45</u>	<u>\$4,110.25</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$114,873.20</u>	<u>\$118,983.45</u>	<u>\$4,110.25</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3110-1600	Investigative OT/	<u>\$26,000.00</u>	<u>\$30,110.25</u>	<u>\$4,110.25</u>
	Police	<u>\$26,000.00</u>	<u>\$30,110.25</u>	<u>\$4,110.25</u>

She stated that she would need a motion and a Roll Call Vote to approve.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments. Mr. Trigg 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.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

BVLL Lights, VOTE

Mr. Watson stated that they had already voted on this earlier in the agenda.

911/Dispatch Budget Update

Mr. Watson stated that they had discussed this during the Work Session and would continue to move forward with transferring dispatch to the 911 Center.

Spring Clean-up Postponed

Mr. Watson stated that the spring clean-up had been postponed at this time due to the alternating shifts of staff. He stated that he hoped to do it later.

2020 – 2021 Budget PH Notice, ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Watson asked for a vote to go to Public Hearing for the 2020 – 2021 Budget.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve scheduling a Public Hearing for the 2020 – 2021 Budget. Mr. Trigg 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.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Trigg stated that everyone seemed to be doing a good job with social distancing and that he hoped after another month we would be out of this.

Mr. Presley thanked everyone for coming out. He thanked the Police and Fire Departments and Town Staff. He stated that it would be an interesting next few years for the Town but that we would get through it.

Mr. Bailey had none.

Mr. Holt stated that there was a little boy in his neighborhood and his parents had signs made and put up going to their house. He stated that he saw him waiting in the window for people

to come by and he asked Mr. Watson to see if staff could come by and wish him Happy Birthday. He thanked the Fire and Police Department and Tazewell County EMS for coming by. He stated that he appreciated staff working to transition to the 911 Center and that anytime there was change that it was hard. He thanked Chief and Mr. Watson. He also thanked Mr. McFarland for working to get the grant for the BVLL Lights. He stated that the league was made up of lots of volunteers and they had one of the best leagues in the region. He thanked the foundation for the donation and stated that he looked forward to the future.

Mr. Presley asked that staff send something to the Calfee family where their son had passed away.

Mayor Harris stated that was a good suggestion and that he was well liked. He suggested sending a letter of sympathy to the family.

Mr. Watson stated that he would send out an email to council and take a poll as to what everyone would like to do.

Mayor Harris congratulated Mr. Bailey and his wife on their new addition Harper Grace. He stated that this would be our Town Attorney's last meeting with us and wished him well on his new accepted position.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Special Thanks to the Town Council Members

Mr. Freedman thanked council for letting him serve as Town Attorney. He stated that it had been an honor in his career to do so. He thanked Council, Mr. Watson, staff and Chief Gunter and stated that if he should be needed in the future during the transition that he would be happy to be of assistance.

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) 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 with such closed meeting being confined to the following matter (s): discussion regarding the Town Attorney position.

Councilmember Bailey made a motion to enter into Executive Session as described above. 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

Mr. Presley made a motion to enter back into regular session. Mr. 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

CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia convened a closed meeting on April 28, 2020, 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 April 28, 2020.

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 April 28, 2020, 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.

REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Holt thanked Mr. Freedman for all of the work he had done and wished him success at his future job.

ADJOURN

Mr. Presley made a motion to adjourn the meeting 8:20 pm. 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

Don Harris, Mayor

Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk