

**Town of Bluefield
Special Called Town Council
Minutes
January 4, 2017**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a Special Called Town Council Meeting on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

PRESENT

Don Harris, Mayor
Jimmy Jones, Vice Mayor
Steve Danko, Councilmember
Lee Riffe, Councilmember
Ron Holt, Councilmember
Chuck Presley, Councilmember
Donnie Linkous, Former Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Watson, Town Manager
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator
IDA Members (excluding David Bowers)
29 Members of Public

ABSENT

Kim Hernandez, Executive Assistant
Shane Gunter, Police Chief
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Riffe led the Invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Holt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Industrial Development Authority (IDA) Oaths of Office – Tammy Allison, Clerk of the Tazewell Circuit Court

- ***Buck Sowers – IDA Chairman***
- ***Wayne Blevins – IDA Vice-Chairman***
- ***Greg Degray – IDA Treasurer***
- ***Lisa Watkins – IDA Member***

- *David Bowers – IDA Member*
- *Scott Keim – IDA Member*

All present IDA Members were asked to come up and be sworn in.

Town Council Oaths of Office – Tammy Allison, Clerk of the Tazewell Circuit Court

- *Donald Harris – Mayor (re-elect)*
- *Ronald Holt – Councilmember (elect)*
- *Charles Presley – Councilmember (elect)*

Mayor Harris, Ronald Holt and Charles Presley all took their oath of office and were sworn in.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

None.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Harris welcomed Chuck Presley and Ron Holt and asked if either had anything they wanted to say.

Mr. Presley stated that when he started the journey to run for council that he made a promise to some of his buddies who were Police Officers and others around Town who were tired of the same stuff going on and watching the politics and the politics of the local Town. He stated that he would stick to his guns on term limits and bigger pay for the Police Officers and better morale in the Town. He stated that he grew up here and loved it and the people and that he would do the best job he could to make it right and keep Bluefield great.

Mr. Holt thanked members of the audience who supported him over the last few years. He thanked his wife and stated that she always encouraged him to follow his dreams and that this was one of his dreams. He thanked his little boy and stated that he was his "official campaign manager" and went door to door with him campaigning and had a lot of faith in him. He thanked the person who had stuck by him from Day 1, Brian Hieatt. He stated that he hoped he did not let the people of Bluefield down and that he looked forward to working with each of council. He stated that they were politicians and that they may not always agree on everything but that one thing he knew for certain was that each member of council loved this Town and cared about the people in it. He stated that he looked forward to working hard with council to keep Bluefield great and that looking around, they were blessed to have elected leaders who were independents, republicans and democrats because they were all friends and could work together for a common goal. He stated that if outsiders could look at Tazewell County and Bluefield, VA they would see an example of how to get along and work together. He stated that he was blessed to live here and to be friends with all elected officials and looked forward to the next 4 years as a councilmember.

Mayor Harris thanked all of his supporters and said that council was a team. He stated that they may have some disagreements at times and asked that those disagreements be left in the building. He stated that they were blessed with a great town staff and that we were all part of a team.

Mr. Riffe stated that he was excited for the next 2 years and could not wait to see what was going to happen with the new councilmember's in those 2 years.

Mr. Jones stated that he was truly friends with everyone on the stage and that they would all agree to disagree.

Mr. Danko stated that it was nice to see younger people to come on board and that we needed the support of the younger group.

Mr. Riffe asked if they would vote on Vice-Mayor today.

Mayor Harris stated that it would be at the next meeting.

ADJOURN

Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Buck Sowers took his oath of office after the council meeting was finished.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk