Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Public Hearing
May 23, 2017

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. on the proposed Rate Increases.

TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT
Don Harris, Mayor
Ron Holt, Councilmember
Chuck Presley, Councilmember
Lee Riffe, Vice-Mayor
Jimmy Jones, Councilmember
Steve Danko, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT
Mike Watson, Town Manager
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney
Lesley Compton, Town Clerk
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator
Kim Hernandez, Executive Asst
Kris Williams, Zoning Administrator
5 Members of Public

ABSENT
Shane Gunter, Chief of Police

Mayor Harris opened the Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m.

Mr. Watson read the following Legal Notice that appeared in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** on May 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall at 112 Huffard Drive in Bluefield, Virginia. This **PUBLIC HEARING** is being held to receive input on the proposed rate increases beginning the 2017/2018 Fiscal Year Budget. The proposed increases are as follows:

- Water Rates – the proposed increase will be $2.00 on the minimum usage of 2,000 gallons increasing the monthly bill from $19.20 per month to $21.20 per month. This proposed increase shall also include an increase on the usage above 2,000 gallons to 6% increasing the average monthly bill of 4,000 gallons per month usage in the amount of $2.84 per month.

- Meals Tax – the proposed increase will be 1.5% on the existing meals tax of 5% increasing it to 6.5%. The proposed 1.5% increase will be divided into two parts with a proposed 0.5% going towards employee salaries and 1% to be set aside for capital projects for the Town of Bluefield.

All interested persons are invited to appear at the **PUBLIC HEARING** and present their views. Questions and/or comments may be referred to Lesley Catron, Town Clerk at 276-322-4626.

Mayor Harris asked if anyone had any questions and/or comments.

Donnie Linkous asked if letters had been sent out to the restaurants.

Mr. Watson stated no, that after it was published in the paper then letters would be sent out to the restaurants after the increase.

Darryl Mooney asked what the Town was compared to other areas.

Mr. Watson stated that Tazewell was at 7% and the county didn't have a meals tax and could not remember the others right off but we were lower at 5%.

Mr. Mooney stated that he believed Richlands was quite a bit higher than ours.

Mayor Harris stated that council had all of the information at a prior meeting.

Mr. Holt stated that we were behind the surrounding areas by 1 ½%.

Mr. Mooney stated that he did not oppose the meals tax increase but wanted to see where we compared too with the others.

Mayor Harris stated that he believed Wytheville was 7%-8%.

Mr. Mooney asked if it were implemented then how much revenue it would generate to help the Town from 2016.

Mr. Watson stated approximately $325k.

Mr. Mooney stated that this was a good thing.

Mayor Harris asked if there were any more questions and/or comments.

There were none.

Mayor Harris closed the Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk

Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Public Hearing
May 23, 2017

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. on the proposed FY 2017/2018 Budget.

TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT
Don Harris, Mayor
Ron Holt, Councilmember
Chuck Presley, Councilmember
Lee Riffe, Vice-Mayor
Jimmy Jones, Councilmember
Steve Danko, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT
Mike Watson, Town Manager
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney
Lesley Compton, Town Clerk
Shane Gunter, Chief of Police
Kim Hernandez, Executive Asst
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator
Kris Williams, Zoning Administrator
James Hampton, Treasurer/Transit Dir.
3 Members of Public

Mayor Harris opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Watson read the following Legal Notice that appeared in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph on Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia, the Bluefield, Virginia Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2017 / 2018 Budget on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia. A brief summary of the budget, which is for information and fiscal planning purposes only, follows:

GENERAL FUND	
REVENUE	
General Property Taxes	$1,010,000
Other Local Taxes	3,055,800
Permits (Misc. Permits & Fees)	22,750
Fines & Forfeitures	47,500
Use of Money & Property	38,000
Charges for Services	481,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	375,000
Revenue from the Commonwealth – Non Categorical	196,677
Revenue from the Commonwealth – Categorical	2,154,544

Revenue from the Federal Government	0
Other Financing Sources	1,000,000
Transfers to General Fund	1,350
TOTAL REVENUE	**$8,382,621**
EXPENDITURES	
Town Council	62,782
Town Manager	459,796
Legal	4,000
Independent Audit	39,000
Treasurer	197,602
Bookkeeping	124,381
Vehicle Maintenance	504,072
Police Department	1,588,669
Fire Department	161,922
Building Inspection	118,909
Street Department	1,093,371
Refuse Collection	276,040
Town Hall Buildings & Grounds	126,336
Recreation Department	298,179
Cemetery	81,893
HMGP Planning Project	0
Planning Commission	6,990
Community Development	68,000
Donations	41,200
Zoning Administrator	89,114
Non-Departmental	121,196
Transfer	348,655
Capital Projects	500,000
FEMA and Capital Projects	1,500,000
Debt Service – Active	570,514
Debt Service - Retired	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$8,382,621**
WATER FUND	
REVENUE	**1,153,660**
EXPENDITURES	**1,153,660**
CEMETERY	
REVENUE	**34,550**
EXPENDITURES	**34,550**
TRANSIT	
REVENUE	**528,710**
EXPENDITURES	**528,710**

Mayor Harris asked if there were any questions and/or comments.

Mr. Jones asked that the Debt Expenditure for Town Manager be explained as to what it included.

Mr. Watson stated that it included ½ of the Town Manager's salary, the Town Attorney, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Community Development, all of the employee benefits and what it took to run the department.

Mayor Harris asked if there were any more questions and/or comments.

There were none.

Mayor Harris stated that it was gratifying that citizens trusted their decisions. He complimented his fellow council, Mr. Watson and the Department Heads on a job well done.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk