

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Joint Public Hearing  
June 23, 2020**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a Joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to receive input regarding proposed amendments to Article IX (Signs) of Chapter 74 (Zoning) of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Bluefield, Virginia.

**TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT**

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

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mike Watson, Town Manager  
Alan McGraw, Interim Town Attorney  
Shane Gunter, Police Chief  
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator  
Rachel Looney, Administrative Asst.  
Kris Williams, Zoning Administrator  
6 Members of Public

**PLANNING COMMISSION PRESENT**

Don Scott, Planning Commission  
Don Whitt, Planning Comm. Secretary  
Harry Kammer, Planning Commission

**ABSENT**

Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk  
Jimmy Jones, Councilmember  
Jarried McFarland, Planning Commission  
Barry Perdue, Planning Commission  
Frank Britton, Chairman Planning Comm.

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

Ms. Looney read the following Legal Notice that appeared in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph on Monday, May 11, 2020 and Monday, May 18, 2020.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that on **June 23, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.**, in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall in Bluefield, Virginia (112 Huffard Drive), the Town Council and the Planning Commission of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia will hold a **JOINT PUBLIC HEARING** to receive input regarding proposed amendments to ARTICLE IX (SIGNS) OF CHAPTER 74 (ZONING) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA. In basic summary, amendments to the sign ordinance are proposed and will include technical/general changes, additional authority being granted to the zoning administrator, a permission requirement for erecting signs on another's property, changes to signs which are exempt, adding an exemption for signs of political character, removing prohibitions on certain signs, changes to the sign permit process, changes to the approval process concerning certain signs, zoning district changes for electrical signs, changes to the distance, height, number, and square footage requirements of

certain signs, removing restrictions regarding certain signs identified by message, outlining standards for signs where no permit is required, and the addition of a severability clause. A copy of the full text of the amended ordinance proposed may be viewed prior to the said **JOINT PUBLIC HEARING** at the office of the Zoning Administrator of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia at 112 Huffard Drive in Bluefield, Virginia, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. All interested persons are invited to appear at the said **JOINT PUBLIC HEARING** and present their views. Questions/comments may be referred to Kris Williams, the Zoning Administrator of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia at (276) 322-4626 or [williams@bluefieldva.org](mailto:williams@bluefieldva.org).

Mayor Harris asked if there were any comments.

Mickey Vance stated that he lived in Bluefield, VA and was known as the Ten Commandments guy. He stated that he had signs in his yard and also distributed them to others and his concern was there was a lot of talk about this sign ordinance and he was afraid with this that it would involve the removal of his signs as well. He stated that he was not trying to junk up the Town but make it a better place and he would like to continue to give his signs out. He asked if this ordinance would prohibit him from putting up these signs such as the ones he had in his yard. He stated that they were tastefully done and not “made in his basement” but were professionally made signs. He stated that he would like to hear some input and that he was afraid that once this “beast was out of the bag” that they may stop him from putting these signs up and may even stop the churches from putting things on their own signs such as Jesus Saves or John 3:16. He stated that there were a lot of variations and he would like to have some clarification/input on the ordinance and what to expect or what exactly was going on.

Mr. Williams stated that Planning Commission would meet on July 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss any concerns and stated that he could give his concerns to Mr. Watson or invited him to the Planning Commission meeting. He stated that nothing had been set in stone yet and this was to receive input/feedback on this ordinance. He stated that Planning Commission would discuss this once again before making a recommendation to Council.

Mr. Vance stated that he kept his signs placed and not just thrown around and he did not want to junk up the Town.

Mayor Harris asked if there were any more comments.

There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

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Don Harris, Mayor

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Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk