

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Work Session  
Minutes  
March 8, 2016**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a Work Session on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

**TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT**

Don Harris, Mayor  
Lee Riffe, Councilmember  
Donnie Linkous, Councilmember  
Jimmy Jones, Vice Mayor  
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember  
Steve Danko, Councilmember

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mike Watson, Town Manager  
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney  
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk  
Kim Hernandez, Executive Assistant

**ABSENT**

Shane Gunter, Police Chief  
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Harris opened the Work Session at 6:54 p.m.

Mr. Watson stated that he would like to go over the agenda. He stated that he would ask to remove the Police Department Update because Chief Gunter was out sick.

*2015 Audit Presentation*-he stated that the auditors would be here to go over the audit.

*Special Industry Request*-he stated that this was a request from Rajeev Chopra to put in a u-haul business and an office as a permitted use in the M-2 district located across from Aramark. He stated that the code read that in order to use for anything else that it would need to be voted on. He stated that Planning Commission had unanimously voted to allow it and that it would now require a vote from Council to pass.

*E-1 Zoning*-he stated that they had received a request to rezone 3 properties on the Bluefield College Campus to the E-1 Zone that had not previously been zoned. He stated that he would also like to go ahead and rezone the local schools to E-1 as well and that this would require a Joint Public Hearing.

*E-Tickets*-he stated that the Town had been looking at the possibility of adding an E-Ticket software which would allow tickets to be electronically transmitted to the state and be printed out. He stated that we would receive \$5 per ticket which could be used to put back into the system for supplies, etc. He stated that he would like to take the money out of prior year reserves to go ahead and purchase it. He stated that they had applied for a grant but had not received a response back yet.

Mr. Linkous stated that the only problem would be that once the ticket had gone before the judge, then it could not be changed.

Mr. Watson stated that the judge had the ability to change if they wanted to. He stated that this system would allow them to not have to enter tickets at night because it would go in automatically at the time it was done.

Mayor Harris asked where the tickets were sent too.

Mr. Watson stated that he thought they would go to the commonwealth attorney which would make it easier and that this would also go ahead and assign them a court date.

Mayor Harris asked if all tickets such as parking in a handicap spot would go to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office.

Mr. Watson stated that he was not sure if they would go there or the clerk's office that he would have to find out.

*Time Off Request*-he stated that he would like to ask for an additional day off for staff on Good Friday.

*Wrestling Resolutions*-he stated that the wrestling team had made some really good accomplishments and asked that council approve doing resolutions for them and presenting them at the next meeting.

*Spring Street*-he stated that BJ had talked to the owners and that they were all excited except for Richard Dillon at the Cleaners who said he would rather have the parking than the lighting. He stated that council needed to make a decision if they wanted to do or it not.

Mr. Watson stated that Lumos (Fibro Optic Company) was currently putting in cables and had torn up the sidewalk. He stated that he told them that they had to be put back down correctly and that we would do it if they wanted to pay us to do so. He said if we did it then we could do what was needed to be done.

Mr. Linkous asked if we had heard anything from Comcast.

Mr. Watson stated that they were emailed about a week ago. He stated that staff was also looking into the Intelos, Lumos, Comcast Contract and the Sanitary Board Contract. He stated that the Comcast Contract had expired and that the Sanitary Board Contract was not due until 2017 but that he did not want to wait until the last minute to work on it.

Mayor Harris stated that Art Mead had told him that he had not been contacted about the meetings for some time now.

Mr. Watson stated that he would check on it.

Mayor Harris stated that when Lumos tore the sidewalks up that they left an open area that we had to go and barricade off.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Harris adjourned the Work Session at 7:19 p.m.

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Don Harris, Mayor

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Lesley Catron, Town Clerk