

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Minutes  
January 3, 2023**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held an Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

**PRESENT**

Donnie Linkous, Mayor  
Cathy Payne, Councilmember  
Chuck Presley, Councilmember  
Rick Holman, Councilmember  
Lee Riffe, Councilmember  
Ron Holt, Councilmember

**ALSO PRESENT**

James Hampton, Co Interim Town Mgr/Treasurer  
Kim Hernandez, Co Interim Town Mgr/Town Clerk  
5 members of public

**ABSENT**

Anglis Trigg, Councilmember  
Shane Gunter, Chief of Police

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Linkous called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

James Hampton led the Invocation. Mayor Linkous led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Linkous added an Executive Session for personnel and probable litigation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to read the Executive Session.

**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) (1,7) 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 and consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body with such closed meeting being confined to the following subject (s): personnel and probable litigation.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session.

Councilmember Presley made a motion to enter into Executive Session as described above. Councilmember Payne seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember DeGray:	Yes
Councilmember Holman:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Payne:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Absent
Mayor Linkous:	No Vote Permitted

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 5-0 in favor of going into Executive Session.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to resume open meeting.

Councilmember Presley made a motion to enter back into regular session. Councilmember Holt seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the clerk to read the certification.

**CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia convened a closed meeting on January 3, 2023, 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 January 3, 2023.

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 January 3, 2023, 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.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to approve the certification.

Councilmember Presley made a motion to approve the certification. Councilmember Payne seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember DeGray:	Yes
Councilmember Holman:	Yes
Vice-Mayor Holt:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Payne:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Absent
Mayor Linkous:	Yes

Motion carried 6-0 approving the certification.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the reappointment of the boards/commissions adding Lori Stacy as the representative for the Tazewell County Wireless Authority and leaving the Mayor on the Cumberland Plateau Planning District. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember DeGray:	Yes
Councilmember Holman:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Payne:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Absent
Mayor Linkous:	No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 5-0 approving the board/commission reappointments.

Mr. Presley made a motion to appoint Rick Holman as the Vice-Mayor. Mr. Holt seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember DeGray: Yes  
Councilmember Holman: Abstain  
Vice-Mayor Holt: Yes  
Councilmember Presley: Yes  
Councilmember Payne: Yes  
Councilmember Trigg: Absent  
Mayor Linkous: No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 4-0 approving Rick Holman as Vice-Mayor.

Mr. Holt made a motion to change the regularly scheduled council meetings to the fourth Tuesday of each month going forward. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember DeGray: Yes  
Councilmember Holman: Yes  
Vice-Mayor Holt: Yes  
Councilmember Presley: Yes  
Councilmember Payne: Yes  
Councilmember Trigg: Absent  
Mayor Linkous: No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 5-0 approving the meeting change.

Mayor Linkous stated that there would be a special called meeting on Monday @ 5:30 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss the Town Manager applications and asked that management reach out to Alan McGraw to be our interim Town Attorney.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Presley stated that they were starting a new year with a new manager and attorney and had a lot to do.

Mr. Holt stated that he appreciated the board working with him.

Mr. Holman stated that he was excited for the New Year and to get things done.

Mr. Riffe stated that it was good to be back, thanked everyone for coming out and their support. He stated that they had a lot on the table and needed to move forward and hoped that the micro management would go away.

Mrs. Payne agreed that they had a lot of work to be done, welcomed Lee and asked that all remember Trigg in their prayers.

Mayor Linkous thanked Cathy for staying on board and Lee for coming on. He stated that our Public Works was unbelievable during the storm and were out fixing a water leak in -28 degree wind chill. He stated that they needed to be commended with a lunch or something.

Mr. Riffe made a motion for management to set up a pizza lunch for Public Works. Mr. Holman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion and a second to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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D.S. Linkous, Mayor

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Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk

