

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
October 24, 2022**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2022 at 6:00 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
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember
Greg DeGray, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Ron Holt, Vice-Mayor
Shane Gunter, Chief of Police

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Linkous called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to read the Executive Session.

Councilmember Holman was not present when council first entered into Executive Session and later joined.

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) 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 with such closed meeting being confined to the following subject (s): town hall personnel and policies.

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

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

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 4-0 in favor of going into Executive Session.

Mayor Linkous invited John Mills and both Co Interim Town Manager's to join council.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to resume open meeting.

Councilmember Holman made a motion to enter back into regular session. Councilmember Presley 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 October 24, 2022, 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 October 24, 2022.

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 October 24, 2022, 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 Holman made a motion to approve the certification. Councilmember 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:	Absent
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Payne:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Linkous:	Yes

Motion carried 6-0 approving the certification.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Virgil Green, Fincastle Lane First Church of God led the Invocation. Mayor Linkous led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Trigg made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Presley made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Holman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Graham Wrestling Donation – Tim Woodward

Tim Woodward thanked council for last year's donation that it replaced two sets of uniforms from 2000. He stated that they hoped to get t-shirts and shorts to wrestle in for those who were not comfortable wearing singlets.

Mrs. Payne asked how much one would cost.

Mr. Woodward stated \$120 and they hoped to purchase 10 total to give an option to the wrestlers.

Mrs. Payne asked how many wrestlers they had.

Mr. Woodward stated 14-18 that it would start full swing after football.

Mr. DeGray thanked him for being so involved as long as he had and for starting the youth program.

Mr. Woodward stated that he had been doing it since 1991 and now Ben Fritz had taken it over. He stated that this donation was not the same as the one for the wrestling club.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Upcoming Holiday Events – Kim Hernandez

Mrs. Hernandez stated that the Veterans Day Ceremony would be held on November 12th @ 11 a.m. at the VFW Memorial with Veterans eating free with a Military ID, the Tree Lighting would be held on November 19th at 6 p.m. with the ice skating, snow globe selfies, hot cocoa and cookies beginning at 4 p.m. and the parade “Reindeer Games” would be held on December 8th @ 6:30 p.m. She stated that this year the prizes would be extended for Jeeps, Antiques, ATV’s/golf carts, etc. with a \$15 entry fee for those wishing to be judged.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Budget Amendments, ROLL CALL VOTE – Kim Hernandez

Mrs. Hernandez went over the following budget amendments:

PURPOSE: Recovered Costs (Crowe & CO Orthodontics)

Revenue		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
0900-0204	Recovered	<u>\$135,000.00</u>	<u>\$135,135.95</u>	<u>\$135.95</u>
	Costs	<u>\$135,000.00</u>	<u>\$135,135.95</u>	<u>\$135.95</u>

Expenditure		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
4120-6026	Sign Materials	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,135.95</u>	<u>\$135.95</u>
		<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,135.95</u>	<u>\$135.95</u>

PURPOSE: Recovered Costs (Kelly Morton Kidd)

Revenue		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
0900-0204	Recovered	<u>\$135,135.95</u>	<u>\$135,833.43</u>	<u>\$697.48</u>
	Costs	<u>\$135,135.95</u>	<u>\$135,833.43</u>	<u>\$697.48</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
1252-4245	Garage Tires	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,697.48</u>	<u>\$697.48</u>
		<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,697.48</u>	<u>\$697.48</u>

PURPOSE: Recovered Costs (Town Property Damage)

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
0900-0204	Recovered	<u>\$135,833.43</u>	<u>\$136,718.43</u>	<u>\$885.00</u>
	Costs	<u>\$135,833.43</u>	<u>\$136,718.43</u>	<u>\$885.00</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
4120-3310	Repair & Maint.	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,885.00</u>	<u>\$885.00</u>
	Service	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,885.00</u>	<u>\$885.00</u>

PURPOSE: School Resource Officer GMS

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
0400-0413	Misc. Law	<u>\$160,103.34</u>	<u>\$169,958.09</u>	<u>\$9,854.75</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$160,103.34</u>	<u>\$169,958.09</u>	<u>\$9,854.75</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3110-1100	Salaries-Regular	<u>\$1,011,638.40</u>	<u>\$1,021,493.15</u>	<u>\$9,854.75</u>
		<u>\$1,011,638.40</u>	<u>\$1,021,493.15</u>	<u>\$9,854.75</u>

PURPOSE: School Resource Officer GHS

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
0400-0413	Misc. Law	<u>\$169,958.09</u>	<u>\$180,942.34</u>	<u>\$10,984.25</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$169,958.09</u>	<u>\$180,942.34</u>	<u>\$10,984.25</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3110-1100	Salaries-Regular	<u>\$1,021,493.15</u>	<u>\$1,032,477.40</u>	<u>\$10,984.25</u>
		<u>\$1,021,493.15</u>	<u>\$1,032,477.40</u>	<u>\$10,984.25</u>

PURPOSE: Community Foundation Grant (Christmas)

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3108-9903	Gifts &	<u>\$18,188.00</u>	<u>\$33,188.00</u>	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
	Donations	<u>\$18,188.00</u>	<u>\$33,188.00</u>	<u>\$15,000.00</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
8120-5657	Special Events	<u>\$21,990.00</u>	<u>\$36,990.00</u>	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
		<u>\$21,990.00</u>	<u>\$36,990.00</u>	<u>\$15,000.00</u>

PURPOSE: Community Foundation Grant (Beautification)

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3108-9903	Gifts &	<u>\$33,188.00</u>	<u>\$41,925.48</u>	<u>\$8,737.48</u>
	Donations	<u>\$33,188.00</u>	<u>\$41,925.48</u>	<u>\$8,737.48</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
8120-5657	Special Events	<u>\$36,990.00</u>	<u>\$45,727.48</u>	<u>\$8,737.48</u>
		<u>\$36,990.00</u>	<u>\$45,727.48</u>	<u>\$8,737.48</u>

PURPOSE: Haunted Hayride Donations

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3108-9903	Gifts &	<u>\$41,925.48</u>	<u>\$44,025.48</u>	<u>\$2,100.00</u>
	Donations	<u>\$41,925.48</u>	<u>\$44,025.48</u>	<u>\$2,100.00</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
7130-6007	Repair &	<u>\$15,000.00</u>	<u>\$17,100.00</u>	<u>\$2,100.00</u>
	Maintenance Supp	<u>\$15,000.00</u>	<u>\$17,100.00</u>	<u>\$2,100.00</u>

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments. 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: Absent
 Councilmember Presley: Yes
 Councilmember Payne: Yes
 Councilmember Trigg: Yes
 Mayor Linkous: No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 5-0 in favor of approving the Budget Amendments.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Dave Wohlford stated that it was difficult to get rid of old oil and asked what the Town did with its oil.

Mayor Linkous stated that it was once used in waste oil heaters.

Mr. Wohlford stated that he would like a place here to be able to take it. He asked what was happening with The Grind.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that the IDA would meet next week to continue discussions.

Mr. Wohlford stated that Fire Safety Products used local contractors for the electrical and HVAC but there were issues with not having licenses needed that it was a master tradesman license for up to \$1k and this went beyond that. He stated that had the inspector done his job they would not be having these issues and he had told them this many times.

Gail Cook stated that the Holiday Bazaar would be on November 5-6 at the Sanders House. She asked if anyone was interested on being on their board to contact her and the Town website looked good.

Madison Dillow thanked the town from the senior class for the tables, tents and chairs.

Mr. Holman stated that whomever was in charge of the event did a fantastic job.

A parent stated that it was completely volunteers and the senior class.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

None.

TOWN UPDATES

Water Treatment Plant-Gold Award

Mrs. Hernandez stated that the Water Plant had received another Gold Award for the 14th year in a row.

Department of Historic Resources Update

Mrs. Hernandez stated that the town received notification that they were eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and we had a checklist of things we would need to work on to continue the process.

Reschedule November 8th Council Meeting

Mrs. Hernandez stated that voting would be going on November 8th and the last council meeting of the month was the week of Thanksgiving and asked council if they would like to reschedule both to one meeting on November 15th.

Council was in agreement.

Veteran's Day Closed

Mrs. Hernandez stated that Town Offices would be closed on Friday, November 11th for Veteran's Day and Friday's trash would be picked up on Thursday, 10th.

Halloween

Mrs. Hernandez stated that trick or treat would be on October 31st from 6-8 p.m.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Trigg thanked staff for all that they were doing.

Mrs. Payne encouraged all to come to the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 12th. She stated that she was excited for the event and thanked everyone for coming.

Mr. Presley thanked everyone for coming, James and Kim for all that they were doing and stated that Marion received a feasibility grant that we needed to look into it. He also asked about a round up program on our water bills to be put towards a project. He thanked Trent for getting the ditch across from Aramark cleaned out. He reminded everyone of the meeting on October 27th @ 7 p.m. in the Chamber for the downtown businesses. He stated that he had a Work Session idea to have them 4 times a year replacing one of the council meetings.

Mr. DeGray thanked staff, thanked everyone for coming out and stated that the Fall Festival was nice and he hoped that they raised a lot of money.

Mr. Holman thanked everyone for coming out, for their comments and for thanking the town for lending support. He stated that he appreciated that. He thanked James & Kim for doing the Town Manager job right now during the period of transition and for their willingness to work with council.

Mayor Linkous stated that with our two co-managers that James would move over to Town Hall but would still have to be at the Treasurer's Office some during the day but Kim would be available. He stated that he would step in to take anything to council for a decision and asked the citizens to be patient that we have had a lot of employees leave for different reasons and snow removal would be hitting us soon and took a lot of time.

Dave Wohlford asked that the answering system for Building & Zoning be updated.

Mayor Linkous thanked Mrs. Oakes for feeding the football team all these years.

Mrs. Oakes stated she had done it for over 30 years.

Mayor Linkous asked that everyone keep David Anderson in their prayers that he was having issues from a major surgery.

Heather Sharp stated that the Haunted Hayride was a success with 1,500 the first night and 3,000 the second night. She thanked all of the volunteers and stated that Trunk or Treat would be on Saturday at Bowen Field from 1-4 p.m.

Mrs. Hernandez reminded everyone that leaf pickups began today and would last through the end of November.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

D.S. Linkous, Mayor

Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk

