

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
December 13, 2022**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 7:30 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
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember
Greg DeGray, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

James Hampton, Co Interim Town Mgr/Treasurer
Kim Hernandez, Co Interim Town Mgr/Town Clerk
Shane Gunter, Chief of Police
Nathaniel Mitchem, Zoning & Property Maint. Official
3 members of Police Department
8 members of public

ABSENT

Ron Holt, Vice-Mayor
Trent Crewe, Town Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Linkous called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Linkous added the Community Foundation Check Presentation to the agenda.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Trigg made a motion to approve the November 15, 2022 Council meeting minutes. Councilmember Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Councilmember Payne made a motion to approve the November Monthly Budget Report. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Graham High School Baseball Field House Request, ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Hampton stated the request was for a field house at the baseball field for the players to be able to change in, store things, etc. He stated that they had secured funds from the school board and Charlie Stacy, Eastern District and was asking the town for the remaining \$5,000.

Mrs. Payne asked if they still played at Bowen Field.

Mr. Holman stated no and that they would lay the block, run electricity, etc. to the building.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve donating \$5,000 to Graham Baseball for a field house. Mr. Holman 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 donating \$5,000 to Graham Baseball for a field house.

Lecia Smith stated that Detective McCroskey had reached out to her to help raise funds to put lockers in the new building. She stated that she was impressed with him and would assist in obtaining private donations.

Community Foundation Check Presentation – Police Department, Cathy Payne

Mrs. Payne presented a \$10k check on behalf of the Community Foundation to the Police Department for a drone with thermal imaging to help in locating Alzheimer's patients who were lost.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Spring Street Rezoning R-2 to B-2, ROLL CALL VOTE - Nathaniel Mitchem

Mr. Mitchem stated that Planning Commission had held a Joint Public Hearing and met afterwards recommending the rezoning of Spring Street from the bank to the future site of Sanders Manufacturing from R-2 to B-2.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Planning Commission to rezone Spring Street from R-2 to B-2. 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 rezoning Spring Street from R-2 to B-2.

Budget Amendment, ROLL CALL VOTE – Kim Hernandez

Mrs. Hernandez went over the following budget amendment:

PURPOSE: Christmas Decorations Donation

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3108-9903	Gifts & Donations	<u>\$44,025.48</u>	<u>\$47,025.48</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
		<u>\$44,025.48</u>	<u>\$47,025.48</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
8120-5657	Special Events	<u>\$45,727.48</u>	<u>\$48,727.48</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
		<u>\$45,727.48</u>	<u>\$48,727.48</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment. 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 Amendment.

Cancel December 27th Council Meeting, Roll Call Vote – Kim Hernandez

Mrs. Hernandez asked if council would like to cancel the December 27th Council Meeting due to the holidays.

Mr. Holman made a motion to cancel the December 27th Council Meeting. 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 canceling the December 27th Council Meeting.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Gail Cook stated that she knew that there was an uproar over the nativity being moved to the Sanders House this year. She asked that everyone go and look at the nativity for themselves that a lot of the animals were missing pieces and the angel was not even able to be put up this year because the wings were broken. She stated that the Sanders House was a part of Bluefield, VA.

Mayor Linkous stated that a lot of people complained it could not be seen but the issue was it was being abused being in Jack Asbury Square.

Ms. Cook thanked them for allowing it to be at the Sanders House this year.

Mayor Linkous stated that staff done a wonderful job in responding and they would look at getting a new one for next year. He stated that he had never seen Bluefield, VA look so good.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Gunter stated that this was their busier time of year with extra patrol of the parking lots and shoplifters. He invited council to come to Shop with a Cop on Saturday. He stated that the letter of accommodation he handed out was from the Sheriff's Department and was regarding the 30 car pileup at the divides. He stated that two of his officers (Mooney and Bowman) were headed to the academy when they passed this crash and seen that there was only one deputy on scene and stopped to assist.

TOWN UPDATES

Organization Meeting Date

Mrs. Hernandez asked council when they would like to schedule the organization meeting for the swearing in of council and the reappointment of boards.

Council agreed to January 3rd @ 5:30 p.m.

"Reindeer Games" Christmas Parade - December 17th

Mrs. Hernandez reminded everyone of the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 17th @ 5:30 p.m. with lineup at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Linkous stated that that the Graham G-Men would be the grand marshals and encouraged everyone to attend.

Town Offices Closed

Mrs. Hernandez reminded council of Town Offices being closed December 23rd & 26th for Christmas and December 30th and January 2nd for New Year's.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. DeGray thanked the staff and Chief Gunter for all that they have done, congratulated the G-Men on their State Championship and thanked council for their patience and allowing him to serve this portion of the year. He wished them good luck next year.

Mr. Holman stated that it had been fantastic having him on the board with his willingness to dig in and having a different perspective. He stated that he would be missed and wished he would stay on. He asked Chief Gunter to pass on his thanks to the two officers, thanked Kim and James for all that they had been doing wearing many hats. He stated that they were doing a fantastic job with communication.

Mr. Trigg thanked everyone for coming out, thanked the officers for doing a great job, thanked Greg for all that he had done, stated that the championship game was great and the boys were coming up through the Little League teams. He stated that he was one if you were not hearing from him that you were doing a great job and that Kim and James were doing great. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mrs. Payne welcomed Pastor Jay Ferguson back, congratulated the G-Men, stated that Rotary held a great event yesterday with their community party of cookie decorating, gift wrapping, a visit from Santa, etc. She stated that they hoped to have it again next year. She stated that Public Works had done a great job of decorating this year and agreed with Gail's comment regarding the nativity. She stated that she had received several comments that people liked it being there and had seen it more being at the Sanders House but would like to work on making it better for next year. She stated that she was going to miss Greg and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Presley stated that we had the best Police Chief ever, that Kim and James were doing a great job, our new Zoning guy was doing great and thanked everyone for coming out. He stated that Greg had been great to work with and wished he would stay. He stated that it was cool to have two state championship rings in the past four years.

Mayor Linkous stated that it was good to have Jay back, that he attended the Rotary event which was wonderful and the employee and volunteer dinners were both great as well. He stated that the G-Men left in suits on Saturday which made Bluefield, VA look great. He stated that this was the first time ever in GHS history to have an undefeated team (15-0) and we hoped to recognize them soon. He stated that Stella Gunter, Chief's daughter opened up a greenhouse and floral shop at the old Platnick building and encouraged everyone to support our local Bluefield, VA girl. He stated that there may be a possibility that council would have a vacancy in the future and they would like for Greg to fill that vacancy. He stated that he made their team complete with his great opinions and facts and appreciated him. He stated that the management was doing a great job, the new employees were doing great and he was proud of our community for supporting the G-Men and filling the stands. He thanked the officers who were there along with the public.

Mr. Trigg stated that the G-Men were actually 17-0 including the two scrimmage games they had won.

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

